

2.0 Open House Comments

2.1 Open House Comment Summary

Comment Forms

A comment card was available for the attendees to use as a record of their comment. The form provided space for contact information and space for respondents to provide their comment concerning the proposed revisions and possible recommendations.

The comment form, other forms and letters developed by citizen groups were all accepted and entered as valid comments. Comments accepted via E-mail through the project website were accepted and entered as valid comments. Comments received after the close of the comment period were not included in this report.

The following section provides a general overview of issues and comments that were made during the public open house comment period that officially ended October 16, 2006.

Comment Period Respondents

During the comment period the Project Team received 564 comments from respondents. Letters submitting additional information for the project team's use, and multiple comments submitted by individuals were identified by a single comment number. In addition to written, verbal, and E-mail comments, one petition was received as an attachment to an E-mail comment. This petition was a record of Webster Parish residents, in the vicinity of the Grove community, along the route of the Preferred Alternative, requesting the overpass of I-69 at Dorcheat Road or LA 3008 to be moved north approximately one half mile in order to further avoid residences on LA 3008. The names on the petition were included in the summary of results, although some were duplications and none offered address information.

Of the 564 comments received, 203 were from residents of Louisiana, 323 were from residents of Arkansas, and 21 were from other states. Some commentors (17) returned more than one comment form or provided incomplete address information.

Comment Results

A copy of each comment received is included for reference in **Section 2.2**. As part of the comment review process, the Project Team summarized respondents' comments by Acceptance, Opposition, or Recommendations for each of the issues or revisions presented at the Open House. In general, more comments were made that opposed a revision or issue than comments were received that stated acceptance of a revision or an issue. A statistical summary of comments stating Acceptance and Opposition to the issues or revisions that were presented is displayed in **Table 2.1**.

**Table 2.1
Comment Information Summary**

	Acceptance	Opposition
Preferred Alternative and All Revisions	51	11
Interchanges:		
LA 159	5	0
LA Alt 2	6	0
US 79	0	325
Revision at Goodwill and Fuller Roads	31	0
*Local Road Status:		
Open with Cross-Over	0	116
Closures	0	43
Closed with Frontage Road	1	1
Property Effect	16	13

* Note: Totals are further explained and broken down in Tables 2.2 - 2.5.

Tables 2.2 – 2.5 represent a combination of comments and recommendations concerned with specific issues as presented in the Revision Summary Chart shown in Section 1.3. (An error on the Revision Summary Chart should be noted: Map ID #46 - US 79 is listed in Columbia County AR and should be correctly listed in Claiborne Parish LA). Comment results are displayed for Interchange Recommendations in Table 2.2; for Existing Roads with Crossover Recommendations in Table 2.3; for Existing Road Closure Recommendations in Table 2.4; and comment Recommendations for Existing Road Closures with Frontage Roads in Table 2.5.

**Table 2.2
Interchange Recommendations**

Number of Comments	Comment	Recommendation
2	Lack of Access in AR	Add interchange @ Columbia Road 14, 16, or 85
5	Additional access to benefit Minden	Add interchange @ #18 LA 3008 / Dorcheat Road
325	Lack of Access in AR; Opposed to location of US 79 Interchange	Add interchange in AR US 79

**Table 2.3
Crossover Recommendations**

Number of Comments	Comment	Recommendation
1	Crossover shown on substandard road	Consider road closure at the location #51 Col. 23 / Bolliew Road
1	(recommendation only)	Crossover needed @ #53 Columbia Road 14
115	PA located too close to residences	Consider moving Crossover ½ mi. north @ #18 LA 3008

**Table 2.4
Road Closure Recommendations**

Number of Comments	Comment	Recommendation
1	Access is blocked to properties @ #9, 10, 11, 12	Extend east side of Dorcheat Bridge 500' to allow access under the bridge
2	Inconvenience	Allow # 19 Blue Run to be open with crossover
1	Access to subdivision is blocked by closures @ #1 & #2	Consider providing continued access
1	Concerned about property being split and access being cut off @ #24 Pisgah Road	Consider providing continued access
36	Oppose closing of #35 Clarence Ivory Road concerned about access	Allow to remain open

**Table 2.5
Frontage Road Recommendations**

Number of Comments	Comment	Recommendation
1	Oppose Frontage Road @ #20 Dodson Road	Consider Overpass @# 19 Blue Run to allow Dodson Road to remain open
2	Access to west side of property and to Bayou Dorcheat is blocked	Consider west side frontage road from #14 Rayner Road to #18 Dorcheat Road
1	If Flat Lick Road is closed, access to property access would be blocked	Frontage Road at this location is necessary – do not eliminate

SUMMARY

Public participation and comments are summarized below:

- Two Public Open House style meetings were held for public, agency representatives and elected officials on October 2, 2006 in Minden, LA and October 3, 2006 in Haynesville, LA to review and comment on proposed revisions to preferred alternative for I-69 SIU No. 14.
- Sufficient announcement of the open houses was covered by news ads, news cards, and letters.
- Approximately 300 participated in the open houses and 564 comments were returned.
- 51 comments stated acceptance of the preferred alternative and the proposed revisions overall and 11 comments voiced opposition to the preferred alternative and the proposed revisions overall.

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- Lack of access in Columbia County, Arkansas was the main reason stated in 325 comments that opposed the US 79 preferred alternative interchange in Louisiana and recommended moving that interchange into Arkansas.
- A few acceptance comments and no opposition comments to proposed interchanges on LA159 or LA Alt 2 were returned.
- The proposed alignment revision for the Goodwill and Fuller Road area received 31 acceptable comments and no opposing comments.
- A petition of Webster Parish residents was the source of most of the 115 comments recommending a northern move of the LA 3008 crossover to avoid residences.
- The majority of the comments received concerning road closures were associated with closure of Clarence Ivory Road in Claiborne Parish. Comments reveal that the family could possibly misunderstand the closure and consequently assume the entire road would become unserviceable or abandoned once the interstate is constructed.
- Only one comment approving a frontage road at Flat Lick Road was received, and one comment was received opposing a frontage road at Dodson Road, but requesting the adjacent Blue Run Road stay open. Two comments recommended adding a frontage road on the west side of the interstate from #18 LA 3008 to #14 Rayner Road, giving access to property located between the interstate and Dorcheat Bayou.
- Maintaining access to property and property being divided were the concerns most often mentioned by the comments that opposed the effect to their personal property.