

## ENVIRONMENTAL RE-EVALUATION AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

### What's New?

The Hinckley Drive Extension Environmental Re-evaluation will be available for public review and comment beginning March 12, 2008.

Copies are available on the project website at [www.udot.utah.gov/hinckleydrive](http://www.udot.utah.gov/hinckleydrive), or at the following locations:

UDOT Region 1  
166 West Southwell Street  
Ogden, UT 84404-4194

City of Roy  
5460 South 2700 West  
Roy, UT 84067

City of West Haven  
4150 South 3900 West  
West Haven, UT 84401

Comments on the Re-evaluation are subject to a 30 day review period and are due by April 11, 2008. You may send comments to UDOT at:

Christopher Lizotte, Environmental Manager  
UDOT Region 1  
166 West Southwell Street  
Ogden, UT 84404-4194  
[clizotte@utah.gov](mailto:clizotte@utah.gov)

Comments can also be addressed directly to the FHWA at:

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration, Utah Division  
Douglas S. Atkin, P.E. Highway Engineer  
2520 West 4700 South, Suite 9A  
Salt Lake City, UT 84118-1800  
[doug.atkin@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:doug.atkin@fhwa.dot.gov)



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## Hinckley Drive Extension Project Update

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) is in the process of completing an environmental re-evaluation of the proposed Hinckley Drive Extension project. The project proposes the extension of Hinckley Drive (S.R. 79) approximately one mile westward from 1900 West (S.R. 126) to Midland Drive (S.R. 108) in West Haven. The roadway would create a new alignment that connects to Midland Drive at the intersection of 3600 South. Proposed improvements would allow more efficient east-west mobility in the area.



UDOT completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvement in 2002. The EA determined:

- A purpose and need for improvements
- Recommended a Preferred Alternative for alignment
- Evaluated all potential environmental impacts of the proposed improvements

Opportunities for public involvement were provided throughout the study. Following completion of the EA, the project was placed in a holding pattern until construction funding could be identified. In 2007, the state legislature appropriated funds to build the project, and UDOT began moving forward with final design.

After further review of the EA's Preferred Alternative and coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and local officials, UDOT determined several design modifications to the original plan would provide a safer and more efficient transportation facility. In order to incorporate these modifications, the environmental re-evaluation was required.

## Open House Update

As part of the re-evaluation process, a public open house meeting was held on November 29, 2007 at the West Haven City Hall. At the open house, the proposed modifications to the original Preferred Alternative were presented. The primary modification recommended by UDOT is the replacement of the proposed free flow intersection at Midland Drive/3600 South with a signalized intersection. Both alternatives are posted on the project Web site at [www.udot.utah.gov/hinckleydrive](http://www.udot.utah.gov/hinckleydrive).

## PROJECT TEAM



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### Web site:

[www.udot.utah.gov/hinckleydrive](http://www.udot.utah.gov/hinckleydrive)

## PROJECT UPDATE

The open house was attended by 62 individuals, including property owners, government officials from West Haven City and Roy, Roy Water Conservancy and other interested individuals. Attendees submitted a total of 17 comments at the meeting and more than two dozen additional comments were received by mail or email.

UDOT has reviewed and addressed all of the comments in the re-evaluation document. The document is now complete and will be made available for a 30-day public review beginning March 12, 2008. Following this review period, any new comments will be addressed and the document will be sent to the FHWA for final approval. With FHWA approval, UDOT can proceed with final project design and construction for the new alternative.

Pending FHWA approval, UDOT will hold another public open house later this spring to present final project design plans and the anticipated construction schedule. Another newsletter will be issued prior to the open house. Construction is anticipated to begin by late fall 2008.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** Several property owners will be impacted by this project. How do you plan to fairly compensate them?

**Answer:** You have the constitutional right to receive "just compensation" when UDOT acquires your property; in other words, to receive the "fair market value" of the land or property acquired. A state and federal approved appraisal process is used to determine fair market value for property. Just compensation can include compensation for a decrease in the market value of the portion of your property that remains when part of your property is acquired if that decrease in value occurs because of the public improvements planned. In some cases, just compensation can include damages caused by the project to property that is not acquired but which is damaged by the project. UDOT will prepare a written just compensation offer when negotiations begin. More information about UDOT's property acquisition process is available online at [www.udot.utah.gov](http://www.udot.utah.gov) by following these links (Inside UDOT; Project Development; Right-of-Way; Acquisition, Appraisal, and Relocation; Acquiring Property).

**Question:** We are concerned about what the project will do to wildlife in the area. Will they be impacted by the project?

**Answer:** A current review of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) database indicates that no federally listed, threatened, endangered, or candidate species, or any critical habitat would be affected by this project. For more details on the determination please refer to the Environmental Re-evaluation.

**Question:** We are concerned about the noise level. Why aren't sound barriers included in the project?

**Answer:** A noise study was conducted in 2002 as part of the Environmental Assessment. The study was completed in accordance with UDOT's federally approved noise abatement policy (available online at [www.udot.utah.gov](http://www.udot.utah.gov) by linking to the "Public" and then "Noise Wall Information" tab). Noise measurements were taken and projected future traffic volumes were analyzed. Construction of noise barriers is not considered feasible as part of this project primarily due to the fact that required gaps for access points would render a noise barrier largely ineffective.

**Question:** Water drainage has been near or at capacity in the area. A new roadway will create a great deal more run off. Where will it go?

**Answer:** A drainage system meeting UDOT standards will be implemented.

**Question:** What will the project look like?

**Answer:** The aesthetics of the new roadway and structures are important to UDOT, West Haven City and the residents along this new corridor. UDOT is currently working on some design alternatives for enhancements and will present these to West Haven City and the residential community for input prior to final design.

**Question:** What kind of opportunities do I have to comment on this project?

**Answer:** A newspaper ad announcing the availability of the Re-evaluation document will be published in the Standard Examiner. The public will have 30 days to submit comments. Comments will be accepted by email or letter.

**Question:** Who makes the final decision about this project?

**Answer:** Because federal funds will be used to build the Hinckley Drive Extension, the FHWA will decide whether to accept the changes proposed by the re-evaluation. If FHWA approves the re-evaluation, UDOT can move forward with construction of the project.

## Project Schedule

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2002	2007	November 29 2007	February - March 2008	*May 2008	*April 2008	*October 2008	*March-May 2009
<p><b>Public Hearing</b></p> <p>The preferred alternative was presented at the Public Hearing as Option 3 and modified to Figure 2-6 based on public input.</p> <p>FHWA issues a Record of Decision (ROD) for the project that allows UDOT to move forward with construction of the preferred alternative.</p>	<p><b>UDOT considers Re-evaluation</b></p> <p>UDOT proposes to modify the preferred alternative and undertakes Environmental Re-evaluation.</p>	<p><b>Public Open House</b></p> <p>Property owners, stakeholders invited to review displays, give comment on proposed design changes.</p>	<p><b>A decision from Federal Highway Administration is anticipated</b></p> <p>UDOT submits Draft Re-evaluation to FHWA. If FHWA approves, the Re-eval is put out for public comment for 30 days.</p> <p>UDOT re-submits Re-evaluation (with new public comments and responses included) to FHWA for final approval.</p>	<p><b>Design is finalized and 2nd Public Open House is Held</b></p> <p>A newsletter announcing the final decision and inviting the public to review the final design at a public open house is mailed.</p> <p>The decision will also be posted on the UDOT Web site .</p>	<p><b>Right-of-Way Acquisition Begins</b></p> <p>UDOT begins purchasing the property needed to build the selected alternative.</p>	<p><b>Construction Bids</b></p> <p>The project is put out for construction bids.</p>	<p><b>Construction Begins</b></p> <p>Some fill may be placed during the winter months to allow for settlement prior to beginning construction in spring.</p>

\* Pending FHWA approval

## PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION TEAM

### Get Informed and Involved

UDOT is committed to keeping the public informed and involved during the Hinckley Drive Environmental Re-evaluation. To accomplish this, the Department has a public involvement team dedicated to the Hinckley Drive project. Stephanie Bennett of The Langdon Group is the Public Involvement Manager and is available to answer your phone calls and emails throughout this process. You are welcome to contact the Hinckley Drive Public Involvement Team to ask questions or share your concerns.

**Web site:** [www.udot.utah.gov/hinckleydrive](http://www.udot.utah.gov/hinckleydrive)  
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