CHAPTER 6
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

The views of the community—local residents, the general public, and stakeholders—are important to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The 2016 update to the FAA’s Community Involvement Manual reaffirms the FAA’s commitment to inform and involve the public. The FAA gives meaningful consideration to community concerns and views when making aviation-related decisions.

The FAA is committed to public involvement and agency input throughout this Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

6.1 OVERVIEW

6.1.1 Scoping

According to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 1501.7, “there shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.” The scoping process is used to ensure that the concerns of the general public and federal, state, and local agencies are considered during the preparation of this EA.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the scoping engagement process was entirely digital, and the public comment period was 45 days, lasting from May 25, 2021, through July 9, 2021.

On May 25, 2021, the FAA alerted the public to the scoping process and made scoping materials available on the website. The public comment period was advertised through public notices in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Daily Herald, Journal and Topics, La Raza, and Reflejos starting on May 25, 2021.

On May 25, 2021, the FAA also sent e-mails to 745 stakeholders, including elected officials, school board members, activists, and Tribal leaders, asking them to participate in the scoping process.

The project team posted the following materials to the FAA project website explaining the EA and the scoping process:

- Four videos
  1. An Introduction to the Scoping Process
  2. Description of the Proposed Projects
  3. The Evaluation of Alternatives
  4. How You Can Participate in the Scoping Process
- Slideshow presentation in English
- Slideshow presentation in Spanish
- Detailed Description of the Proposed Projects

The four videos were also posted on the FAA’s YouTube channel.

Stakeholders could submit comments through a link on the FAA website or via mail, e-mail, or voicemail.
During the public comment period, the FAA received 106 comments on project scoping. The comments received can be found in Appendix O. Materials used as part of the scoping process are included in Appendix P.

6.1.2 Advanced Environmental Justice Outreach

The FAA engaged in targeted outreach to Environmental Justice (EJ) communities of concern where a potential significant impact may occur. Specifically, targeted mailings were sent on April 20, 2022, to 227 households that are in areas of EJ concern. These mailings describe the Proposed Action and the analyses undertaken to date. Refer to Appendix P to review the materials.

The following materials were included in the mailer:

- Letter in English,
- Letter in Spanish,
- Project Overview presentation in English,
- Project Overview presentation in Spanish, and
- Detailed Description of the Proposed Projects in English.

6.1.3 Public Information

To ensure that the public could access information about the EA, the FAA provided the early release of information related to the document through its website:

https://www.faa.gov/airports/great_lakes/TAPandATEA/

The FAA released information related to an EA overview on June 2, 2022. In addition, the FAA issued notice of public meeting dates, times, and locations on June 2, 2022. Public workshop dates, times, and locations were also published as public notices in the Federal Register, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Daily Herald, Journal and Topics, La Raza, and Reflejos on or about June 2, 2022.

6.1.4 Environmental Assessment Availability

The FAA made the EA available on its website at https://www.faa.gov/airports/great_lakes/TAPandATEA/ on June 2, 2022. The FAA also delivered notices of availability to public libraries in Chicago and suburban communities surrounding O’Hare on June 2, 2022. Refer to Appendix P for a list of these locations.

6.1.5 Commenting on the Draft Environmental Assessment

The period for filing comments on the EA begins on June 2, 2022, and will end 45 days later, on July 18, 2022. Comments received during this period, as well as the FAA’s responses to those comments, will be included in the Final EA.

Comments can be submitted online at: https://www.faa.gov/airports/great_lakes/TAPandATEA/

Comments can also be mailed or e-mailed to the following address:

FAA C/O HMMH
Attn: ORD TAP and AT EA Comments
700 District Avenue, Suite 800
Burlington, MA 01803
E-mail: ORD_TAPandATEA@hmmh.com