

## Section 4

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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### 4.1 AGENCY COORDINATION

Agency coordination has occurred throughout the Baldwin Road EA process. During the agency coordination process, the following agencies and other governmental entities or their websites were consulted:

- ▶ Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
- ▶ Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- ▶ Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- ▶ Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
- ▶ Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- ▶ Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- ▶ United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- ▶ Orion Township
- ▶ Oakland County
- ▶ Native American Tribes of Michigan

All the Tribes of Michigan were contacted and asked to inform us of any cultural or religious resources or properties that may be known to the Tribe which could be impacted by the proposed project. Two Tribes responded and a copy of that reply can be found in Appendix B.

### 4.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation activities were designed to inform residents, public officials, business and property owners, and other stakeholders about the study and provide methods to receive their input regarding the alternatives being considered, and potential environmental impacts and study concerns. To achieve this objective, two public participation tools were used to convey important and timely study information. These tools included stakeholder meetings and public meetings. Please see Appendix E for the summaries of these meetings.

#### Stakeholder Meetings

Public participation was initiated early in the study. Stakeholder participants at all of these meetings included Township and County officials, local homeowners representing individual properties and residential subdivisions, business representatives and special interest groups. These meetings enabled the study team to gain a greater understanding of local issues and concerns and priorities, and receive suggestions regarding potential alternatives. All of the stakeholder meetings were held either at RCOC's Beverly Hills office or at the Orion Township offices located on Joslyn Road.

## Section 4

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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44    ▶ *Meeting #1, November 3, 2009 - Kickoff Meeting.*

45  
46    Invited guests included local officials from Orion Township and RCOC. The purpose  
47    of this meeting was to:

- 48        ▶ Introduce the study.
- 49        ▶ Define the study purpose and need.
- 50        ▶ Explain the overall planning process.
- 51        ▶ Explain the sequence of events.
- 52        ▶ Describe how the information generated from these sessions and other methods  
53        of public input would be used during the study.

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56    ▶ *Meeting #2, February 10, 2010 – Conceptual Alignment Meeting*

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58    Invited guests included local officials from Orion Township and RCOC. The purpose  
59    of this stakeholder meeting was to:

- 60        ▶ Provide a progress update of the study.
- 61        ▶ Conceptual Alternatives were presented and evaluated.
- 62        ▶ Alternatives for the Illustrative Phase were chosen and refinements to each  
63        alternative were discussed.

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66    ▶ *Meeting #3, February 26, 2010 – Information Gathering Meeting with Orion*  
67    *Township*

68  
69    Invited guests included local officials from Orion Township and RCOC. The purpose  
70    of this stakeholder meeting was to:

- 71        ▶ Provide a progress update of the study.
- 72        ▶ Learn of Township concerns and issues for this project corridor.
- 73        ▶ Learn of the history of this corridor.

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76    ▶ *Meeting #4, September 17, 2010 – Stakeholder’s Meeting*

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78    Invited guests included local officials from Orion Township and RCOC. The purpose  
79    of this stakeholder meeting was to:

- 80        ▶ Provide a progress update of the study.
- 81        ▶ Review the draft study purpose and need.
- 82        ▶ Review the draft evaluation matrix.
- 83        ▶ Review the three Practical Alternatives.

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### 87 **▼ Meeting #5, September 28, 2010 – Stakeholder’s Meeting**

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89 Invited guests included local officials from Orion Township and RCOC. The purpose  
90 of this stakeholder meeting was to:

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- 92 **▼ Provide a progress update of the study.**
- 93 **▼ Further review of: Evaluation Matrix, Project Purpose and Need and Practical**
- 94 **Alternatives.**

### 95

### 96 **▼ Meeting #6, February 25, 2011 – Stakeholder’s Meeting**

97  
98 Invited guests included local officials from Orion Township and RCOC. The purpose  
99 of this stakeholder meeting was to:

- 100
- 101 **▼ Provide a progress update of the study.**
- 102 **▼ Reach consensus on the Preferred Alternative.**

## 103

## 104 **Public Meetings**

105  
106 Two Public Information Meetings have been held to date during this study. These public  
107 meetings were structured using an open house format, providing the public opportunity  
108 to speak one-on-one with RCOC officials and study team members. A summary of  
109 comments received at each meeting was prepared and is summarized in Appendix E.

### 110

### 111 **▼ Public Meeting #1, March 23, 2010 - Workshop Meeting with Orion Township**

112  
113 Invited guests included local officials from Orion Township, RCOC, residents, public  
114 officials, business and property owners, and other stakeholders. The purpose of this  
115 meeting was to:

- 116
- 117 **▼ Present the Illustrative Alternatives to obtain comments and gauge public**
- 118 **acceptance of each.**
- 119 **▼ Provide an overall explanation of the EA process.**

### 120

### 121 **▼ Public Meeting #2, December 7, 2010 - Public Information Meeting**

122  
123 Invited guests included local officials from Orion Township, RCOC, residents, public  
124 officials, business and property owners, and other stakeholders. The purpose of this  
125 meeting was to:

- 126
- 127 **▼ Present the Practical Alternatives to obtain comments and gauge public**
- 128 **acceptance of each.**