



## **Community Conversations Summary**

***August 2022 – January 2023***

In Spring 2022, shortly after NDOT's public information meeting, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expressed concerns regarding proposed impacts to the community adjacent to the Downtown Access Project (DAP) based on the three proposed build alternatives presented. FHWA and EPA asked NDOT to revise alternatives or develop new alternatives that have a reduced impact on the neighborhood. As part of this effort, FHWA and EPA asked that NDOT ensure the voice of the community is heard. FHWA, EPA, and NDOT also discussed adjusting the project's Purpose and Need statement to reaffirm the community's needs as a fundamental component of the proposed alternative designs and mitigation measures to offset potential impacts.

Based on this direction, the DAP team embarked on expanded outreach initiatives in this area, including holding community conversations with those closest to the freeway. The goal was to hold kitchen-table style conversations with small groups (10-15) of local residents in a comfortable atmosphere where any concerns or ideas could be safely voiced and received. NDOT's approach to develop new alternatives, per FHWA and EPA guidance, was to first meet with and listen to the community's input from these conversations, then provide that data to the engineering team, so they could design alternatives that represent the neighborhood. The following summary provides an overview these conversations.

### **Recruiting**

Participants were recruited through a variety of methods, including emails, text messages, phone calls, community events, and the project office. The DAP team started with previous volunteers from the Community Enhancements Survey and participants from the Street Closures Survey. The following list illustrates communications utilized to recruit participants:

- Postcards (Exhibit 1) were mailed to everyone in the purple dash area (Exhibit 2), plus property owners – more than 10,000 people.
- Text messages were sent to everyone in the purple shaded area (Exhibit 2) – more than 1,400 people.
- A newsletter (Exhibit 3) was emailed to the project contact list – more than 1,200 people.
- The team posted on social media and boosted several posts (Exhibit 4).
- The DAP team attended four community events (Exhibit 5)
  - Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Downtown Area Command National Night Out on 10.4.22
  - East Las Vegas Community Center Fiesta/Grand Re-Opening on 10.15.22
  - Hollingsworth Elementary School Pastries with Parents on 11.30.22
  - Winter Wonderland at the East Las Vegas Community Center, hosted by Las Vegas City Councilwoman Diaz and County Commissioner Segerblom on 12.17.22

- The project office, which opened at the East Las Vegas Community Center on 11.14.22, had a sign-up sheet posted on the office door.
- The project website homepage included information on the conversations and a form to sign up.

### **Incentives**

Providing incentives was a key piece to the success of these conversations. Each participant was given a \$50 Visa gift card. Food and beverage were provided, and we had activities for young children. The DAP team worked to accommodate all requests, including paying for a Lyft ride home for two participants, as the last bus left before we were done.

### **Volunteers**

With the recruiting and incentives outlined above, more than 350 people expressed interest in participating. Of these, more than 200 people never attended after multiple emails, text messages, and phone calls. Some people RSVP'd for multiple conversations but never showed up. Over the course of six months, it seems the DAP team saturated the outreach area. One example of this is the response to social media ads – ads in September and October resulted in 19 and 20 sign-ups, respectively. An ad in January resulted in just seven sign-ups. One of January dates (Jan. 11) only had two RSVPs, so the meeting was cancelled, and attendees that committed to attend were moved to a future community conversation.

### **Conversations**

The DAP team held 15 conversations with nearly 150 participants from August 2022 through January 2023. These included nine residential conversations (7 English and 2 Spanish) with Spanish interpretation available at each English meeting, as needed. Conversations were also held with Faith-Based Leaders, LVMPD Downtown Area Command, Small Businesses, Large Businesses/Chambers, Paiute Tribe, and Downtown Vegas Alliance. The demographics of conversation attendees were representative of the project footprint.

The DAP team created a conversation guide (Exhibit 6) to facilitate the discussion; however, the public drove the direction of the conversation to allow the neighborhood's voice to be heard. Topics included Project Overview/Update, Purpose and Need, Concerns / Challenges Living Near Freeway, Types of Freeways, Community Enhancements, and the Maryland Parkway HOV Interchange.

### **Purpose and Need Statement**

The team explained that a purpose and need statement summarizes why the project is needed and what purpose it will serve. The following statement was shared with the participants: *To repair, restore, and renew the freeway corridor and make a safer, healthier and sustainable transportation system.* The DAP team then asked if this statement adequately reflects the community's needs / if it should be revised to capture other needs. Participants suggested several words/phrases to consider incorporating into the statement, including Revitalize, Reliable, Reconnect, Community, Neighborhood, Connect, Convenient, and Beneficial. The DAP team will be reviewing this feedback to adjust the purpose and need statement to better reflect the community.

### Concerns/Challenges Living near Freeway

The number one concern was personal safety as a result of the unhoused people in the area. Residents avoid certain streets or certain areas based on fear for their safety. With unhoused people living under the bridges, parents that own homes in the area have their kids walk out of their way to avoid these camps to get to school safely. At times during the conversations, it was challenging for residents to discuss anything but their feelings of fear and safety resulting from the unhoused population. Other concerns or challenges of living near the freeway included noise, air pollution/respiratory impacts, eminent domain, and construction fatigue.

### Types of Freeways

For participants who knew about the three build alternatives previously presented, the team asked them to start with a clean slate in considering what type of freeway would be most neighborly for the community. The DAP team presented various types of freeways and had an open discussion with each group.

- The discussion of freeway types was introduced by first asking participants if they think today's freeway (a bridge/viaduct) keeps their community connected. While some participants appreciate the visual connection (seeing across/under the freeway), what really formulates a feeling of connection to the other side of the freeway is the street connectivity.
- Viaduct – Do you want to see a 1.6-mile bridge rebuilt?  
There was not much support for this idea. The participants felt that NDOT should only build a viaduct if the space underneath will be utilized for a community enhancement or betterment. They commented how the space under the bridges between the streets is all fenced off and just a place where the unhoused people break through and establish tent camps.
- Embankment – Do you want the freeway to be rebuilt at a similar height as today, but the sections between cross streets would be on dirt/fill?  
Participants felt this idea might reduce unhoused people from setting up under the freeway. They like the idea of the embankment being an attractive part of their community with decorative rock/art sculptures.
- Viaduct/Embankment Combo – Do you want to see a combination where some sections are on viaduct and others are on embankment?  
This concept was the general “winner” if one had to be picked. There was support for building a portion of the freeway on a bridge where community enhancements are built underneath.
- Recessed – Do you want to see the freeway recessed below grade – 30 feet below ground level?  
The community likes the reduced visual impact and reduced noise, but there were a lot of concerns regarding the cost to construct, impacts to the number of households within their neighborhood, safety, drainage issues, and if capped, how to manage the unhoused population with the new open spaces created.
- Ground level – Would you like to see the freeway at ground level with surface streets going over the top?  
Some community members felt this approach would eliminate visual impact and issues with the unhoused while making the freeway safer (note mention of trucks/debris falling off the freeway

in the past). The DAP team explained that more right-of-way would be required to bridge every cross street up and over the freeway.

- Double decker – through lanes elevated above local traffic  
This is an idea that was brought up by the community. They like the idea of elevating through lanes above the local traffic to improve traffic flow and reduce the footprint. The DAP team then discussed the potential visual impact, and there were suggestions to make the bridge visually attractive, like the Dragon Bridge in Asia.
- The DAP team discussed the idea of having the freeway in a different alignment (i.e. maybe along Bonanza), but no community members pursued this idea.

### Community Enhancements

The DAP team shared potential ideas and asked participants what kind of enhancements they would like to see built within their neighborhoods or as part of the project. There was much discussion about the importance of maintaining any enhancement for long-term benefit of the community. Participants asked that NDOT focus on usability versus dead zones (i.e. space under the viaduct today). LVMPD's Downtown Area Command recommended that we have any community space be privately owned and/or have a "ticket agent" for entry. Many people discussed having some amenities enclosed, primarily for safety, but also a controlled climate for year-round use. Ideas included:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| ○ Trees                 | ○ Cool lighting under the bridge             |
| ○ Parks                 | ○ Music under the bridge                     |
| ○ Bike/walking paths    | ○ Parking lot for residents/small businesses |
| ○ Skate park            | ○ Wider sidewalks                            |
| ○ Dog park              | ○ Street lighting                            |
| ○ Basketball courts     | ○ Food truck vendor space                    |
| ○ 24-hour market        |  |
| ○ Community garden      |  |
| ○ Public/historical art |  |

### Maryland Parkway HOV Interchange

DAP includes two proposed HOV interchanges – one at City Parkway and one at Maryland Parkway. Given that Maryland Parkway is located within the residential area, NDOT wanted to ask how the residents feel about this proposed interchange and whether it would benefit them. Those who were in favor of this interchange felt it would reduce congestion at Las Vegas Boulevard and Eastern Avenue, benefit the many versus the few (regarding right-of-way impacts), and provide another access point for first responders. Those against the interchange felt it would create more traffic on Maryland Parkway, which is mostly a residential street. Other negative responses stated access to the freeway isn't needed here, it is not worth the right-of-way impact on homes, seems like an odd location, and HOV interchanges are confusing and not used legally. Overall, those who participated in these conversations do not support an HOV interchange at Maryland Parkway.

### **Other Projects/Areas to Reference**

During the conversations, some participants suggested other projects to reference for good ideas. These included: Wacker Drive, Chicago; Condesa Park, Mexico City; Chicano Park, California; and Container Park, Las Vegas.



## Summary

These conversations allowed NDOT and the DAP team to build additional goodwill within the community. Participants appreciated the effort to share information and ask for feedback. The number one issue for the community is their personal safety as it relates to the unhoused and (lack of) sanitation of the area. At times, it became challenging to discuss other topics because of the concern around the unhoused and safety. Overall, the community agrees this section of freeway needs to be reconstructed. Many stated they prefer not to drive the freeway because they don't feel safe. There was not a unanimous direction from the community about type of freeway, but the preference seemed to be dirt embankment at existing elevation with a smaller viaduct where community enhancements could be built and effectively maintained underneath. Participants in the Spanish conversations were particularly concerned about the project's impact on the environment.

Here are a few soundbites from the conversations:

- I don't care about how many houses are lost. I want to get to/from work faster.
- I would be heartbroken to lose my house. I've been there for 28 years.
- The things that make Las Vegas special is by doing brand new things, not copying other cities. Make it an attraction.
- Make it easier to get around when you get off the freeway.
- We need freeways that will get you to major streets without bottlenecks.
- More efficient and appealing public transportation is needed.
- This project won't fix congestion because of induced demand.
- Please close 19th Street, so it will not be a through street for homeless.
- I am always chasing homeless people off my property.
- What are we doing about the homeless situation? My tenants are pissed off and kids are scared.
- The purchase of my duplex is the legacy I am going to leave behind for my kids.
- Kids must take different routes to avoid homeless.
- Safety is a concern for my young son, and I won't let him go anywhere by himself. I would feel better if there was an air-conditioned indoor park area with a retractable roof.
- Where are we going to go if our house is taken? We would never be able to afford a home elsewhere.
- With so many drunk drivers in this city, how do we make it less confusing?
- Public Art is smart and is the best because we have a big art community.
- Business owner complaint about homeless: It smells like urine, picking up trash daily, gated property and still an issue, have to maintain or city fines him, constantly painting over graffiti.
- Small business in the area need more parking for their customers.
- I think recreational space would be great, it's just a matter of patrol.

## **Exhibit 1: Postcard**



# DOWNTOWN ACCESS PROJECT OFFICE NOW OPEN!

[WWW.NDOTDAP.COM](http://WWW.NDOTDAP.COM)

**HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL**



**VISIT OUR TEAM AT THE NEWLY RENOVATED EAST LAS VEGAS COMMUNITY CENTER!  
250 N. EASTERN AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89101**



**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION PARTICIPANTS  
WILL RECEIVE A \$50 GIFT CARD**

**If you are interested in participating in a community conversation for this project, please submit your contact information at [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com), email [info@ndotdap.com](mailto:info@ndotdap.com), or call (702) 938-5440.**



[WWW.NDOTDAP.COM](http://WWW.NDOTDAP.COM)



# LA OFICINA DEL PROYECTO DE ACCESO AL CENTRO **¡YA ESTÁ ABIERTA!**



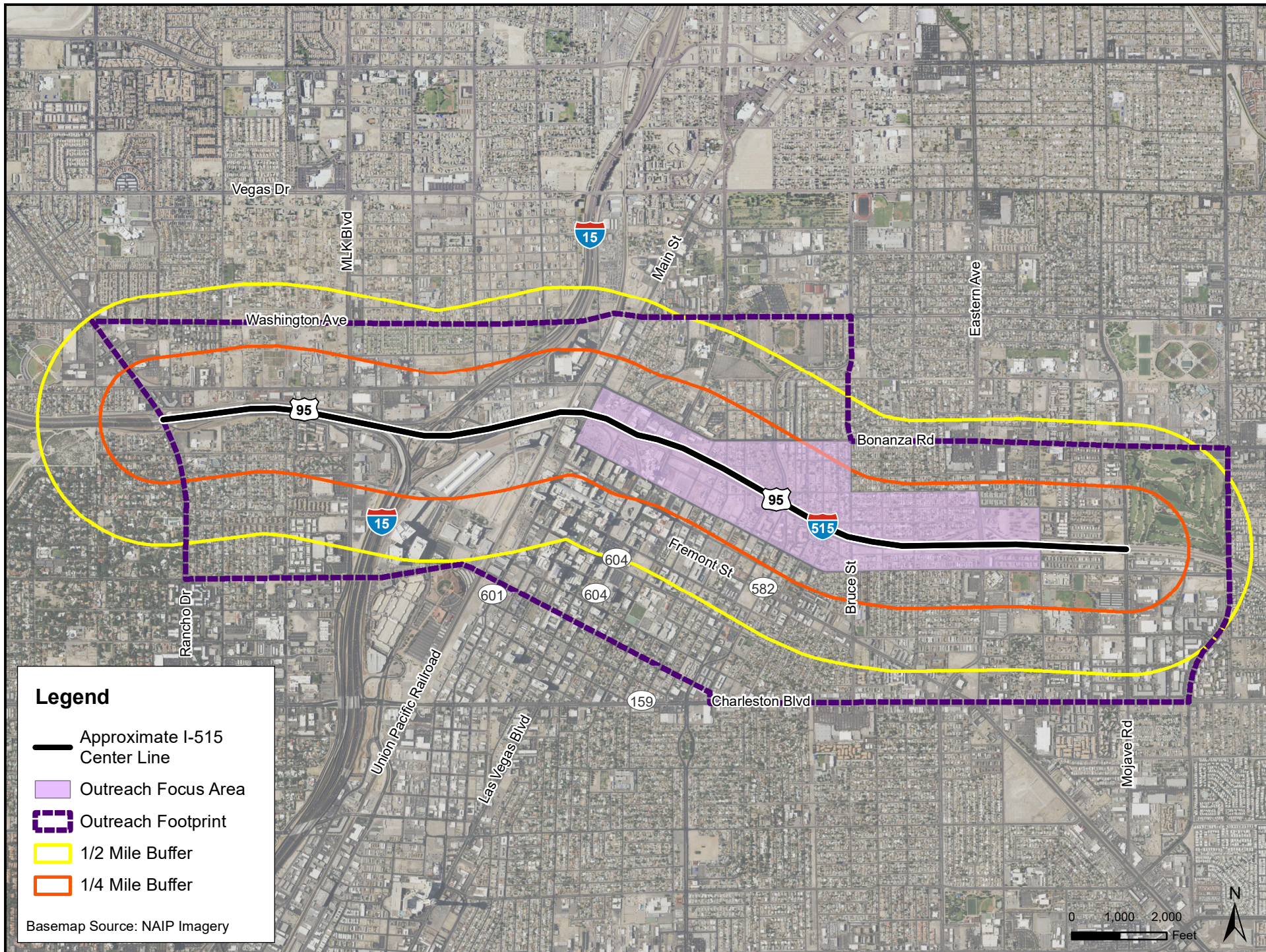
**¡VISITE A NUESTRO EQUIPO EN EL RECIENTEMENTE RENOVADO  
CENTRO COMUNITARIO ESTE DE LAS VEGAS!  
250 N. EASTERN AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89101**

## **¡LOS PARTICIPANTES DE LA CONVERSACIÓN COMUNITARIA RECIBIRÁN UNA TARJETA DE REGALO DE \$50!**

Si está interesado en participar en una conversación comunitaria para este proyecto, envíe su información de contacto a [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com), envíe un correo electrónico a [info@ndotdap.com](mailto:info@ndotdap.com) o llame al (702) 938-5440.

## **Exhibit 2: Outreach Area**







## **Exhibit 3: Newsletter**





HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

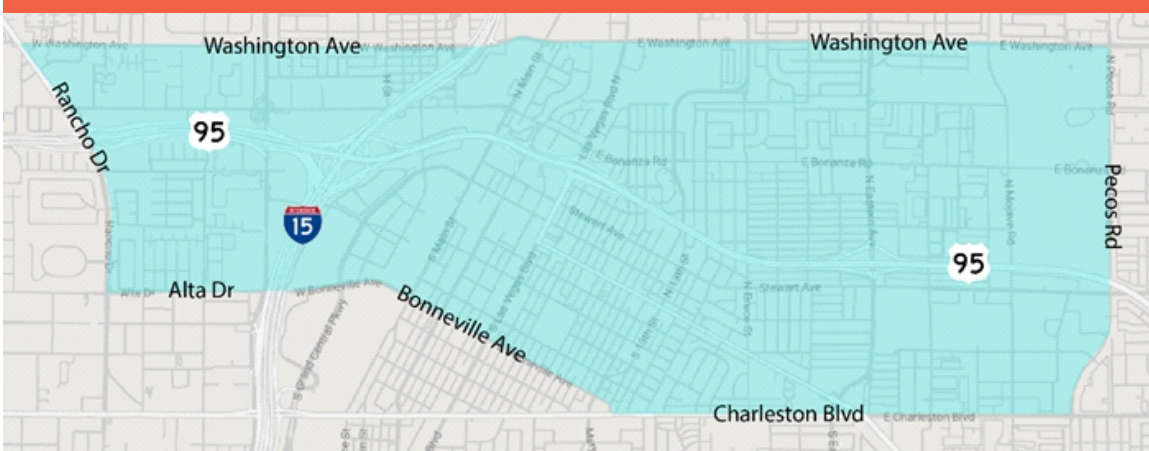
WWW.NDOTDAP.COM



## DO YOU LIVE IN OR HAVE A BUSINESS IN **THIS AREA**? WE WANT **YOUR INPUT**!

If you are interested in participating in a community conversation for this project, please submit your contact information at [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com), email [info@ndotdap.com](mailto:info@ndotdap.com), or call (702) 938-5440.

**ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A \$50 GIFT CARD!**



## **DOWNTOWN ACCESS PROJECT OFFICE NOW OPEN!**

**VISIT OUR TEAM AT THE NEWLY RENOVATED EAST LAS VEGAS COMMUNITY CENTER!  
250 N. EASTERN AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89101**



## **PROJECT UPDATE**

As part of the Downtown Access Project (DAP), the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) has begun the next phase of outreach focused on gathering additional input from residents and business owners immediately adjacent to the project area. This is one of the largest, most impactful projects ever undertaken in the Las Vegas Valley, and NDOT is committed to ensuring that it benefits those who live and work in the surrounding community, in addition to those passing through.

Over the next few months, the DAP team will embark on expanded outreach initiatives in this area, including:

- Opening a neighborhood project office to be a constant community resource
- Continuing community conversations with those closest to the freeway
- Conducting additional focus groups and surveys

NDOT will continue concentrating engagement efforts on the individuals who live within neighborhoods or own businesses immediately surrounding the project area and identify specific community needs that can be met as part of the project.

Additionally, NDOT will be taking the added step of formally modifying the project's Purpose and Need statement to reaffirm the community's needs as a fundamental component of any proposed alternative designs. Based on this revised objective and feedback gathered during the continued outreach process, NDOT will modify the current design alternatives or propose additional alternatives based on the community's needs. NDOT will share the new or modified community-driven alternatives with the public next year.

Details on the public outreach performed to date can be found on the project website at [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com).

## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**



WWW.NDOTDAP.COM  
HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

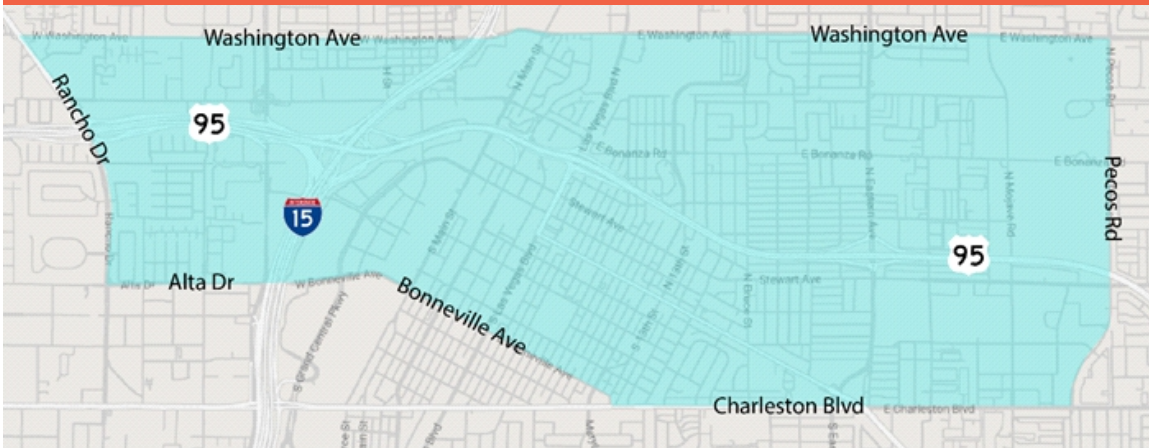
NOVEMBER 2022



## ¿VIVES O TIENES UN NEGOCIO EN ESTA ÁREA? ¡QUEREMOS TU OPINIÓN!

Si está interesado en participar en una conversación comunitaria para este proyecto, envíe su información de contacto a [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com), envíe un correo electrónico a [info@ndotdap.com](mailto:info@ndotdap.com) o llame al (702) 938-5440.

**¡TODOS LOS PARTICIPANTES RECIBIRÁN UNA TARJETA DE REGALO DE \$50!**



## ¡LA OFICINA DEL PROYECTO DE ACCESO AL CENTRO YA ESTÁ ABIERTA!

**¡VISITE A NUESTRO EQUIPO EN EL RECIENTEMENTE RENOVADO CENTRO COMUNITARIO ESTE DE LAS VEGAS!  
250 N. EASTERN AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89101**



## ACTUALIZACIÓN DEL PROYECTO

Como parte del Proyecto de Acceso al Centro (DAP, por sus siglas en inglés), el Departamento de Transporte de Nevada (NDOT, por sus siglas en inglés) ha comenzado la siguiente fase de divulgación centrada en recopilar aportes adicionales de residentes y dueños de negocios inmediatamente adyacentes al área del proyecto. Este es uno de los proyectos más grandes e impactantes jamás emprendidos en Las Vegas Valley, y NDOT se compromete a garantizar que beneficie a quienes viven y trabajan en la comunidad circundante, además de los que están de paso.

En los próximos meses, el equipo de DAP se embarcará en iniciativas de divulgación ampliadas en esta área, que incluyen:

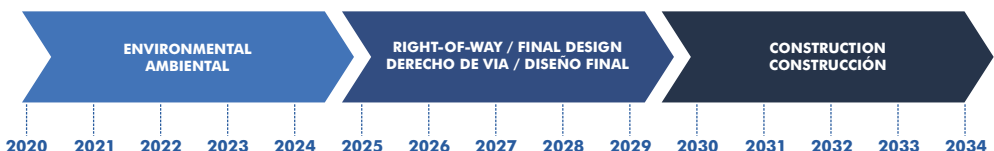
- Abrir una oficina de proyectos de vecindario para ser un recurso comunitario constante
- Continuar las conversaciones de la comunidad con las personas más cercanas a la autopista
- Realización de grupos focales y encuestas adicionales

NDOT continuará concentrando los esfuerzos de participación en las personas que viven dentro de los vecindarios o poseen negocios que rodean inmediatamente el área del proyecto e identificará las necesidades específicas de la comunidad que pueden satisfacerse como parte del proyecto.

Además, NDOT dará el paso adicional de modificar formalmente la declaración de propósito y necesidad del proyecto para satisfacer las necesidades de la comunidad como un componente fundamental de cualquier diseño alternativo propuesto. Sobre la base de este objetivo revisado y de los comentarios recopilados durante el proceso continuo de divulgación, NDOT modificará las alternativas de diseño actuales o propondrá alternativas adicionales basadas en las necesidades de la comunidad. NDOT compartirá las alternativas nuevas o modernas impulsadas por la comunidad con el público el próximo año.

Los detalles sobre la divulgación pública realizada hasta la fecha se pueden encontrar en el sitio web del proyecto en [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com).

## CRONOGRAMA DEL PROYECTO



## **Exhibit 4: Social Media**



#### Exhibit 4. Social Media Posts



Downtown Access Project - Nevada DOT  
Published by Debi Odem Bohnet · September 21, 2022 ·

Our next community conversation is September 27! Submit your information for more details.  
[www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com)



## Community Conversations

**Do you live near US 95 between I-15 and Eastern Avenue?**  
*We want your input!*

We are holding conversations to better understand your community and how a reconstructed freeway can benefit neighborhoods in the area.

To participate, submit your information:  
[www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com)  
[info@ndotdap.com](mailto:info@ndotdap.com)  
702.938.5440

*Hablamos español.*

**\$50 gift card for all participants!**

[www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com)



@ndotdap

NDOTDAP.COM

NDOT Downtown Access Project

Sign up

5,727  
People reached

211  
Engagements

–  
Distribution score

Boost again

Boosted on September 21, 2022  
By Debi Odem Bohnet

Completed

People reached	5.5K	Link clicks	80
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View results

Spend: \$50



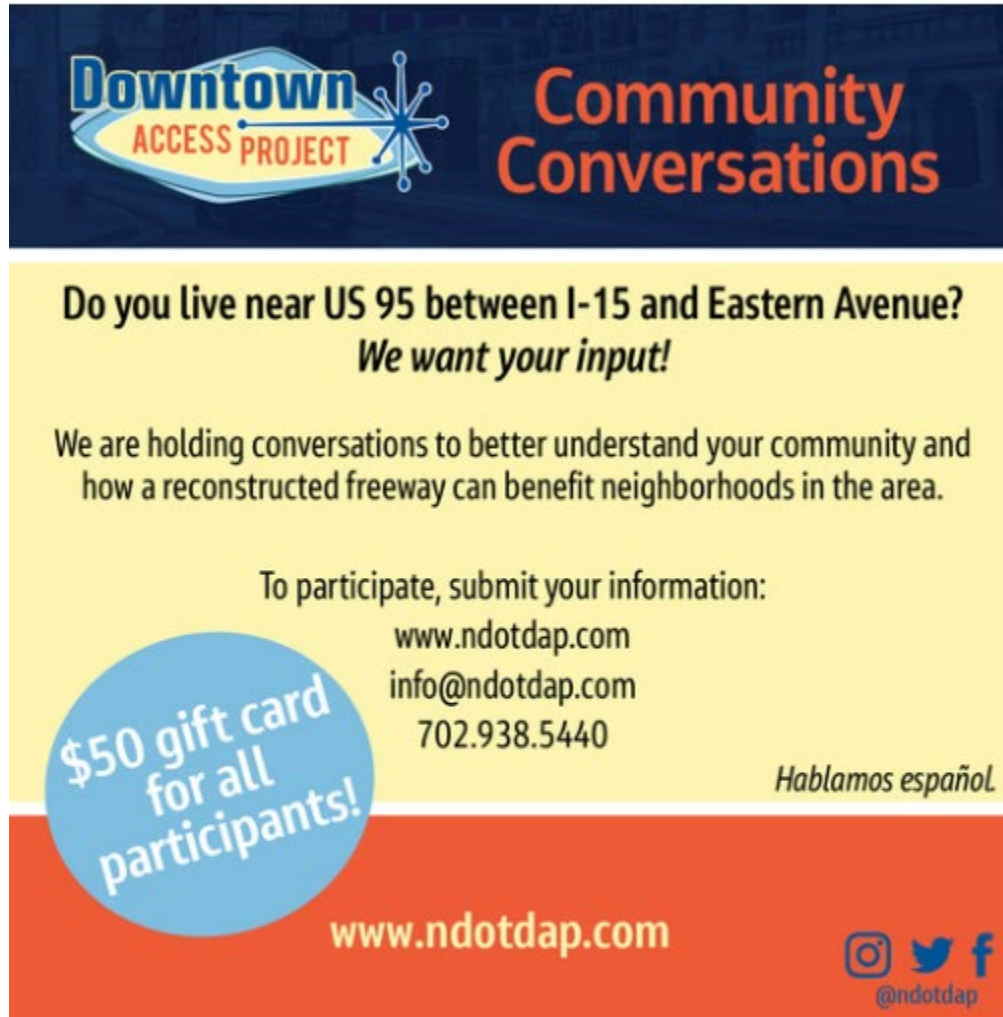
Downtown Access Project - Nevada DOT

Published by Debi Odem Bohnet · October 14, 2022 ·

...

Our next community conversation is October 17! Submit your information for more details.

[www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com)



**Downtown ACCESS PROJECT**

# Community Conversations

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702.938.5440

*Hablamos español*

**\$50 gift card for all participants!**

[www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com)

    
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NDOT Downtown Access Project

[Learn more](#)

3,821  
People reached

198  
Engagements

—  
Distribution score

[Boost again](#)

Boosted on October 14, 2022  
By Debi Odem Bohnet

Completed

People reached 3.6K

Link clicks 97

[View results](#)

Spend: \$50

Post for Jan. 11 conversation was boosted but removed because we only had two RSVPs a few days before the conversation. These folks were moved to the Jan. 17 or 23 conversations.



Downtown Access Project - Nevada DOT

Published by Daniela García · January 10 · 🌐

...

🚧 Don't miss out on our upcoming Community Conversation for the Downtown Access Project!  
🚧 Share your ideas 🗣️ and receive a \$50 🎁 gift card! Join us at the East Las Vegas Community Center on Tuesday, January 17th from 3:30pm-5pm. Visit [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com) or call 📞 (702) 938-5440 to sign up! 📍

The graphic features a blue header with the 'Downtown ACCESS PROJECT' logo on the left and the 'NEVADA DOT' logo on the right, which includes the tagline 'SAFE AND CONNECTED' and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Below the logos is the website 'WWW.NDOTDAR.COM'. The main text in large, bold, yellow and white letters reads 'YOU ARE INVITED! DOWNTOWN ACCESS PROJECT COMMUNITY CONVERSATION'. An orange banner in the middle contains the event details: 'TUE JAN 17TH • 3:30PM - 5PM EAST LAS VEGAS COMMUNITY CENTER 250 N. EASTERN AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89101'. The background of the lower half is a photograph of a community meeting with people seated in a room facing a screen. Overlaid on this photo is the text 'SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND RECEIVE A \$50 GIFT CARD!' in white and yellow. At the bottom, an orange box contains the RSVP information: 'RSVP at [info@ndotdap.com](mailto:info@ndotdap.com) or 702-938-5440'.

9,215  
People reached

23  
Engagements

—  
Distribution score

Boost post

Post was boosted by Graphicka team. Spend: \$50





Downtown Access Project - Nevada DOT

Published by Daniela García · January 10 ·

...

📍 No te pierdas nuestra próxima conversación comunitaria para el Proyecto de Acceso al Downtown 📍. ¡Comparte tus ideas 🗣️ y recibe una tarjeta de regalo de \$50 🎁! Únete a nosotros en el Centro Comunitario de East Las Vegas el jueves 19 de enero de 6:30pm a 8pm. ¡Visita [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com) o llama al 📞(702) 938-5440 para registrarte! 📱

The poster features the Downtown Access Project logo on the left and the Nevada DOT logo on the right. The background is a photograph of a community meeting with people seated in a room facing a screen. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Downtown ACCESS PROJECT**

**NEVADA DOT**  
SAFE AND CONNECTED

[WWW.NDOTDAR.COM](http://WWW.NDOTDAR.COM)

**¡ESTÁS INVITADO!**  
**CONVERSACIONES COMUNITARIAS**  
**SOBRE EL PROYECTO DE ACCESO AL CENTRO**

**JUE 19 ENE • 6:30PM - 8:00PM**  
**CENTRO COMUNITARIO EN EL ESTE DE LAS VEGAS**  
250 N. EASTERN AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89101

**¡COMPARTE TUS IDEAS Y**  
**RECIBE UNA TARJETA DE REGALO DE \$50!**

RSVP al [info@ndotdap.com](mailto:info@ndotdap.com)  
o **702-938-5440**

6,578

People reached

36

Engagements

—

Distribution score

Boost post

Post was boosted by Graphicka team. Spend: \$50





## Downtown Access Project - Nevada DOT

Published by Daniela Garcia · January 16 ·

...

In case you haven't had a chance to attend one of our Community Conversation Events for the Downtown Access Project, we have one final event this Monday, January 23rd. We will be meeting at the East Las Vegas Community Center from 5:30pm-7pm. See you there!



NDOTDAP.COM

NDOT Downtown Access Project

Learn more

2,630

People reached

332

Engagements

Boost post

Post was boosted by Graphicka team. Spend: \$125



## Downtown Access Project - Nevada DOT

Published by Daniela García · January 18 ·

...

Thank you to everyone who showed up yesterday for our conversation. Don't forget that we have 2 more conversations to go, tomorrow Thursday, January 19th from 6:30 to 8 pm in Spanish, and our final conversation on Monday, January 23rd from 5:30 to 7 pm in English. See you there!



18

People reached

3

Engagements

—

Distribution score

Boost post

## **Exhibit 5: Community Events**

## Exhibit 5. Community Events

10.4.22, 6pm-9pm

**Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Downtown Area Command National Night Out**  
*17 sign-ups, all but 3 interested in community conversations*



20 People reached      4 Engagements      - Distribution score      [Boost post](#)

3



10.15.22, 10am-2pm

## East Las Vegas Community Center Fiesta/Grand Re-Opening

51 sign-ups, all but 1 interested in community conversations



**Downtown Access Project - Nevada DOT**  
Published by Debi Odem Bohnet · October 15, 2022 ·

Join us at the East Las Vegas Community Center Fiesta (250 N Eastern) until 2pm today!



23  
People reached

2  
Engagements

Boost post

11.30.22

**Hollingsworth Elementary School Pastries with Parents**

*22 sign-ups, all interested in community conversations*



12.17.22

**Winter Wonderland at the East Las Vegas Community Center**

*34 sign-ups, all interested in community conversations*





## **Exhibit 6: Conversation Guide**

## **Exhibit 6. DAP Community Conversation Guide**

- 1) Introductions
  - a) Thank you for coming!
  - b) Facilitator / team introductions
    - i) Share full name, role on the team, and how long we've lived in the area.
  - c) Participant introductions
    - i) Share first name, address (or major cross streets), and how long they've lived in the area.
- 2) Ground Rules
  - a) We're here to have a "kitchen table" conversation. We want everyone to participate.
  - b) All of your input will be anonymous. We are taking notes, but the comments will not be tied to any one person.
  - c) There are no "right" answers. You do not need to be an expert. We want you to draw on your own experiences, views and beliefs.
  - d) Keep an open mind.
  - e) Help us keep the conversation on track.
  - f) It's okay to disagree, but always be respectful of other thoughts and ideas.
  - g) Please silence your cell phones and refrain from checking them, unless it's an emergency.
  - h) We'll take bathroom breaks as needed, but we want everyone to stay engaged in the discussion.
  - i) Have fun!
- 3) Expectations/Background (*send beforehand*)
  - a) Over the next few months, we will be holding conversations like this one with people that live near US 95 to better understand your aspirations and concerns for your community.
  - b) We're looking for information from the community about impacts of the freeway and how to minimize impacts as much as possible. How can the freeway be neighborly within a community?
  - c) Your input and ideas will assist NDOT in designing a freeway that will benefit the community.
  - d) As design moves forward, we will check in with community to make sure the designs meet the intent of our conversations.
  - e) Your voice and ideas are important.
  - f) We're here to listen.
- 4) Explain Role as Conversation Leader
  - a) My role is to ask questions that help us have a good conversation.
  - b) I won't participate in the discussion; this is a conversation about what you think.
  - c) I may ask follow-up questions to make sure I understand what you're saying.
  - d) To make sure we hear from everyone, I may ask someone who has had a chance to talk a lot to hold off on comments at times. If I call on you, you can always say "pass" – I just want to make sure everyone has a chance to participate.

## 5) Conversation

Topic
<p><b>Project Update</b></p> <p>The Downtown Access Project is located along US 95 through downtown. This project will address the aging infrastructure while improving safety and travel time reliability.</p> <p>If you are already familiar with the Downtown Access Project, we'd like you to approach today's conversation with a clean slate. Our federal oversight partners want us to ensure the proposed project will be friendly to the neighborhood and minimize impacts to adjacent residents. As a result, our design team may propose one or two new design alternatives or adjust existing alternatives. Prior to doing this, we want to have conversations with residents, businesses, and community leaders to ensure we design components that will benefit or enhance the neighborhood.</p> <p>After these community conversations, we will develop additional design alternatives based on the feedback we receive. Once we have drafted these new alternatives, we will meet with you again to confirm that the designs meet the needs and goals of the community. There may be some back and forth to finalize project concepts and designs. We will then have a public meeting to introduce all of the alternatives. After this meeting, one alternative will be selected to move forward as the preferred alternative. Coordination with the communities will be ongoing through project completion.</p> <p>These conversations are important as they determine which design components are essential to the community.</p>
<p><b>Project Schedule</b></p> <p>The environmental phase will be complete by mid-2024, design and right-of-way acquisition will be 2024-2028 with a construction start 2029. As of today, only the environmental phase is funded. Funding is pending for future phases.</p>
<p><b>Purpose and Need Statement</b></p> <p>The purpose and need statement for a project summarizes why the project is needed and what purpose it will serve. For the Downtown Access Project, the purpose and need statement is: "to repair, restore, and renew the freeway corridor and make a safer, healthier and sustainable transportation system."</p> <p>Does this statement adequately reflect the community's needs?</p> <p>Should the statement be revised to capture other community needs?</p>
<p><b>Current Freeway</b></p> <p>The 1980 freeway was built as a viaduct (on bridges) to minimize impact to the surrounding community as well as an attempt to keep neighborhoods connected.</p> <p>Do you feel like the neighborhoods on either side of the freeway are connected <u>or</u> does it feel like they are disconnected?</p> <p>What do you see as the biggest challenge living near the freeway?</p>

**What do you think the reconstructed freeway should look like to make it blend in more with the neighborhood?**

- A. How do you feel about the freeway being at ground level, with the cross streets elevated over the freeway?
- B. How do you feel about the freeway being built up high on dirt with bridges over the cross streets below?
- C. How do you feel about the freeway being elevated on a long bridge – like we have today?
- D. How do you feel about the freeway being a combination of elevated on dirt and a bridge?
- E. How do you feel about the freeway being built below ground in a trench?  
How do you feel about covering a below ground freeway? This would connect both sides of the freeway and provide space for community amenities.

**What can NDOT do as part of the reconstruction of the freeway to improve how the surrounding neighborhoods look and feel for the residents?**

Here are a few options, but don't let that limit your ideas.

What would you like to see in your community?

**One proposed element of the project is a new HOV only interchange at Maryland Pkwy, which means only vehicles with 2 or more occupants could use the interchange to enter or exit US 95 at Maryland.**

Do you think this would be beneficial to your neighborhood?

Would you use this interchange?

NDOT has changed the HOV lane operation period to 5am-10pm daily. Does this change your opinion on the interchange?

6) Conclusion / Next Steps

- a) We'll be here for a little bit if you have any questions or would like to talk more.
- b) We truly appreciate your participation, and we are excited to have your help in making this a project that truly benefits the community.