



## Frequently Asked Questions

*August 2023*

### **Where is the Downtown Access Project (DAP)?**

- I-515/U.S. 95 through downtown, from Mojave Road (east of Eastern Avenue) to Rancho Drive. Major exits include Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas Boulevard, Casino Center Boulevard, MLK Boulevard, and Rancho Drive.

### **What is the DAP?**

- DAP is a project proposed by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). It is the long-term solution to address the aging infrastructure, safety, and congestion along U.S. 95 through downtown.

### **Why is the DAP needed?**

- This portion of I-515/U.S. 95 consists of two separate bridges that are 1.6 miles in length. The bridges are getting older and a long-term solution is needed.
- The volume of cars continues to increase on a freeway structure that has never been widened in a city that has grown 1,000% since 1968.
- The merging and weaving between interchanges create back-ups and are a safety concern.

### **Which agencies are involved in project development?**

- The Nevada Department of Transportation is the lead agency.
- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides project oversight.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the City of Las Vegas are assisting in project development.

### **What's the timing of this project?**

- The project is estimated to be about 14 years in total. The project is currently in the environmental phase, which will be followed by final design and property (right-of-way) acquisitions (approximately 4 years), and construction (approximately 5 years).

### **Is the project funded?**

- The environmental phase is the only phase that is currently funded.
- The next phases of Final design/right-of-way acquisition, and construction are not yet funded.

### **What occurs during the environmental phase?**

- FHWA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process allows transportation officials to make project decisions that balance engineering and transportation needs with social, economic, and natural environmental factors. During the process, a wide range of partners including the public, businesses, interest groups, and agencies at all levels of government, provide input into the project and environmental decisions.
- As part of the NEPA environmental process, NDOT is evaluating potential alternatives, performing environmental studies, and receiving public and stakeholder input.

- Following completion of the environmental studies, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is tentatively scheduled for public review and comment in May 2024. The DEIS will include all completed resource reports and identify an agency preferred alternative. It will be released in conjunction with a public hearing.

**Will NDOT have to acquire property (right-of-way) to build this project?**

- Yes, some property will be required. The number of properties depends on the preferred alternative selected. Acquisitions of property will not be pursued until the NEPA process is completed and the design is advanced to a 60% level.

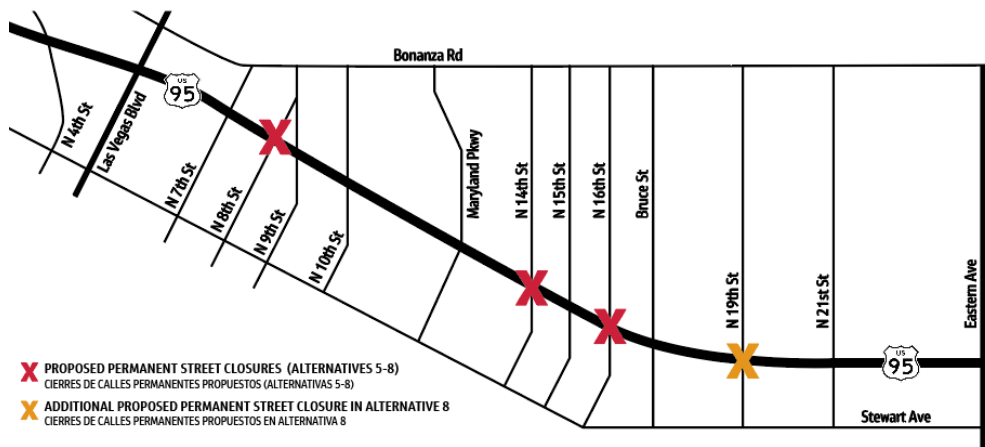
**What happened to the north, south and recessed alternatives?**

- In January 2022, DAP presented three design alternatives (north, south and recessed) to the community. A few months later, NDOT and its federal partners made the decision to revise the alternatives to reduce the impact to households and conduct additional outreach within the community.

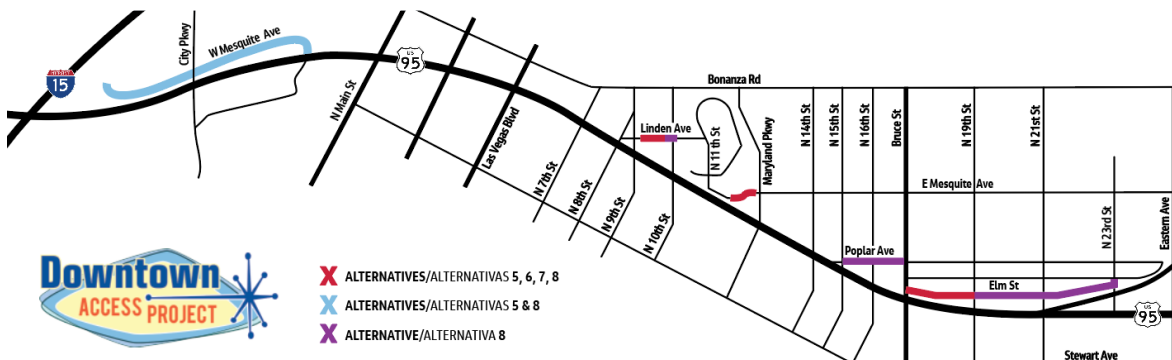
**How will my travel routes change because of this project?**

- All entry/exit points to/from U.S. 95 will be maintained. One new access point is proposed in Alternative 5 – a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) interchange at City Parkway.
- There are several proposed permanent street closures, depending on alternative. *See the maps below for details.*

Proposed North/South Street Closures | *Cierres propuestos de calles norte/sur*



Proposed East/West Street Closures | *Cierres propuestos de calles este/oeste*



**Will the public have any say in what happens?**

- Yes, NDOT will continue to seek public input throughout the environmental process and beyond.
- The first opportunity for the public to provide feedback was during the virtual public meeting from August 24 to September 22, 2020.
- In spring 2021, NDOT conducted a street closures campaign to gather feedback on proposed surface street closures.
- In summer 2021, NDOT conducted an environmental justice survey, including knocking on 1,300+ doors of people closest to the freeway.
- In November 2021, NDOT conducted five focus groups with area residents.
- In late 2021/early 2022, NDOT conducted a survey to better understand what type of community enhancements those near the freeway would like to see.
- The second public meeting was held online (Jan. 17 – Feb. 15, 2022, at [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com)) and in person (Jan. 25, 4-7pm, at the East Las Vegas Library).
- In February 2022, NDOT conducted a phone survey with 1,100+ Las Vegas residents.
- Between August 2022 and January 2023, NDOT held 15 community conversations with approximately 150 area residents, faith-based leaders, businesses, and first responders.
- In November 2022, NDOT opened a project office at the East Las Vegas Community Center to increase accessibility to the team.
- The third public meeting is being held online (Aug. 14 – Sept. 14, 2023, at [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com)) and in person (Aug. 29, 4-7pm, at the East Las Vegas Community Center).
- A public hearing will be held in May 2024, in conjunction with the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment.
- The project team is always available for comments and questions via email [info@ndotdap.com](mailto:info@ndotdap.com) or the project hotline (702) 938-5440.

**Will there be multilingual staff to communicate with residents and businesses?**

- Yes, our team can communicate with you in Spanish, and all materials are provided in English and Spanish.

**How can the public stay up to date on what's happening with the project?**

- Email us at [info@ndotdap.com](mailto:info@ndotdap.com) to be added to our email list or sign up on our website at [www.ndotdap.com](http://www.ndotdap.com)
- Follow us on social media: @ndotdap on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

**Why is NDOT proposing to extend the HOV system onto this stretch of U.S. 95?**

- The extension of the HOV lanes are part of the Southern Nevada HOV Plan: <https://www.dot.nv.gov/safety/roadway-safety-improvements/high-occupancy-vehicle-hov-lanes-express-lanes>
- This project element may be subject to change.

**Does NDOT have any other projects planned for this area?**

- NDOT has several other projects along this stretch of freeway. Visit [dot.nv.gov/nv515](http://dot.nv.gov/nv515) to learn more.