Appendix C: Public Involvement Synopsis

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SYNOPSIS

MDOT JOB 109496/104/105
US 11 Widening
Lamar/Forrest Counties

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
January 20, 2026 - February 4, 2026

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING
January 20, 2026
Okahola Community Center
59 Old Okahola Road
Purvis, MS

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING WEBSITE
us11widening.transportationplanroom.com

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SNAPSHOT

- **1 PUBLIC MEETING**
- **65 IN-PERSON ATTENDEES**
- **746 WEBSITE VIEWS**
- **15 COMMENTS RECEIVED**
- **3 COMMENTS IN SUPPORT**
  Comment bar graph on page 2
- **3 COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION**
  Comment bar graph on page 2

PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Garver, in coordination with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), held an open forum public meeting to present the proposed improved multimodal access along US 11 to the Eagle One Mega Site (EOMS) and accommodate future traffic demand in a safe and efficient manner.

A Public Involvement Meeting was held Tuesday, January 20, 2026, from 4:00–6:00 p.m. at the Okahola Community Center, 59 Old Okahola Road, Purvis, MS.

This was an open house meeting with no formal presentations. The meeting consisted of members of the public visiting the different exhibits and stations and talking with project team members. Additionally, a **Public Officials Meeting** was held from **2:30-3:30 p.m.** on the same date at the same location. Attendees were invited to view the exhibits and materials and talk directly with project team members.

QUICK LINKS

Comment Summary

Outreach

Meeting Material

Public Meeting and Project Website

The comment period was available from Tuesday, January 20, 2026, through Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

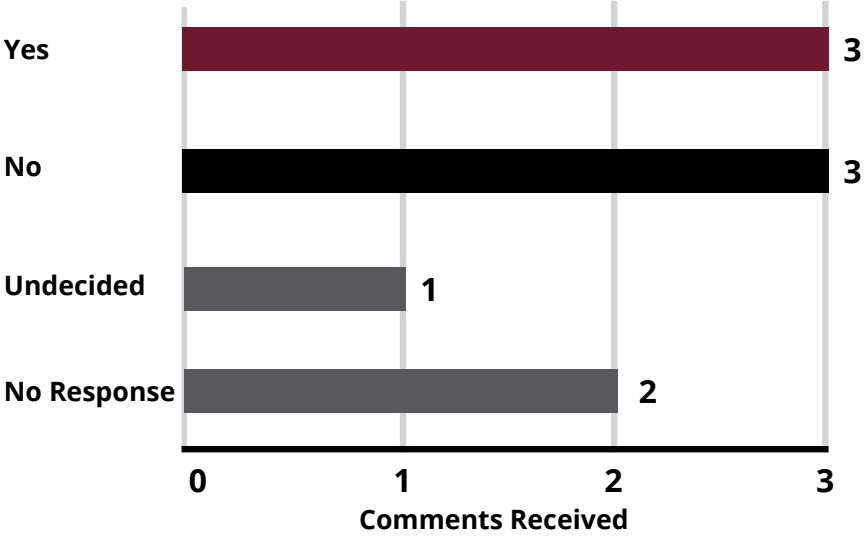
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Garver staff reviewed all comments received and evaluated their contents. The summary of comments listed below reflects the personal perception or opinion of the person or organization making the statement.

Bar Graph 1 describes the total comment forms received and corresponding answer to the question, "Are you in favor of the proposed alternative(s)?" Individuals could **express support** by circling a "Yes" box, **express opposition** by circling a "No" box, or **remain neutral** by circling "Undecided".

Note: Any letters, emails, or roll plot comments that did not include a standard comment form were not included in this tally, but were included in the overall total.

Bar Graph 1 - Are you in favor of the proposed alternative(s)?



COMMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For respondents who completed the print or online comment forms, the question "Are you in favor or against the proposed alternative?" resulted in mixed responses. Three respondents indicated support, three expressed opposition, one was undecided, and two did not provide a response. This question was included only on the print and online comment forms and was not part of email submissions or roll plot comments. The majority of comments reflect concerns related to property and right-of-way impacts, including partial property acquisitions, potential loss of property value, driveway access, and requests for full property acquisition. Safety and traffic operations were also commonly raised, with comments addressing lane transition areas, access management, and the potential for increased crash risk. Several commenters noted concerns regarding noise, vibration, and quality-of-life impacts associated with construction activities and long-term traffic conditions. Additional feedback

COMMENTS AT A GLANCE

15

Comments received during the public comment period, which ran from January 20, 2026 through February 4, 2026

4

Online Comment Forms

5

Print Comment Forms

2

Letters/Emails

4

Roll Plot Comments

included environmental considerations, access to nearby businesses and services, and community context. A limited number of comments expressed general support for the project, requested clarification on project details, or offered minor design suggestions.

PROJECT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Safety, Traffic Operations, and Road Design (9 comments)

- Multiple comments expressed concerns about traffic safety, roadway configuration, and operational issues associated with widening U.S. Highway 11, including bottlenecking, lane transitions, and access safety. (Comments 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11)
- Several commenters cited concerns that transitioning from four lanes back to two lanes could increase crash risk and create dangerous bottlenecks. (Comments 5, 6, 8)
- Comments also emphasized the need for divided lanes, medians, or alternative designs to improve safety and reduce head-on collisions and unsafe turning movements. (Comments 1, 3, 5)
- One comment requested the consideration of a roundabout with a truck apron to improve traffic flow at the Eagle One Mega Site entrance. (Comment 7)

Property Impacts, Relocations, and Property Value (6 comments)

- Comments raised concerns regarding partial property takes, loss of setbacks, reduced access, and potential declines in property value due to the proposed widening. (Comments 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11)
- Commenters stated that partial acquisitions could render properties unsafe, nonconforming, or unusable, and requested total property acquisition as a safer alternative. (Comments 8, 9)
- Concerns were also raised about driveway access, landscape loss, and difficulty entering or exiting properties along U.S. Highway 11. (Comments 5, 6)

Noise, Vibrations, and Environmental Effects (4 comments)

- Concerns were expressed about increased noise, vibrations, and environmental impacts associated with expanded roadway capacity and potential rail infrastructure. (Comments 4, 6, 8, 11)
- Several commenters raised concerns that impacts could negatively affect residential quality of life as well as the operations and functionality of an adjacent medical facility (Comments 4, 6, 11)

Emergency Access and Connectivity (2 comments)

- Comments highlighted concerns that potential road closures or restricted access could impede emergency response times and evacuation routes for residents. (Comments 1, 6)

Rail Spur Concerns (3 comments)

- Comments expressed concern about a proposed or perceived railroad spur, including safety risks, property value impacts, noise, vibration, and environmental contamination. (Comments 1, 6, 8)

Impacts to Sensitive Land Uses (Medical Facility) (1 comment)

- One comment identified concerns regarding impacts to a pediatric medical clinic serving children with developmental disabilities, citing safety risks, loss of therapeutic outdoor space, reduced setbacks, and interference with planned expansion if widening occurs on the clinic side of the roadway. (Comment 11)

SUGGESTED PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Modify Roadway Design or Select Preferred Alternative (6 comments)

- Several comments supported selecting or refining an alternative that improves safety, minimizes residential impacts, and avoids unnecessary property takings. (Comments 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11)
- Specific recommendations included divided roadways, medians, improved turning movements, and avoiding lane reductions that could create bottlenecks. (Comments 1, 3, 5)

Maintain or Improve Access Management (3 comments)

- Comments recommended maintaining safe driveway access, improving ingress and egress, and avoiding design changes that would restrict access to homes or businesses. (Comments 5, 6, 11)

Consider Total Property Acquisition Where Impacts Are Severe (2 comments)

- Some commenters requested full property acquisition rather than partial takes when remaining property would be unsafe or nonviable. (Comments 8, 9)

Note: Comment 10 was an email inquiry regarding whether the project would have an address during construction. Although the question was answered by the project team, it was received during the comment period and is therefore included as a comment.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Roll Plot Comments

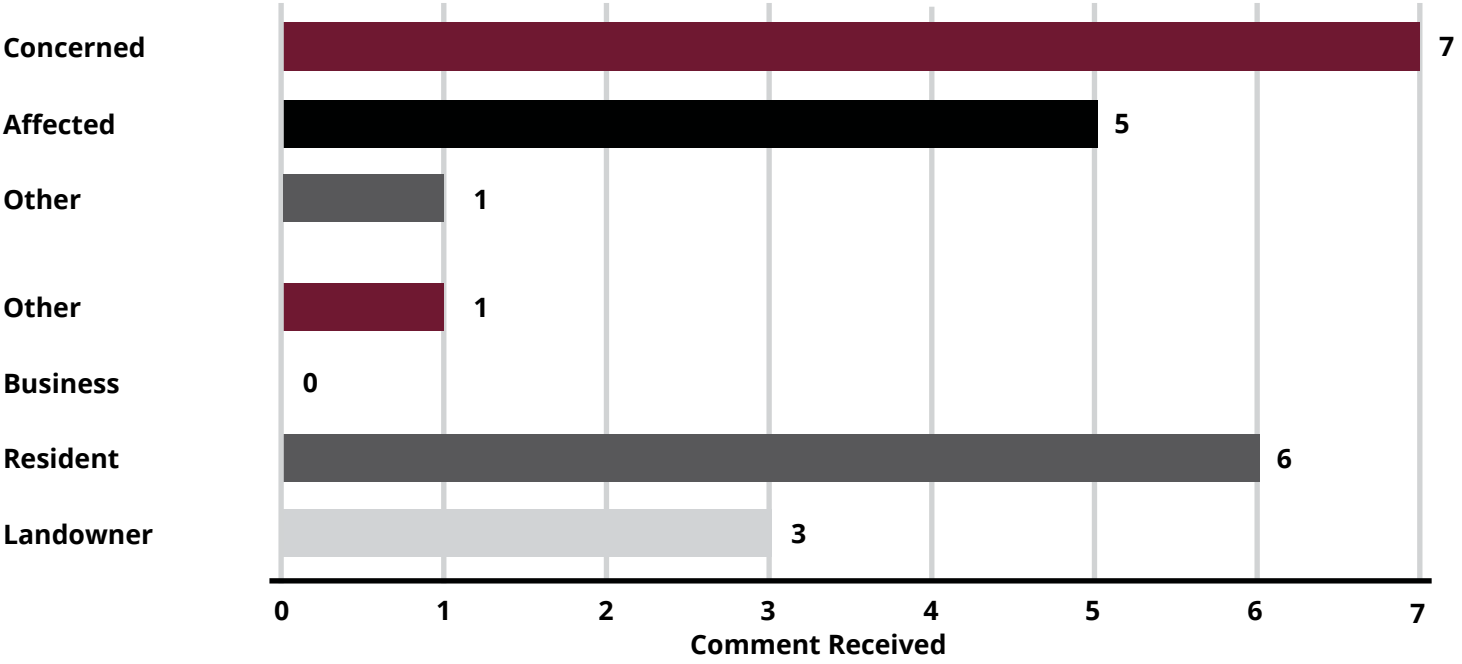
Four roll plot comments were submitted during the public meeting:

- One comment recommended aligning White Chapel Road and Old Okahola Road to form a signalized intersection.
- A second comment stated that maintaining the existing configuration at the R.D. Hartfield Road and U.S. Highway 11 intersection is the safer option. This comment noted that the location of the R.D. Hartfield Road intersection with U.S. Highway 11 may be constrained by the existing vertical profile and sight distance along U.S. Highway 11, and that the proposed intersection location may not be as safe as the current one.
- A third comment requested a review of the sight distance at the R.D. Hartfield Road and U.S. Highway 11 intersection. As part of this concern, the sight distance would need to be verified to confirm that adequate visibility can be achieved at the proposed location.
- A fourth comment included a sketch showing the original intersection configuration, where Old Okahola Road was originally aligned with White Chapel Road. Old Okahola Road was later realigned to provide improved sight distance.

PRIMARY INTEREST

Bar Graph 2 shows the responses to the comment form question, "Which best describes your primary interest?"

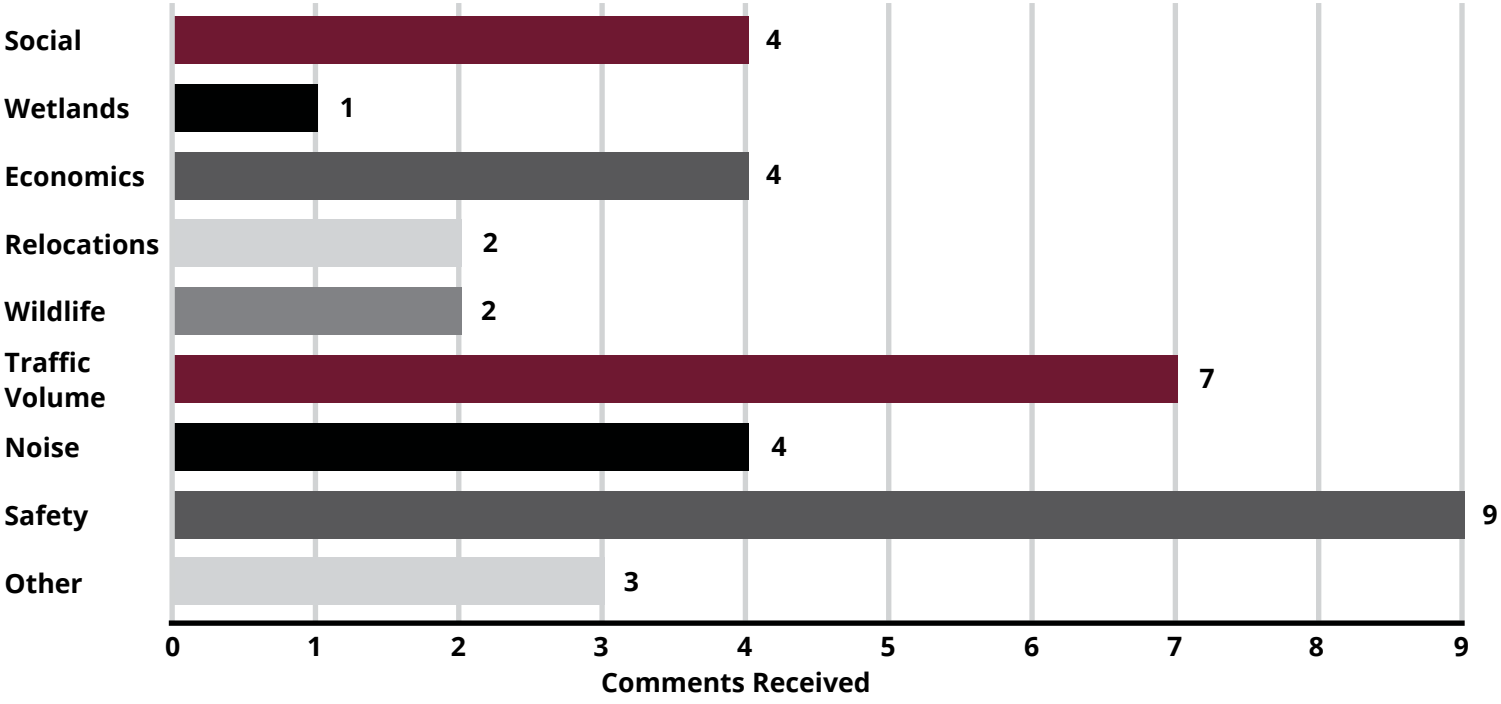
Bar Graph 2 - Which best describes your primary interest? (select all that apply)



MAJOR ISSUES

Bar Graph 3 shows the responses to the comment form question, "What are the major issues?"

Bar Graph 3 - What are the major issues? (select all that apply)



METHODS OF OUTREACH

Special efforts to involve the public in the open forum public meeting included the following:

- **Letters with notice flier mailed** to public officials (January 5, 2026)
- **Postcards mailed** using direct mailing to 79 public officials, property owners, and prior attendees (January 5, 2026)
- **Notice flier emailed** to public officials, stakeholders, and prior attendees (January 12, 2026)
- **News release** published (January 12, 2026)
- **Display ads** placed in two newspapers
  - The Hattiesburg American (January 7 and January 14, 2026)
  - The Pine Belt (January 8 and January 15, 2026)
- Multiple rounds of outreach through **various websites and social media platforms**

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

The following materials were available for review and comment at the location and design public hearing. All materials were also available on the project websites. Copies of the handouts and exhibits are attached.

- **Roll plot maps** on aerial photography showing Alternatives B and C at a scale of 1-inch equals 50 feet.
- **Eight project exhibit boards** outlining the purpose of the meeting, project location map, what's next, purpose and need/overview, other projects in the area, constraints map, and 3D typical sections.
- **Handouts** for the public included a summary sheet, a comment form, and a small-scale map showing the location of the project.

PUBLIC MEETING AND PROJECT WEBSITE

Table 1 describes the participation data gathered from the in-person public meeting and the project website.

Table 1 - Results of Participation	
Public Participation	**Totals**
Public Officials Meeting Attendees (non-staff)	1
In-Person Public Meeting Attendees (non-staff)	65
Staff Present at Public Meeting	17
Attendees who Signed Website Register	12
Comment Forms Received	9
Letters/Emails Received	2
Roll Plot Comments	4
Project Website (January 20 - February 4, 2026)	**Totals**
Visits to the Website (Sessions)	382
Number of Website Pages Viewed (Views)	746
Clicked Hyperlinks on Website	240
Peak User Activity (January 20, 2026)	49
Percent of Total Users Interacting with Mobile Devices/Tablets	30%

PARTICIPATION AT A GLANCE

65
Public Meeting Attendees (non-staff)

12
Online Registrations

15
Total Comments Received

261
Unique Visitors to the Website

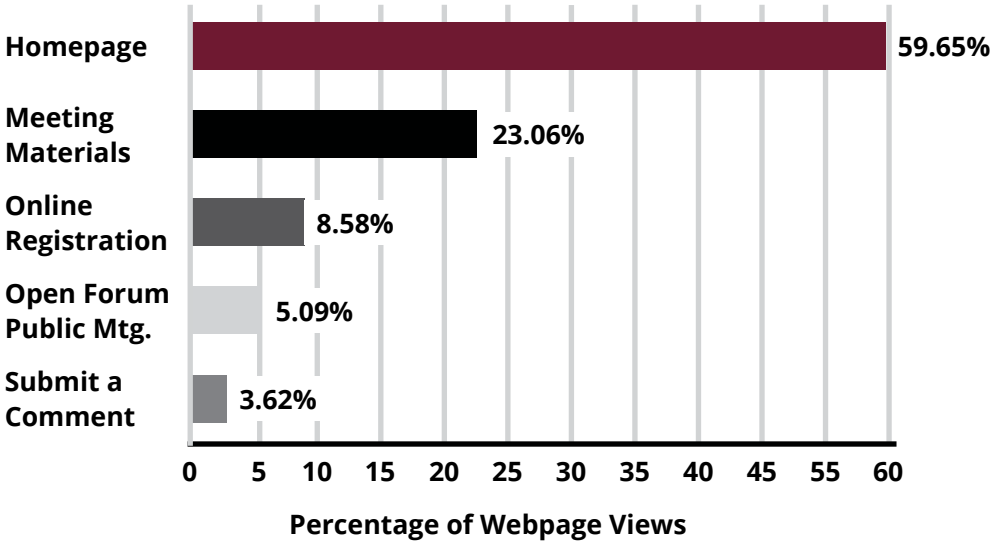
746
Website Total Views

Note: *If comments were submitted in multiple forms (letter, phone, email, etc.), and were identical in nature, they were only counted once.*

PUBLIC MEETING & PROJECT WEBSITE

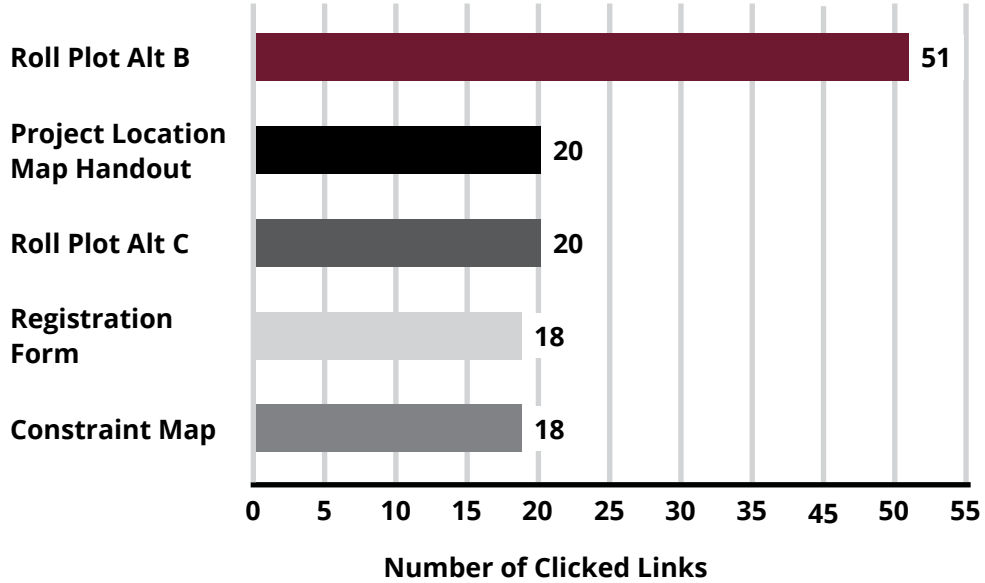
Bar Graph 4 describes the total page views and corresponding percentage based on each individual website page.

Bar Graph 4 - Total Webpage Views



Bar Graph 5 describes the top five clicked links on the website.

Bar Graph 5 - Top 5 Clicked Links



WEBSITE AT A GLANCE

746
Views

4+
Hours Visitors Engaged with the Site

261
Unique Visitors

382
Sessions

49
Peak Site Traffic in One Day
1/20/2026

4
Comments Submitted Online

SUMMARY OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachments (three separate PDF documents contain the following):

US11_Widening_SynopsisAttachments_Comments*

- Copies of Submitted Comments

US11_Widening_SynopsisAttachments_Outreach*

- Public Meeting Outreach
- Outreach Materials
- Screenshots of Public Meeting Website
- Website Analytics Report

US11_Widening_SynopsisAttachments_MeetingMaterials*

- Public Meeting Materials
- Blank Meeting Sign-In Sheet
- Small-Scale Copies of Meeting Materials
- Meeting Pictures

*Available upon request