

be taken to initiate some elements of the long-term plan.

4. Public and Stakeholder Involvement

The I-80 Corridor Study was organized as an open, inclusive, transparent, and accessible process to include the broadest range of stakeholders possible. The stakeholders were involved based upon their interest in working together to provide solutions for future corridor needs. Study participation was based upon individual preferences; many stakeholders chose to be engaged through monthly meetings, while others remained informed via the project website and ongoing e-blast notifications. Ensuring that the Study Group was working on issues important to the broader community required engaging stakeholders representing that community through public meetings.



Picture 7. Stakeholder working group meeting

Accordingly, the corridor study process included two public informational meetings,

one at the beginning for scoping issues and one near the end to assess understanding of and refinements to the Study Group's suggested potential solutions. The initial meeting generated considerable energy for beginning the study and provided impetus to work through difficult issues and address community concerns. Once the Study Group, Steering Committee, and Technical Working Group reached a consensus on ideas to present for public evaluation, they convened the NDOT public informational meeting.

NDOT and the Study Group organized the public informational meeting to elicit additional information from the public to address the needs of all interested parties. As part of this planning effort and leading up to the public informational meeting, NDOT provided several I-80 Corridor Study presentations. The public informational meeting was held June 10, 2009, and the results of the study received considerable support. The public involvement plan and a report on stakeholder outreach efforts can be found in Appendix N.