Public Involvement Synopsis

Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) Innovation Study
Highway 91
Jonesboro, Arkansas
Sunday, May 31 – Monday, June 22, 2020

A Virtual Public Involvement Meeting was held to present results from the Highway 91 Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) Innovation Study in Jonesboro. The virtual meeting was held at https://example.com, https://example.com, https://example.com, https://example.com, https://example.com, https://example.com, https://example.com.com, https://example.com.com, https://example.com.com, https://example.com.com, https://example.com, https://example.com.com, https://example.com, https://exampl

- Display advertisements placed in the *Jonesboro Sun* on Sunday, May 31 and Sunday, June 14, 2020
- Social media promotions Information posted by the Northeast Arkansas Regional Transportation Planning Commission (NARTPC) and the City of Jonesboro
- News release published by the City of Jonesboro
- Letters mailed/delivered to city officials and local stakeholders
- Email chain notifications

The virtual public meeting website at Hwy91STEP.TransportationPlanRoom.com was organized in the following way:

Homepage

- Included information on submitting written comments, a phone number for people with limited internet access or general questions or comments, and guidance for special accommodations.
- Sign-In Station
- Study Background
 - o Information on the STEP program and Highway 91 STEP Innovation Study
 - Temporary pedestrian crossing installation west of the study intersection
 - Study timeline exhibit
- Proposed Solutions
 - Exhibit on the study's recommended countermeasures
 - Exhibits on aerial photographs showing location of traffic signal and pedestrian hybrid beacon
 - FHWA video about pedestrian hybrid beacons
- Submit a Comment
 - Print and electronic versions of the comment form.



Public Meeting

Table 1 describes the results of the public participation at the virtual meeting.

Table 1			
Public Participation	Totals		
Unique Visitors (New Users)	97		
Visits to the Website (Sessions)	114		
Number of Website Pages Viewed (Pageviews)	291		
Percent of attendees using mobile devices or tablets	36%		
Comment forms received	17		

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. The sequencing of the comments is random and is not intended to reflect importance or numerical values. Some of the comments were combined and/or paraphrased to simplify the synopsis process.

An analysis of the Highway 91 comment form responses is shown in the below tables:

Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street?			
Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon	8		
Traffic Signal	5		
Either	1		
Neither	3		

Summarized Comments

- One said the pedestrian hybrid beacon won't unnecessarily stop traffic light a traffic signal will
- Three said the pedestrian hybrid beacon will work better in the location
- One said a pedestrian hybrid beacon will get traffic's attention because that is where people cross the street
- One preferred the pedestrian hybrid beacon because the city already has too many traffic lights
- One preferred the pedestrian hybrid beacon because it is less expensive and installation is easier
- One said the pedestrian hybrid beacon increases danger to pedestrians because it will turn a half-block into a large pedestrian crossing
- One said a traffic signal will slow traffic down, which makes it safer
- One said a traffic light at State Street would result in less accidents than a mid-block pedestrian hybrid beacon. Believes there are more family units to the northeast of the



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Public Meeting

intersection than to the northwest and thinks more individuals would want to cross at the intersection.

- One said they don't want a crossing at this location, but if there is one, install a traffic signal that does not impede traffic
- One preferred a roundabout at East Johnson and State Street
- One wanted the temporary pedestrian crossing installation made permanent because it
 makes others aware of pedestrians, has slowed down traffic, is not a deterrent to the
 community, and does not back up traffic
- One preferred a pedestrian overpass or to teach people to look both ways before crossing the street
- One said do either because doing nothing shouldn't be an option
- One said neither because pedestrians don't engage with the signals and cross Johnson Avenue wherever they wish

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)?			
Beneficial	12		
Adverse	4		

Summarized Comments

Beneficial

- Six said it makes it safer for pedestrians and reduce crashes
- Three said it makes it a more desirable place to live and work and encourages connectivity
- Two said it helps businesses
- o One said it will encourage development on the north side of the road

Adverse

- One said money can be spent better elsewhere
- One said it slows traffic
- One said the location of the pedestrian hybrid beacon it will increase pedestrianvehicle collisions

Additional Comments:

- One said the police department should write tickets to drivers who do not yield to pedestrians
- One said to keep building community-friendly infrastructure
- One said there will be more places to eat next to the Edge Coffee House with the Red Wolf Walkway. It will allow the public with easier access
- One said there is heavy foot traffic in this area and all measures should have safety as the over-arching goal
- One said a crossing is necessary and a pedestrian hybrid beacon would be inexpensive
- Two said they liked the format of the virtual meeting. It lays out the information to the public and gives them ample opportunity to examine the issues and provide comments



Public Involvement Synopsis

Public Meeting

Attachments:

- Screenshots of virtual public meeting site
- Website analytics report
- Blank comment form
- Small-scale display maps and exhibits
- Copies of sign-in sheets and comment forms



Hwy. 91 STEP Study

Virtual Public Meeting Analytics

Audience Overview

New Users

Pageviews

Sessions

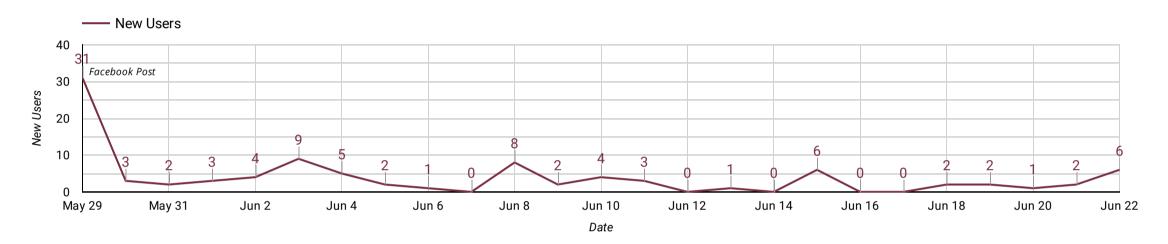
Pages / Session

97

291

114

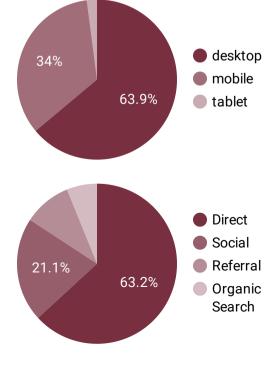
2.55



Top Pages

	Page Title	Pageviews ▼
1.	Virtual Public Meeting - Hwy 91 STEP Innovation Stu	163
2.	Proposed Solutions - Hwy 91 STEP Innovation Study	39
3.	Submit a Comment - Hwy 91 STEP Innovation Study	33
4.	Sign-In Station - Hwy 91 STEP Innovation Study	29
5.	Study Background - Hwy 91 STEP Innovation Study	27
	Grand total	291
	1 -	5/5 < >

Devices and Sources



Engagement by City

	City	New Users 🔻	Pageviews
1.	Jonesboro	40	153
2.	(not set)	18	21
3.	Beijing	3	3
4.	Foshan	3	4
5.	Washington	2	3
6.	Oyama	2	2
7.	Busan	2	4
8.	Quincy	2	4
9.	Fuzhou	2	4
10.	Pocahontas	1	1
	Grand total	97	291
		1 - 10 /	32 < >

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 11:02 AM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Traffic Signal

Personally, I view the traffic signal as the better of the two proposals. However, my true preference is to have other "traffic calming"/pedestrian-friendly approaches considered. What I believe would be best is to have a round-about installed at the intersection of East Johnson and State Street. I do understand that East Johnson is a state highway and employing "traffic calming" methods such as a round-about would receive much push-back from ArDOT and others. However, in that the description of this section of East Johnson is as a primary connection between Arkansas State University and Downtown Jonesboro is believe that a more "Complete Streets" approach should be employed all along East Johnson from the Main Street Bridge to University Loop East on the northern edge of the A-State campus. That East Johnson is a "state highway" under the jurisdiction of traditionally "car-friendly" ArDOT is a current reality that is not disputed but that East Johnson is a primary route between the University and the northern portion of Downtown Jonesboro is also a reality that should receive strong consideration. If a goal of the City of Jonesboro is to have the East Johnson corridor between Downtown and the University become something more than an "avenue of blight" then new policies that encourage mixed use development and alternative modes of transportation must be considered. ArDOT, and others, need to realize that not all problems are "nails" and not all solutions are "hammers". Certainly Jonesboro is not blessed with a plethora of east-west corridors - and East Johnson is the northernmost one that connects the far northeast to the far northwest of our city - but the two greatest economic "engines" of Jonesboro/Craighead County/and, arguably, all of Northeast Arkansas are Arkansas State University and Downtown Jonesboro (St. Bernards Medical Center and a revitalized Downtown business and professional area). Providing connectivity between these two termini of our economic prosperity that is more multi-modal must be considered at every opportunity. The current concern about pedestrian safety in the vicinity of the intersection of East Johnson and State Street one of these opportunities. If more advanced measures such as those that I have outlined are not feasible at this time to calm traffic along East Johnson more generally then by all means cast my vote for the traffic signal.

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

See the rationale that I provided in the "comments" area in section 2 above

Please make any additional comments.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 11:19 AM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

I think we should keep what is there: 1) it makes others aware 2) it has slowed the traffic down 3) it not a deterrent to the community lastly 4) we will not having traffic backed up on hwy 91

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Adverse"]

Please make any additional comments.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 10:40 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street?

We already have too many traffic delays in Jonesboro. If you want to fix this problem, build a pedestrian overpass, or better yet, teach people to look both ways before trying to cross the street. We already need wider, and faster streets in Jonesboro, but we are forty to fifty years behind where we need to be on traffic infrastructure. Another solution would be to let Darwin work in the human species. Quit coddling these people who aren't smart enough to even cross a street without getting hit. If someone isn't smart enough to cross a street, how much can you help them? Quit impeding traffic and make people take responsibility for their own actions.

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Adverse"]

Money could be better spent to improve traffic flow, instead of impeding the flow.

Please make any additional comments.

As far as the cross walk goes, let the police department sit and write tickets for not yielding to pedestrians.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2020 7:32 AM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

The pedestrian hybrid beaon seems logical because it protects pedestrians without stopping traffic unnecessarily when none are present.

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

Creating a safe, walkable community has a powerful positive impact on public health and safety. It also makes the community a more desirable place to live and work, thereby increasing property values. Finally, these measures have a positive commercial impact by allowing residents in the area to efficiently access the businesses across Johnson.

Please make any additional comments.

Keep building community infrastructure that is friendly to walkers and cyclists. It's a good long-term investment.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2020 2:18 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

Will work better AHDOT seems to have a problem putting traffic signals there

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

I believe it will help businesses closer by and more individuals will want to live t the area because a safer way to cross

Please make any additional comments.

There are going to be more eating places next to the Edge Coffee House with the Red Wolf Walkway. People can get there easier

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 3:31 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.

Name: Address: Phone: Email:

Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

The temporary crosswalk is inconvenient at its current places causing drivers to block around instead of turning left. I would suggest moving it and placing a pedestrian hybrid beacon. I believe there is no need for a traditional traffic signal at this location.

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

Please make any additional comments.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 4:03 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.

Name: Address: Phone: Email:

Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Traffic Signal

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

Due to the aggressive behavior of motorists as well as the negative attitude towards non-drivers, the safest benefit for all parties involved is for a traffic signal to be installed and equipped with pedestrian lights/signage. I further this statement due to the fact that this road is a state highway, and attempts to lower the speed limit as well as enforce driver compliance have not been effective.

Please make any additional comments.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:18 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street?

There should be no crossing. Or light here traffic should flow freely on this street. Its one of just a few that allows for a quick east west flow around town

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Adverse"]

Slows traffic around town

Please make any additional comments.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:42 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

I still think the PHB flashing red would be the best

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

By having a way to the ASU more development would happen on the North side of the rode

Please make any additional comments.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:12 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Traffic Signal

I prefer the traffic signal and lower speed limits through the Hilltop area. I've lived in a half dozen cities from 25,000 to 6 million, and I would rate the Hilltop area as a concern. It has speed, high traffic, many businesses, and hours of dangerous sunlight angles. Anything to add signals and slow down traffic is an important improvement.

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

You will reduce crashes and increase safety. Period. Only downside to slower traffic is if I need to pee.

Please make any additional comments.

We appreciate you and MPO for checking into this.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:19 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.

Name: Address: Phone: Email:

Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street?

Both suggestions have their pros and cons. It is really easy to discuss complications that could arise from either the PHB or the full traffic signal, but at the end of the day doing nothing really shouldn't be an option. People cross the street at that location every day, and it is incredibly dangerous. Some may argue that Hwy 91 is a highway, but I would counter that it may as well be a river cutting off people that live on the north side of Jonesboro from the rest of the city. Not everyone in this city drives a vehicle, but everyone should have access to traverse the entirety of Jonesboro. Can we really call ourselves One Jonesboro if we aren't really connected?

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

Connectivity is an increasingly important priority among young adults. If our community wishes to continue to grow and retain its youth, projects such as the one proposed for HWY 91 are of the utmost importance.

Please make any additional comments.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 4:20 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Traffic Signal

As I understand it, currently people are crossing at the Johnson-State Street intersection even with the temporary yellow crossing light located mid-block (west) on Johnson. Putting a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) where the current temporary crossing is would effectively turn the entire half-block (from the intersection to the PHB) into one huge pedestrian crossing which would have the result of increased danger to pedestrians.

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Adverse"]

I feel the current proposed location of the PHB would increase pedestrian-vehicle collisions resulting injuries and deaths.

Please make any additional comments.

I am currently retired but did work for 15-years just off of Johnson and know that there is a LOT of foot traffic in this area. All measures should have safety as the over-arching goal and I just don't think the proposed PHB will do that.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 4:59 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Traffic Signal

The red lights of the proposed PHB would improve on the existing yellow lights of the temporary crossing, but there would be folks crossing at the intersection of State and Johnson. When you zoom out a little in Google Earth you will notice that there appears to be more family units to the northeast of the intersection of State and Johnson than to the northwest of this intersection. Therefore, it appears that there would be more individuals that would wish to cross at that intersection than to walk further west to a pedestrian crossing. I believe that a traffic light at State Street would result in less accidents than a PHB in mid block.

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

I understand this area to have heavy pedestrian use and we need to address needs of pedestrians.

Please make any additional comments.

I think this virtual way of commenting is great. It lays out the information to the Public and gives them ample opportunity to examine the issues and then provide comments.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 9:35 AM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

There needs to be something to get traffic's attention or they will not stop. This needs to be at State St. and Johnson, Ave. Whether there is any type of traffic device there or not, that is where people are going to cross. This temporary crossing, while not perfect, has proven beneficial to those who have to cross Johnson Ave. It will save lives, and it is not that much inconvenience for drivers along Johnson Ave. Please give this serious consideration.

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

It will give people a safer way to cross Johnson Ave.

Please make any additional comments.

A crossing is necessary, and this will be inexpensive.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:35 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street?

I've traveled the east-to-west corridor of Johnson Ave. (work commute) for some 35 years and have experienced all changes: road widening, signage/speed limit increase, added signals I've paid attention how pedestrians have interacted with the crossing, with it being utilized correctly roughly 30% of the time.. Some pedestrians have elected to approach the crosswalk without engaging the signals which has caused confusion with drivers, in one instance a driver stopped and they were almost rear ended since the beacons were not engaged. Personally, I've encountered it used correctly on two occasions, with one being a handicapped individual in a wheelchair and all vehicles responding correctly. But, in the end, pedestrians in the majority are just not using it preferring to cross Johnson Ave. wherever they wish, sometimes using the turn lane as a sidewalk! In conclusion, I believe you're not going to be solving the pedestrian crossing problem with either the beacon or the signal but trading one problem for another

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)?

Please make any additional comments.

I do like this method of commenting on proposed state highway projects.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:14 AM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

This city has far too many traffic lights. We need to rethink our future planning to reduce the need for traffic lights. This includes using more roundabouts, reducing and limiting curb cuts while utilizing 'access lanes' in high traffic commercial areas and implementing PHB's at mid-block areas with high pedestrian traffic.

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

Safe pedestrian crossings on high traffic roadways are very beneficial to the community by providing safer options for crossing those roadways.

Please make any additional comments.

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 5:41 PM

To: Public Involvement

Subject: Hwy. 91 STEP Comment Submission

A comment form for Hwy. 91 STEP has been submitted.



Email:

Which type of countermeasure do you prefer at the intersection of Highway 91 (E. Johnson Avenue) and State Street? Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

Hybrid beacon will likely be less expensive and easier to get approved and installed.

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc)? ["Beneficial"]

Please make any additional comments.