

# Public Information Meeting

## PROJECT STATEMENT

**For the proposed four-lane reconstruction of U.S. 61 in Louisa County from just north of 130th Street north to the existing four-lane roadway at the Muscatine/Louisa County line**

**Louisa County  
NHSX-61-3(57)- -3H-58**

**MEETING LOCATION:  
Louisa-Muscatine Elementary School Cafeteria  
14506 170th Street  
Letts, Iowa**

**March 14, 2013**



**Iowa Department  
of Transportation**

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**LOUISA COUNTY**

**NHSX-61-3(57)--3H-58**

**DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 14, 2013**

**JIM ROST**

**OFFICE OF LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT**

**HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**800 LINCOLN WAY, AMES, IOWA, 50010**

**515-239-1225**

To view information concerning this project please access the following website:

<http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Iowa Department of Transportation is conducting this Public Information Meeting to acquaint the people of Grandview, Letts and vicinity with the proposed four-lane reconstruction of U.S. 61 in Louisa County from two miles south of Iowa 92 north to the existing four-lane roadway at the Muscatine County line. This public meeting offers mutual benefits. It gives the Iowa DOT an opportunity to explain the design of the proposed project and allows the public to express their opinions regarding the proposed improvement. Consideration will be given to all suggestions.

This is your opportunity to express views either as an individual or a group representative. The Iowa DOT encourages oral and written statements pertinent to the project. Oral statements will be accepted at this meeting. Written statements and exhibits will also be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed to Jim Rost, Office of Location and Environment, at the above address. Deadline for receipt of statements or exhibits is March 25, 2013. All correspondence received will be included in the project files and reviewed as the project is developed. Information regarding the proposed project is available for inspection.

This meeting satisfies the public involvement required by federal and state regulations and helps assure that social, economic and environmental effects are identified. In addition, this project, as are all Iowa DOT projects, will be constructed in compliance with Title 6 of the Civil Rights act of 1964.

This public meeting is used to present factual information about the proposed project and to receive comments from the public. This information is then correlated into a highway improvement that will best serve the public.

### **PUBLIC MEETING FORMAT**

We encourage you to express your views concerning the proposal in one or more of these ways:

1. Individual discussion with Iowa DOT staff;
2. Presentation of oral and written statements at the meeting. Oral statements will be accepted at the tape recording station. Written statements should be presented to the staff person near the entry;
3. Submission of written statements following the meeting. Those received by March 25, 2013, will become a part of the public meeting summary.

Meeting summaries are provided to Iowa DOT staff, the Transportation Commissioners and the Federal Highway Administration for review before project plans are completed. A copy will be forwarded to you if you send a written request to Office of Location and Environment, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, 50010.

### **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Pre-location studies were conducted for the U.S. 61 corridor from the Iowa/Missouri State line north to the Muscatine County line in 1987 and 1989. The Iowa DOT initiated a Planning Study in 1994 for U.S. 61 from Iowa 92 north to the Muscatine County line. The purpose of these studies was to identify deficiencies, consider needs, and explore potential improvements to the U.S. 61 corridor.

A Public Information Meeting was held October 15, 2009, to discuss initiation of environmental and field studies for the U.S. 61 corridor in Louisa County from north of Iowa 78 north to the existing four-lane roadway south of the Muscatine County line. A second Public Information Meeting was held July 15, 2010, to present nine build alternatives for four-lane reconstruction of U.S. 61 from 130th Street north to the existing four-lane roadway.

A Public Hearing to present the environmental document and the preferred alternative for this segment of U.S. 61 was held December 8, 2011. Location approval was given by the Federal Highway Administration on July 19, 2012.

### **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The project begins at 130th Street, approximately two miles south of the U.S. 61/Iowa 92 intersection, and continues north approximately six miles to the existing four-lane roadway just south of the Muscatine/Louisa County line. The improvement would provide for construction of a four-lane divided roadway, on relocated alignment, with diamond interchanges at Iowa 92 and 170th Street. The completed improvement would provide two 24-foot wide roadways with 10-foot wide outside and 6-foot wide inside shoulders and an 82-foot wide, from edge of roadway to edge of roadway, depressed median.

From just north of 130th Street north to 160th Street four new lanes would be constructed west of the existing highway. Between 160th and 175th streets the new roadway would be relocated east of existing U.S. 61. From just north of 175th Street north to the end of the project two new lanes would be constructed along the west side of existing U.S. 61. The existing highway from just north of 175th Street north to the end of the project would be resurfaced. One Hundred Forty-Fifth Street would be closed and removed at existing U.S. 61 and relocated approximately 1000 feet south to provide access to existing and proposed U.S. 61. Approximately 1,700 feet of Iowa 92

would be reconstructed and 170th Street would be extended east approximately 1,200 feet to accommodate the improvement through the interchanges. One Hundred Seventy-Fifth Street would be closed at proposed U.S. 61 and extended south to connect to 170th Street east of the proposed interchange. Dual bridges would be constructed on relocated U.S. 61 over Iowa 92 and 170th Street. A bridge would be constructed on relocated southbound U.S. 61 over the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad. Other drainage structures would be constructed as necessary. Left-turn lanes would be provided on relocated U.S. 61 at relocated 145th Street and 180th Street. Portions of existing U.S. 61 would be removed and obliterated.

Access rights would be acquired along relocated U.S. 61 and at interchange locations as part of this project. From the beginning of the project north to 145th Street access would be allowed at a minimum 1000 foot spacing. Between 145th and 175th streets access would be provided by interchange only. From just north of 175th Street north to the end of the project access would be allowed at a minimum 1000 foot spacing. Traffic would be maintained on existing U.S. 61, 170th Street and 175th Street during construction. Iowa 92, 145th Street, and 180th Street would each be closed for a short time period during reconstruction.

### **PRESENT FACILITY**

U.S. 61 throughout the project limits was constructed 18 feet wide in 1932 and widened to 21 feet in 1955. The roadway was widened to 24 feet and resurfaced in 1958. The U.S. 61/ Iowa 92 intersection was reconstructed in 1994.

### **TRAFFIC VOLUMES**

The 2011 annual average daily traffic using existing U.S. 61 in this area ranged from 3,900 to 5,700 vehicles per day. Anticipated 2036 AADT for various segments of the new roadway is expected to range between 5,850 and 8,550 vpd.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE AND COSTS

The 2013 – 2017 Transportation Improvement Program shows the following schedule and costs for the improvement of U.S. 61 from two miles south of Iowa 92 to the Muscatine County line:

ACTIVITY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Right of Way	3,000,000				
Wetland Mitigation		300,000	300,000		
Bridge, New			4,590,000		
Grade			9,910,000		
Pave					11,600,000
Total Programmed: \$ 29,700,000					

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

An Environmental Assessment for the proposed improvement was approved for public availability on October 19, 2011. This EA concludes that the proposed project is necessary for safe and efficient travel within the project corridor. The project will have no significant social, economic or environmental impacts of a level that would warrant an environmental impact statement. A Finding of No Significant Impact was signed by the Federal Highway Administration on July 19, 2012. A copy of the FONSI is available for inspection at this meeting.

The proposed improvement would convert land from the historic Dodder Farm (located west of U.S. 61 across from the Grandview Drive-In Theatre), which is considered to be a Section 4(f) resource and is subject to protection, to roadway use. The proposed project is being designed to ensure that construction activities do not impact

the historic structures on the farm. Consequently, the structures that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f) would not be affected. Since the impacts to the Dodder Farm would be minimal and would not adversely impact the features that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has made a *de minimis* determination for the impacts to the Dodder Farm.

This project will continue to be monitored by the Iowa DOT and FHWA throughout all development stages and construction to ensure that all possible environmental effects are identified.

### **RIGHT OF WAY**

The Iowa DOT's policy provides for appraisal of property and/or property rights needed for each project. These appraisals use professional techniques and methods to determine "just compensation" in accordance with Federal and State constitutions, laws and regulations. The appraisals are prepared to assure fair treatment for both the property owner and the public.

After the appraisals are completed, each owner is contacted by a right of way agent for the purpose of explaining the plans and appraisals and for contracting the required right of way. In instances where an agreement cannot be reached through negotiations, the property may be acquired by the laws of eminent domain.

### **RELOCATION ASSISTANCE**

The State of Iowa's acquisition and relocation program will be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-646), as amended by the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 and provides relocation resources to all residential and business relocatees without discrimination.

If you are required to move as a result of a highway project, whether an owner or tenant, you will be eligible for relocation assistance advisory services. You may be eligible for moving assistance, supplemental replacement housing payments, and reimbursement for certain expenses incurred in purchasing replacement housing.

It is the intent of the State of Iowa to ensure that displaced individuals receive fair and equitable treatment and do not suffer disproportionately from highway programs designed for the whole public. Any person, family, business, or farm displaced by a highway project shall be offered relocation assistance services for locating suitable replacement property. Relocation payments and advisory assistance are offered in addition to the State's purchase of your property.

Personnel from the Office of Right of Way, Relocation Assistance Section, have studied the proposed project presented at this meeting and anticipate that no businesses, 2 residences and 6 people would be displaced as a result of this improvement.

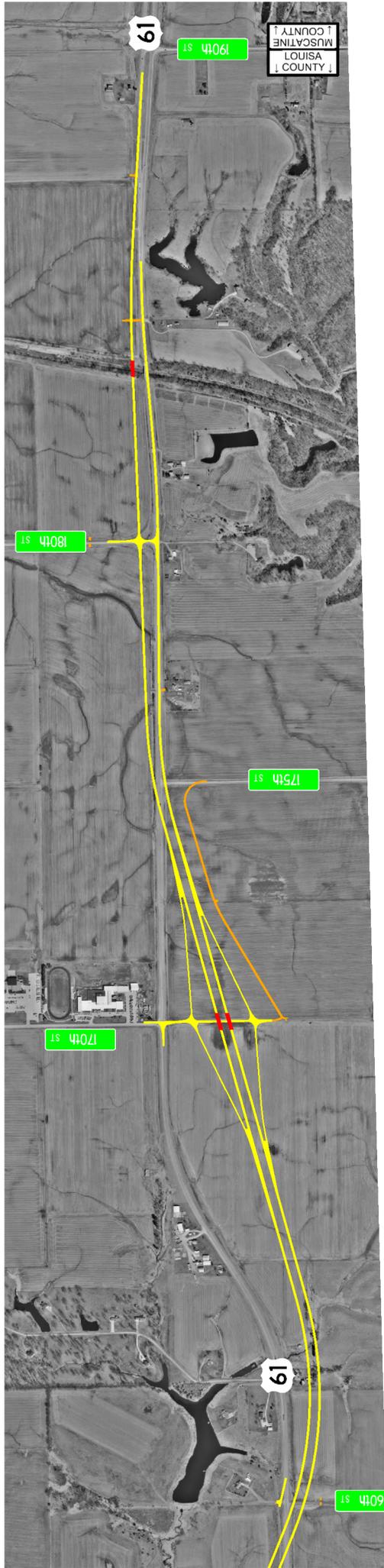
Questions or issues concerning relocation assistance should be directed to the Office of Right of Way, Relocation Assistance Section, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, 50010.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

If you have any comments on the proposed project or questions about its development, please make your comments known at this meeting or forward them on the attached self addressed Citizen Comment form. A comment form is also available at the following website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>.

Thank you for your participation in this meeting.

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.



**LEGEND**

	PROPOSED PAVEMENT
	PROPOSED BRIDGES AND BOX CULVERTS
	PROPOSED GRANULAR SURFACE

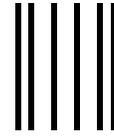

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**  
 March 14, 2013  
**US 61 in Louisa County**  
**4 lane reconstruction**  
 Project Number: NHS-061-3(48)--19-58





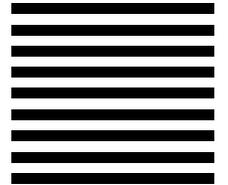
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OFFICE OF LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
800 LINCOLN WAY  
AMES IA 50010-9902



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