

**Bell, Tammi [DOT]**

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**From:** Bell, Tammi [DOT]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 2008 9:13 AM  
**To:** Bell, Tammi [DOT]  
**Subject:** Loess Hills Memorandum of Agreement

**TO:** Cities, Counties, and Consultants  
Tammi Bell Iowa DOT - Local Systems tammi.bell@dot.iowa.gov

**CC:** District Local Systems Engineers, Service Bureau,  
and Office of Local Systems

**FROM:** Office of Local Systems

**SUBJECT:** Loess Hills Memorandum of Agreement

**DATE:** November 25, 2008

If your agency is located within the Loess Hills in western Iowa, please read the following message from Stephen Larson, Environmental Programs Manager in the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) Office of Location and Environment:

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This notice is to advise you the Iowa DOT has recently completed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, regarding certain transportation land uses within the Loess Hills landform in western Iowa. This agreement applies to all state sponsored highway improvements that involve land conversion within the Loess Hills, and provides a consultation process prior to the decision to encroach upon specific areas defined in the agreement.

The MOA is available on-line at:

<http://www.ole.dot.state.ia.us/documents/Signed DNR MOA.pdf>

This agreement is not mandatory for transportation projects sponsored by city and county governments. However, Iowa DOT strongly encourages local jurisdictions to adhere to the stipulations and consensus points established within the MOA. On projects where Iowa DOT has jurisdictional oversight, or in cases where an oversight function is established during the course of project development, Iowa DOT will follow the consultative process discussed in the MOA prior to processing the federal environmental clearance action for the project.

For additional information or questions concerning the MOA, please

contact the following individuals:

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Iowa Department of Transportation  
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Ms. DeeAnn Newell  
NEPA Team Leader  
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Environment  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
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Mailings are available at the Local Systems Weekly Mailing web address at  
[http://www.iowadot.gov/local\\_systems/mailing/main\\_mailing.htm](http://www.iowadot.gov/local_systems/mailing/main_mailing.htm)