[Insert Date]

[Insert Name]

Division Administrator

FHWA, Iowa Division

105 6th Street

Ames, IA 50010

RE: Letter of Initiation to begin the Environmental Review Process

[Insert Project Termini], [Insert County Name]

Project No. [Insert Project Number]

Dear [Insert Mr./Ms. + Last Name]:

Pursuant to 23 USC § 139 (Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) is notifying the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that the environmental review process should be initiated for the planned improvements between [Insert Project Termini]. The total length of the project will be dependent upon which alternative is selected and approved; however, given the geographic location of the project, the overall length is approximately [Insert Project Length] miles in length (see exhibit).

The focus of the project is [Insert Project Focus]. The proposed project will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Iowa DOT intends to prepare the EIS for the project and FHWA approval will be required.

Given the topography of the project area, it is possible that a Section 404 Permit, floodplain permit, and/or Section 7 Permit will be required. Potential participating agencies include the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and Native American Tribes.

Sincerely,

[Insert Name], Director

Location and Environment Bureau

Iowa DOT

Enclosures:

Project Map

cc:

[Insert Name of LEB NEPA Project Manager], Iowa DOT

Mike LaPietra, FHWA