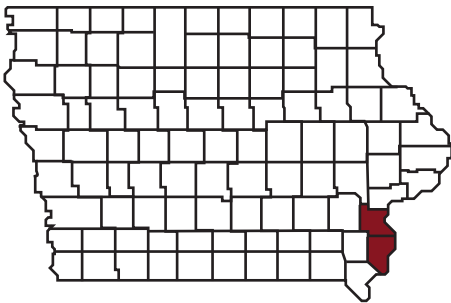




PUBLIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 16, 2016
DES MOINES & LOUISA COUNTY
NHS-061-2(050)--19-29



Reconstruction of U.S. 61 from Burlington north to the 1 mile north of Iowa 78

WELCOME! The purpose of this meeting is to present the preferred alignment and the Environmental Assessment (EA), for the proposed four-lane improvement to U.S. 61 in Des Moines and Louisa counties from Burlington north to 1 mile north of Iowa 78. This public hearing offers mutual benefits by allowing the Iowa DOT an opportunity to explain the proposed alignment and allows the public to express their opinions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project provides for reconstructing the existing two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided facility from Memorial Park Road in Burlington north to 1 mile north of Iowa 78. The preferred alternative alignment selected begins just north of Memorial Park Road at the existing four-lane facility where it will generally follow the existing U.S. 61 north to Mediapolis with the exception of the proposed alignment being relocated to the west from Flint Bottom/Upper Flint Road north for approximately 1.2 miles. At Mediapolis, the proposed bypass alternative with a diamond interchange will be located approximately 0.3 miles to the west of town. From Mediapolis north approximately 1.5 miles, the U.S. 61 alternative will continue to follow the existing alignment. From near the west leg of Des Moines County Road H-28 north, for the remaining 4 miles of the project, the U.S. 61 alignment would be relocated to the east of the existing alignment with an interchange east of Iowa 78.

PROJECT HISTORY

The discussion of a proposed four-lane improvement to U.S. 61 from north of Burlington to north of Iowa 78 dates back to September 25, 1996, when the first public hearing was held. A Public Information Meeting was held July 30, 1997, a selected bypass alternative was approved by the Iowa Transportation Commission on November 25, 1997, and a Design Public Hearing was held September 27, 2001. However, in December 2001, the Iowa Transportation Commission removed the project from the Five Year Transportation Improvement Program.

Contact Us

If you have any concerns regarding the project presented today, please contact:

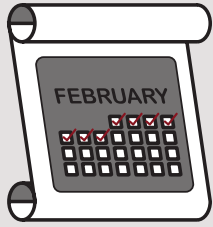
Jason Huddle
transportation planner
Iowa DOT District 5 Office
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Fairfield, Iowa 52556

Phone: 641-472-4171 or
800-766-4368
Email: jason.huddle@dot.iowa.gov

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

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





PROJECT SCHEDULE

A section of the proposed project from Memorial Park Road in Burlington north to approximately 210th Street has been added to the Iowa DOT's 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for construction. The funding is broken down as follows

2017 – \$5.1 million
RIGHT OF WAY

2018 – \$16 million
GRADING AND CULVERT WORK

2019 – \$5.9 million
BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

2020 – \$19.1 million
PAVING AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic operations and improve economic development opportunities. The need for this project is a combination of the following issues:

-U.S. 61 was built in 1920's and does not meet current design standards

-Poor sight distance at curves

-Access to roadways and driveways impede flow of traffic

-Traffic volumes are anticipated to increase by 34 percent by 2041 with 13 percent of heavy trucks

-U.S. 61 corridor was identified as a Commercial and Industrial Network (CIN) "to enhance opportunities for the development and diversification of the state's economy" and to "improve the flow of commerce; make travel more convenient, safe, and efficient; and to better connect Iowa."

Iowa DOT Public Hearing

February 16, 2016

DES MOINES-LOUISA COUNTIES

NHS-061-2(050)--19-29

The Iowa DOT re-initiated environmental and field studies for the U.S. 61 corridor in 2010. The purpose of these studies is to determine the social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed project on the surrounding area. Public Information Meetings were held November 4, 2010, September 6, 2012, and September 10, 2013, to present updates on the proposed project.

TRAFFIC VOLUMES

The 2014 traffic volumes on existing U.S. 61 south of Mediapolis were approximately 6,900 vehicles per day (VPD) with 9% trucks. Within the city limits of Mediapolis the traffic volumes were 6,400 VPD with 9% trucks and 4,800 VPD with 13% trucks to the north of Mediapolis to Iowa 78. The 2018 forecasted traffic volumes range from 5,100 to 7,500 VPD with 11% to 15% trucks. By 2038, traffic volumes are forecasted to range from 6,600 to 9,700 VPD with 13% to 17% trucks.

RIGHT OF WAY

As part of the proposed improvements, additional right-of-way may be required. The following paragraphs provide information regarding the right-of-way process followed by the Iowa DOT. Please keep in mind specific right-of-way needs have not been identified at this time.

Iowa DOT policy provides for appraisal of property and/or property rights needed for each project. Professional techniques and methods are used to determine "just compensation" in accordance with federal and state constitutions, laws and regulations. Appraisals are prepared to assure fair treatment for both the property owner and the public.

After completing the appraisal, a right-of-way agent contacts each owner to explain the plans and appraisals and negotiate for the acquisition of the required right-of-way. If an agreement cannot be reached through negotiations, the required right-of-way may be acquired through eminent domain.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Department of Transportation appreciates your attendance today. This Public Hearing serves as your opportunity to speak publically. We encourage you to share your ideas concerning this project with us. If you prefer, you may submit them electronically using the following website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>, by the attached comment form (self-addressed and pre-paid for your convenience), or by emailing your comments to the District Planner. All comments and information provided will be given consideration as the project development process continues. Other opportunities for input will be provided throughout the project development process.

Thank you very much 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.







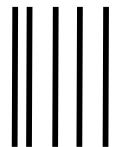
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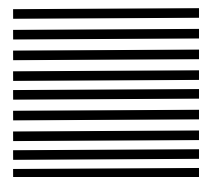
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