



## **PUBLIC MEETING – U.S. 63 NORTHWEST BYPASS OF OSKALOOSA**

**APRIL 16, 2014 5-7P.M.**

**OSKALOOSA MIDDLE SCHOOL, 1704 N. THIRD STREET**

**OSKALOOSA, IOWA**

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

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

Welcome to the Iowa Department of Transportation's Public Information Meeting for the proposed U.S. 63 northwest bypass of Oskaloosa. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss conceptual alternatives for the bypass as well as the project study area. The study area is located northwest of Oskaloosa and extends from approximately Iowa 163 to existing U.S. 63. We would like to hear your thoughts and ideas as well as answer your questions regarding the project.

### **PROJECT HISTORY**

A Public Information Meeting was held August 15, 2013, to gather input for a location study and for the environmental document for the proposed improvement.

### **PRESENT FACILITY**

U.S. 63 is the primary north-south travel route through Oskaloosa and varies between two, three and four travel lanes wide. The 2010 traffic volumes on existing U.S. 63 through Oskaloosa ranged from 4,500 to 7,700 vehicles per day (vpd) with 6 to 10% trucks. On existing U.S. 63 north of Oskaloosa, the volumes ranged from 2,800 to 4,500 vpd with 10 to 17% trucks. By 2040, the traffic volumes on these same segments are projected to increase to between 4,500 to 9,000 vpd with 8 to 13% trucks and 3,900 to 6,700 vpd with 12 to 20% trucks, respectively. The 2040 projections assume that the roadway characteristics remain the same as exists today.

Between 2003 and 2012, there were 459 crashes on the segment of U.S. 63 within the Oskaloosa city limits which is approximately twice the statewide average for similar roadways. During the same period, there were 50 crashes on the rural two lane segment north of the Oskaloosa city limits which was below the statewide average.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project provides for a U.S. 63 northwest bypass in the vicinity of Oskaloosa in order to improve the safety and operations of U.S. 63. Three alternatives are being proposed for the bypass. All three alternatives include an interchange at Iowa 163 and Mahaska County Road G-43 (235th Street).

- Alternative 1 begins at the Iowa 163/G-43 interchange and extends northeasterly. It crosses Kirby Avenue, 220th Street and 210th Street before reconnecting with U.S. 63 south of the Oskaloosa water treatment plant and the South Skunk River.
- Alternative 2 begins at the Iowa 163/G-43 interchange and extends northeasterly. It turns north onto the existing Kirby Avenue alignment and continues to the intersection with 210th Street. It then curves back to the northeast to cross the South Skunk River west of the existing U.S. 63 river crossing. After crossing the river, the new alignment curves back to the north and reconnects with existing U.S. 63.
- Alternative 3 begins at the Iowa 163/G-43 interchange and extends northeasterly. It turns north onto the property line approximately one-quarter mile west of the Kirby Avenue alignment and extends to the intersection with 210th Street. It then curves back to the northeast to cross the South Skunk River west of the existing U.S. 63 river crossing. After crossing the river, the new alignment curves back to the north and reconnects with existing U.S. 63.

## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

This project is not currently included in the 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program, and therefore, no construction schedule has been established. The study is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2016/Winter 2017 after which time the project can be considered for future funding. Funding would also be contingent upon the transfer of the existing U.S. 63 to local jurisdiction. Once funding is committed, the Iowa DOT can develop design plans so the project can then be constructed.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

As part of the project development process, various field studies will be conducted within the U.S. 63 project study area. These field studies typically include archeological sites, historic buildings, wetlands, threatened or endangered plants and animals, hazardous waste sites, and land surveys. The Iowa DOT may request landowner permission in order for our staff or consultants to gather field information regarding property within the study area.

The Iowa DOT is requesting your comments about possible impacts this project may have on known historic properties. The term historic property includes a prehistoric or historic site, building, structure, object, or district that is listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This request is based on the federal regulations known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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**

As part of the proposed improvements, right-of-way may be required. 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.

## CONTACT US

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

Jason Huddle, District 5 Planner  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
307 W. Briggs  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
Phone: 641-472-4171 or 800-766-4368  
E-mail: [jason.huddle@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:jason.huddle@dot.iowa.gov)

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

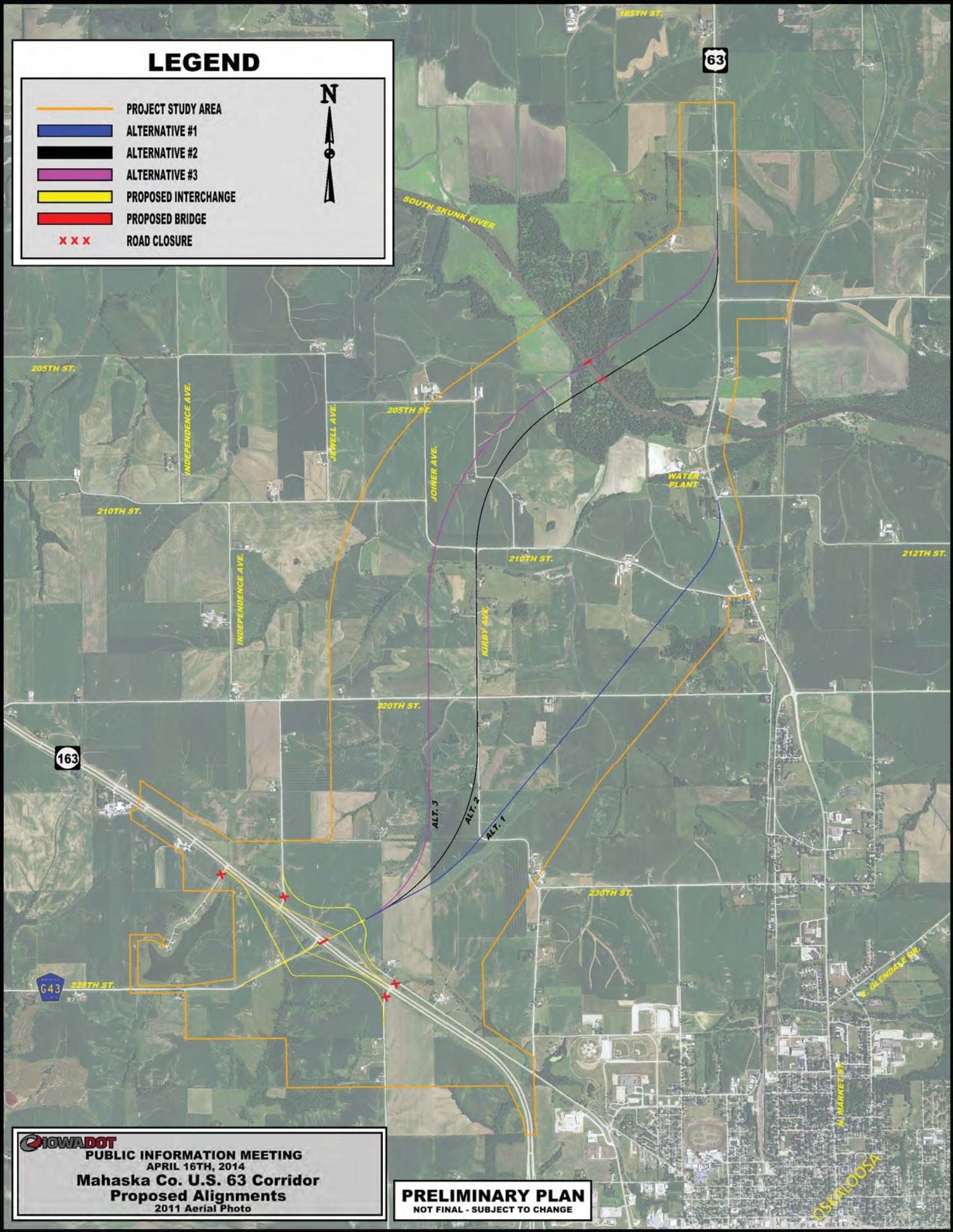
Please share your ideas with us today, submit them using the attached comment form (self-addressed and pre-paid for your convenience), email your comments to the District Planner above or through the following website <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>. All comments and information provided will be given consideration as the project development process continues. Other opportunities for input, throughout the process, will be provided through additional future public meetings.

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

- PROJECT STUDY AREA
- ALTERNATIVE #1
- ALTERNATIVE #2
- ALTERNATIVE #3
- PROPOSED INTERCHANGE
- PROPOSED BRIDGE
- XXX ROAD CLOSURE



**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**  
 APRIL 16TH, 2014  
**Mahaska Co. U.S. 63 Corridor**  
**Proposed Alignments**  
 2011 Aerial Photo

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
 NOT FINAL - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

03/24/1005A



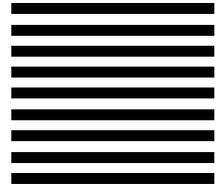
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