

**NOTICE OF LOCATION PUBLIC HEARING  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY  
FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF U.S. 30 FROM THE IOWA 21 INTERSECTION  
IN TAMA COUNTY EAST TO THE U.S. 218 INTERSECTION IN BENTON COUNTY  
AND NOTICE TO ACQUIRE PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR SAID PROJECT**

IN RE: Proposed reconstruction of U.S. 30 in Benton County

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that a public hearing will be held on July 10, 2012, between 5 and 7 p.m., at the Blairstown Community Center, 305 Locust Street NW, Blairstown, Iowa, to discuss the proposed four-lane improvement of U.S. 30 from the Iowa 21 intersection in Tama County east to the U.S. 218 intersection in Benton County. An informal session will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. with a formal session from 6 to 7 p.m.

The purpose of this hearing is to update the public on the progress of the project; present the completed Environmental Assessment (EA) for the study area, the alternatives carried forward in the EA and the impacts of these alternatives; and gather feedback from the public about the project and EA.

Proposed right of way acquisition limits are not yet determined pending approval and further advancement of the design of the preferred alternative.

The Iowa Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration has prepared an EA for this project. Copies may be obtained by contacting either of the following:

Jim Rost, Director  
Office of Location and Environment  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
800 Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50010  
Telephone: 515-239-1798

Lubin Quinones, Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Iowa Division Office  
105 Sixth Street  
Ames, Iowa 50010  
Telephone: 515-233-7300

A copy of the EA will be available for inspection at the meeting and will also be available for viewing at the Blairstown Public Library, 305 Locust Street NW, Blairstown, and the Belle Plaine Public Library, 904 12th Street, Belle Plaine, after June 25, 2012.

A review deadline of July 30, 2012, has been established for receipt of comments on this document. All comments received on the EA by that date will be considered by the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration in their evaluation of the environmental impacts of the project. Comments on the EA should be submitted to the Director, Office of Location and Environment, at the above address.

The Environmental Assessment evaluates the Build Alternative and the No-Build Alternative for the study area. Potential impacts of the alternatives to environmental resources, historic buildings, homes, businesses, parks, and public facilities and services have been evaluated and are included in the EA.

The purpose of the proposed project is to upgrade and modernize the existing two-lane section of

U.S. 30 between Iowa 21 and the current four-lane section at the west U.S. 218 junction; and to improve safety, add capacity and provide a continuous four-lane highway.

The Build Alternative would provide for the construction of a four-lane access controlled facility with interchanges at Iowa 21 and U.S. 218. The reconstructed U.S. 30 westbound lanes would be constructed generally on the alignment of the existing roadway, with the two additional lanes for eastbound traffic added south of the existing lanes. Iowa 21 would be reconstructed over U.S. 30 at the proposed U.S. 30/Iowa 21 interchange. U.S. 218 would be reconstructed over U.S. 30, on the existing U.S. 218 alignment, to provide a two quadrant cloverleaf interchange, with ramps in the northwest and southeast quadrants of the existing intersection. A retaining wall would be constructed along the east edge of the Prairie Lutheran Cemetery in order to avoid impacts to the cemetery.

The Build Alternative would relocate entrances to the Kozik Farmstead, Bullock Gas Station and Youngville Café, which are considered to be Section 4(f) resources and are subject to protection. Since the impacts to the Kozik Farmstead, Bullock Gas Station and Youngville Café would be minimal and would not adversely impact the features that qualify the properties for protection under Section 4(f), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) proposes to make a *de minimis* determination for the impacts to the historic properties.

- The Kozik Farmstead is located on the southern edge of the Study Area, a few feet outside of the preliminary impact area. Access to the Kozik property would be relocated to the east off of 11th Avenue (instead of U.S. 30), but would enter the farmstead at the same location. Structures at the Kozik Farmstead would not be affected. 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.
- The Bullock property entrance would be relocated to the adjacent side road (14th Avenue) on the east side of the property. Impacts on the Bullock Gas Station would be limited to access changes; the historic structure would not be affected.
- The preliminary impact area would avoid effects on the Youngville Café; however, access to the site would be relocated. The existing access for westbound U.S. 30 is directly off the highway, and access for eastbound U.S. 30 is via a short access road that enters the east side of the property. The direct access from U.S. 30 to Youngville Café would be eliminated. An access road from U.S. 218 would be constructed; this access road would enter the east side of the Youngville Café property.

This is your opportunity to review and comment on the proposed *de minimis* effect of the proposed project.

The No-Build Alternative would be the continuation of the highway system as it exists. It would not address the safety needs, increasing traffic volumes and outdated geometrics of the roadway within the project corridor. This alternative would not satisfy the Project Purpose and Need requirements. However, it is carried forward to serve as a baseline for comparison with the Build Alternative.

This public hearing will be conducted utilizing a combined open forum and formal format. Iowa Department of Transportation staff members will be present with plans, displays and related information to discuss the project informally between 5 and 6 p.m. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend the hearing anytime during the informal session to express their views and ask questions about the proposed improvement.

A formal presentation will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a question and answer session. There will be a three (3) minute limit per speaker during the question and answer session. Persons wishing to make a

formal presentation will need to so designate at the time of registration. Oral and written statements will be accepted during both the open forum and the formal sessions.

Written statements and related exhibits, in place of or in addition to oral statements made at the public hearing, will be accepted at the hearing or may be submitted to the Office of Location and Environment, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, 50010 or via the public meetings website at [www.iowadot.gov/pim](http://www.iowadot.gov/pim). All written material received by July 30, 2012, will be included in the project transcript.

For general information regarding the proposed improvement or the public hearing, contact Cathy Cutler, Transportation Planner, District 6 Office, Iowa Department of Transportation, 430 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404, telephone 319-364-0235 or 800-866-4368 or email [catherine.cutler@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:catherine.cutler@dot.iowa.gov).

All persons interested in the project are invited to attend this hearing. The meeting room is accessible for persons with disabilities. If you require special accommodations at the hearing, please notify Ms. Cutler by July 2, 2012, so arrangements can be made.

## **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS**

A governmental body which proposes to acquire property under the power of eminent domain for a public improvement project is required to give notice of a public hearing to all owners and contract purchasers of record of agricultural land that may be the subject of condemnation.

### **1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) will consider approving the following described project:

Proposed four-lane improvement of U.S. 30 from the Iowa 21 intersection in Tama County east to the U.S. 218 intersection in Benton County.

### **2. PRIVATE PROPERTY MAY BE ACQUIRED BY PURCHASE OR CONDEMNATION.**

If the Iowa DOT approves the above-described project, the DOT will be required to acquire property for the proposed improvements. The DOT will attempt to purchase the required property by good faith negotiations; however, it may condemn those properties it is unable to purchase. The proposed location of the above-described public improvement is shown on preliminary plans for the project. Preliminary plans are available from the Office of Location and Environment, Iowa Department of Transportation, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010.

### **3. IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROCESS TO DECIDE TO FUND THE DESIGN, TO SELECT THE ROUTE OR SITE LOCATION, OR TO ACQUIRE OR CONDEMN PROPERTY INTERESTS.**

In order to acquire the necessary properties and property interests required for the project, the Iowa Department of Transportation is required to approve the location of the project. The DOT will hold a public hearing to present to the public the proposed improvement and the anticipated impacts of the improvement.

Persons whose property may be affected by the project, as well as the general public, may comment on the project at the hearing. The comments will be presented to Iowa DOT staff. Based in part on the information received at the hearing, the Iowa DOT will select the location for the project and decide whether to fund the site-specific design and to authorize by purchase or condemnation the acquisition of right of way for the project.

#### 4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT.

As previously stated in this notice, a public hearing will be held on July 10, 2012, between 5 and 7 p.m., at the Blairstown Community Center, 305 Locust Street NW, Blairstown, Iowa, to discuss the proposed four-lane improvement of U.S. 30 from the Iowa 21 intersection in Tama County east to the U.S. 218 intersection in Benton County. An informal session will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. with a formal session from 6 to 7 p.m. Comments received from the public at the hearing will be included in the project transcript. Written statements can be submitted to the DOT at the hearing, or sent to the Office of Location and Environment, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010 or via the public meetings website at [www.iowadot.gov/pim](http://www.iowadot.gov/pim). All written material received by July 30, 2012, will be included in the project transcript.

#### 5. IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTACT.

For information regarding the proposed improvement contact:

Cathy Cutler, Transportation Planner  
Iowa DOT District 6 Office  
430 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404  
Phone: 319-364-0235 or 800-866-4368  
Email: [catherine.cutler@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:catherine.cutler@dot.iowa.gov).

This notice is given by authority of the Iowa Department of Transportation.

This notice is not an offer to buy land nor is it an offer to provide relocation assistance. Affected property owners are not required to move from their residences or relocate their businesses at this time. Eligibility for relocation benefits will not occur until after an offer to purchase has been made to individual property owners.

Additional information concerning this project will be posted as it becomes available at the Iowa DOT's website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>.

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.