



**Public Hearing  
for the proposed improvement of U.S. 30 in Benton County  
from the Tama County line east to the west junction of U.S. 218**

**July 10, 2012  
5 - 7 p.m.  
Blairstown Community Center**

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 Hearing for the proposed four-lane expansion of U.S. 30 in Benton County.

The Iowa Department of Transportation is conducting this Public Hearing to present the selected alternative for the proposed four-lane expansion of U.S. 30 in Benton County from Iowa 21 east to the west junction of U.S. 218. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to give the Iowa DOT an opportunity to explain the design of the proposed project and allow the public to express their opinions regarding the proposed improvement.

This is your opportunity to express views either as an individual or a group representative. The Iowa DOT encourages oral and written statements pertinent to the project. Oral statements will be accepted at this hearing. Written statements and exhibits will also be accepted at the hearing or may be submitted to Jim Rost, Office of Location and Environment, Iowa Department of Transportation, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010, or via the public meetings website at [www.iowadot.gov/pim](http://www.iowadot.gov/pim). Deadline for receipt of statements or exhibits for inclusion in the printed transcript is July 30, 2012; however, all correspondence received after this date will be included in the project files and reviewed as the project is developed. Information regarding the proposed project is available for inspection.

This hearing satisfies the public involvement required by federal and state regulations and helps assure that social, economic and environmental effects are identified. In addition, this project, as are all Iowa DOT projects, will be constructed in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights act of 1964.

This public hearing is used to present factual information about the proposed project and to receive comments from the public. This information is then correlated into a highway improvement that will best serve the public.

### **Public Hearing Format**

This public hearing will be conducted utilizing a combined open forum and formal format. The hearing will begin with an open forum session during which interested individuals are encouraged

to express their views and ask questions in an informal setting. A formal presentation, followed by a question and answer session, will follow the open forum session. Oral and written statements will be accepted during both the open forum and the formal sessions.

We encourage you to express your views concerning the proposal in one or more of these ways:

1. Individual discussion with Iowa DOT staff;
2. Presentation of oral and written statements at the hearing. Written statements should be presented to the staff person near the entry;
3. Submission of written statements following the hearing. Those received by July 30, 2012, will become a part of the public hearing transcript.

Hearing transcripts are provided to Iowa DOT staff, the Transportation Commissioners and the Federal Highway Administration for review before project plans are completed. A copy will be forwarded to you if you send a written request to the Office of Location and Environment, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010.

## **Project Description**

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. Two improvement alternatives are being presented - the Build Alternative and the No-Build Alternative.

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 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.

## **Environmental Considerations**

An Environmental Assessment for the proposed improvement was approved for public availability on June 11, 2012. This EA concludes that the proposed project is necessary for safe and efficient travel within the project corridor. The project will have no significant social, economic or environmental impacts of a level that would warrant an environmental impact statement. Final alternative selection will occur following completion of a public review period and Public Hearing. A review deadline of July 30, 2012, has been established for receipt of comments on this document.

Comments on the EA should be submitted to Jim Rost, Director, Office of Location and Environment, Iowa Department of Transportation, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010. Unless significant impacts are identified as a result of public review or at the Public Hearing, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared.

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.

### **Project Schedule and Costs**

The 2013 – 2017 Transportation Improvement Program shows the following schedule and costs, in state fiscal years, for the improvement of U.S. 30 in Benton County from Iowa 21 to U.S. 218:

ACTIVITY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Right of Way	500,000	8,140,000	5,860,000		
Bridge, New				4,784,000	
Culvert, New				997,000	
Grade				16,167,000	
Wetland Mitigation				1,052,000	
Total Programmed: \$37,500,000					

### **Right of Way**

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.

### **Relocation Assistance**

The State of Iowa's acquisition and relocation program will be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-

646), as amended by the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 and provides relocation resources to all residential and business relocatees without discrimination.

If you are required to move as a result of a highway project, whether an owner or tenant, you will be eligible for relocation assistance advisory services. You may be eligible for moving assistance, supplemental replacement housing payments, and reimbursement for certain expenses incurred in purchasing replacement housing.

It is the intent of the State of Iowa to ensure that displaced individuals receive fair and equitable treatment and do not suffer disproportionately from highway programs designed for the whole public. Any person, family, business, or farm displaced by a highway project shall be offered relocation assistance services for locating suitable replacement property. Relocation payments and advisory assistance are offered in addition to the State's purchase of your property.

Questions or problems concerning relocation assistance should be directed to the Office of Right of Way, Relocation Assistance Section, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, 50010.

### **Public Participation**

If you have a comment, question, or concern regarding the Purpose and Need, range of alternatives or the corridor in general, please provide your comments during the hearing or forward them on the attached self addressed Citizen Comment form. Deadline for receipt of comments is July 30, 2012. A comment form is also available at the following website: <http://www/iowadot.gov/pim>. The displays from tonight's meeting are also located on this website.

Or you may contact:

Catherine Cutler  
Transportation Planner  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
District 6 Office  
430 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-3150  
800-866-4368 (toll free)  
[Catherine.Cutler@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:Catherine.Cutler@dot.iowa.gov)

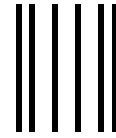
Thank you for your participation in this hearing.

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.



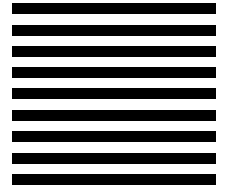
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