

# **PROJECT STATEMENT**

**FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE  
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF IOWA 86 FROM  
IOWA 9 NORTH TO THE MINNESOTA STATE LINE**

**PROJECT NUMBERS: DICKINSON COUNTY  
STP-86-1(10)- -2C-30  
HSIPX-86-1(8)--3L-30**

**HEARING LOCATION:**

**DICKINSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
1802 HILL AVENUE  
SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA**

**JULY 21, 2011**

**Prepared by  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**DICKINSON COUNTY**

**STP-86-1(10)--2C-30**

**HSIPX-86-1(8)--3L-30**

**DATE OF HEARING: JULY 21, 2011**

**JIM ROST**

**OFFICE OF LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT**

**HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**800 LINCOLN WAY, AMES, IOWA, 50010**

**515-239-1225**

To view information concerning this project please go to the following website:

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

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is conducting this Public Hearing to acquaint the people of Spirit Lake and vicinity with the proposed improvements of Iowa 86 from Iowa 9 north to the Minnesota State line. This public hearing offers mutual benefits. It gives the Iowa DOT an opportunity to explain the proposed project and the environmental document and allows the public to express their opinions regarding the proposed improvement. Consideration will be given to all suggestions.

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 mailed to Jim Rost, Office of Location and Environment, at the above address. Deadline for receipt of statements or exhibits for inclusion in the printed transcript is August 8, 2011; 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 6 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 August 8, 2011, 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 (FHWA) for review before project plans are completed. A copy will be forwarded to you if you send a written request to Office of Location and Environment, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, 50010.

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Studies for the improvement of Iowa 86 began in July 2007. A Public Information Meeting was held August 2, 2007, to gather input on the preliminary range of alternatives and environmental constraints.

## **PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose of the proposed action is to improve the alignment of the roadway, its shoulders and slopes to provide a safer highway which meets current design standards.

The need for the proposed action is based on a combination of factors:

- Substandard roadway - Existing Iowa 86 has narrow travel lanes and shoulders, steep foreslopes and poor sight distance.
- Crash rate - The crash rate on this segment is above the state average.

## **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The improvement has been split into a north and a south project. Two alternatives are being carried forward for the proposed south improvement, The Build Alternative and The No-Build Alternative. The Build Alternative would provide for total reconstruction of Iowa 86 from Iowa 9 north to just south of 110th Street. From north of the former Iowa Northwestern Railroad property to just south of 130th Street the alignment would be shifted approximately 45 feet west of the existing roadway. Between 130th and 120th streets the roadway would be reconstructed either west or east of the existing highway to avoid property impacts. From 2,500 feet north of 120th Street to the end of the project the roadway would be realigned about 30 feet to the east to avoid impacting Section 4(f) property. (See the attached map at the back of this handout.)

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.

The purpose of the Iowa 86 curve realignment north project is to reduce the curvature of the route into Minnesota. Iowa 86 through the curve section would be reconstructed on new alignment. This project would begin just south of 110th Street and proceed to 0.2 mile north of the state line. Just north of 110th Street the alignment would curve to the east and then turn to the north to tie into existing Iowa 86 at the Minnesota state line. Approximately 2,000 feet of existing Iowa 86 would be obliterated from the beginning of the project north. A connection to relocated Iowa 86 would be provided at this north point. The east curve at the state line would be removed. One Hundredth Street would be reconstructed to accommodate the improvement.

Traffic on existing Iowa 86 would be detoured during construction. The detour route would utilize Iowa 9, U.S. 71 and I-90. Access rights would be acquired as part of this project. Access would be provided at a minimum 600 foot spacing.

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE AND COSTS**

The 2012 – 2016 Transportation Improvement Program shows the following schedule and costs for this improvement:

From Iowa 9 to 0.5 mile south of the Minnesota State line:

ACTIVITY	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Right of Way	735,000				
Wetland Mitigation		275,000			
Grade & Pave		10,200,000			
Programmed: \$11,210,000					

From 0.5 mile south of and to the Minnesota State line:

ACTIVITY	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Right of Way	325,000				
Grade & Pave		2,700,000			
Total Programmed: \$3,025,000					

### **TRAFFIC VOLUMES**

The 2010 annual average daily traffic (AADT) using Iowa 86 in this area ranged from 1,900 to 4,860 vehicles per day (VPD). Anticipated 2032 AADT for Iowa 86 in the project area is expected to range between 3,300 and 3,800 VPD.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvement was approved for public availability on June 30, 2011. 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 August 8, 2011, 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.

The Build Alternative would impact Diamond Lake Wildlife Management Area and Welch Lake Wildlife Management and Waterfowl Production Area which are Section

4(f) resources and are subject to protection as wildlife and waterfowl refuges. A parcel of land would be acquired to mitigate for the conversion of Section 4(f) land to highway right-of-way use. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing to make a *de minimis* effect determination for the impacts. This is your opportunity to review and comment on the proposed *de minimis* effect of the proposed project on the wildlife areas. *De minimis* impacts on publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges are defined as those that do not “adversely affect the activities, features and attributes” of the Section 4(f) Resource.

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**

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.

Personnel from the Office of Right of Way, Relocation Assistance Section, have studied the proposed projects presented at this hearing and anticipate that no businesses, residences or people would be displaced as a result of this improvement.

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.

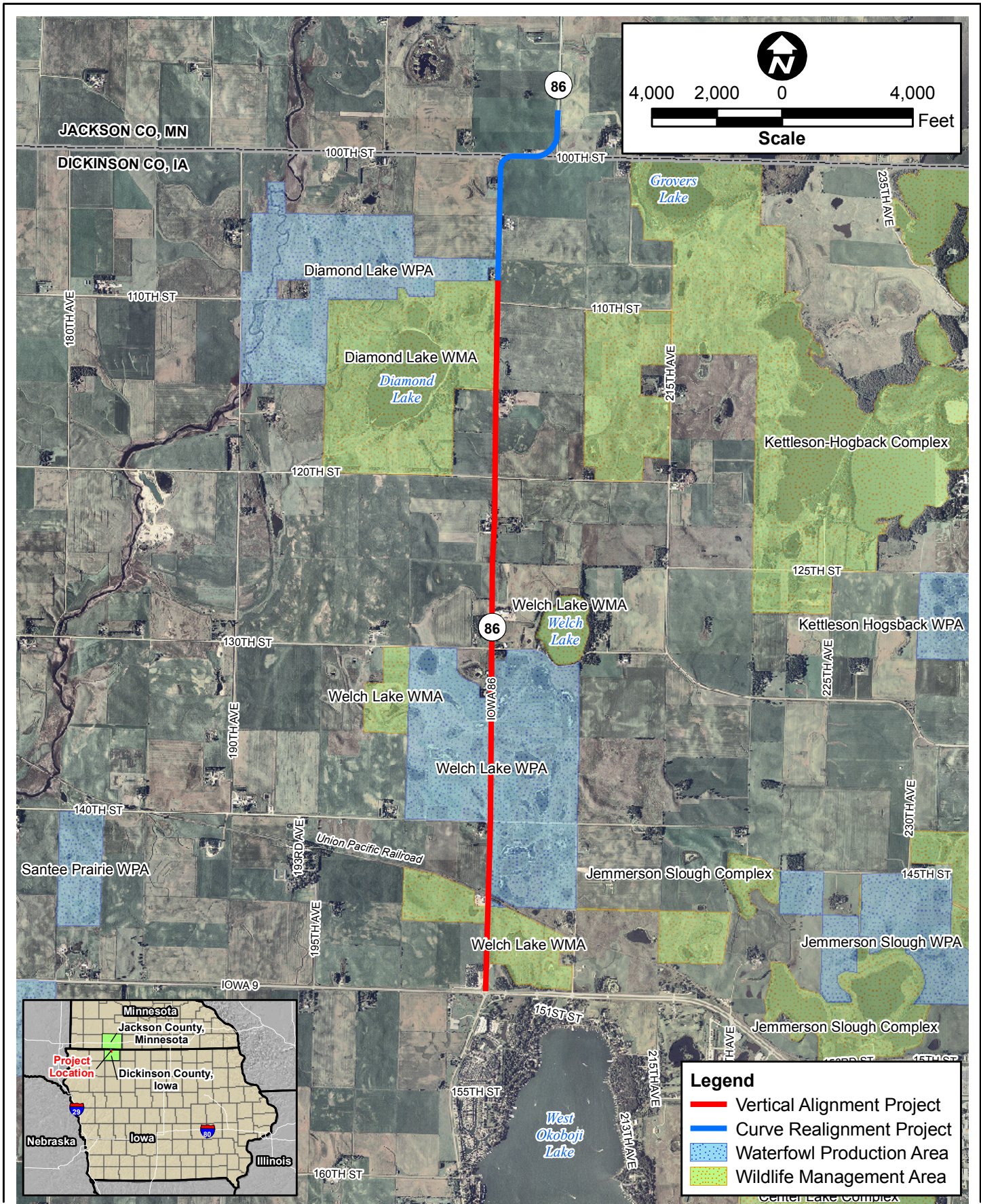
## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

If you have any comments on the proposed project or questions about its development, please make your comments known at this hearing or forward them on the attached self addressed Citizen Comment form. A comment form is also available at the following website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>.

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.





## Iowa Highway 86/Minnesota Highway 86 Project Location



DATE

February 2009



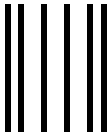


**HSIPX-86-1(8)--3L-30**

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

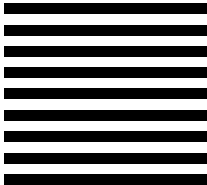
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