

# PROJECT STATEMENT

## Public Information Meeting

**Discuss the proposed improvements at the  
intersection of U.S. 30 and U.S. 218 in  
Benton County.**

**Benton County**

**NHSX-030-6(181)--3H-06**

### **MEETING LOCATION:**

**Blairstown Community Center**

**305 Locust Street NW**

**Blairstown, Iowa**

**August 7, 2013**



**Iowa Department  
of Transportation**

To view information concerning this project please access the following website:  
<http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>

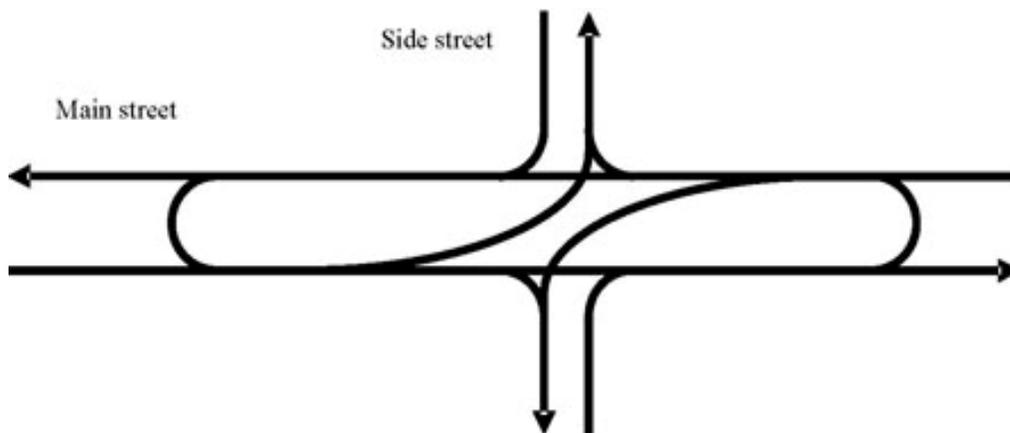
## **Introduction**

Welcome to the Iowa Department of Transportation's (DOT) Public Information Meeting for U.S. 30 and U.S. 218 in Benton County. Our purpose for having this meeting is to acquaint area residents with the potential proposed improvements at the intersection of U.S. 30 and U.S. 218. We also want to answer any questions you may have and listen to your thoughts and ideas regarding the proposed improvements.

## **Background**

Traffic along the U.S. 30 Corridor between Ames and Cedar Rapids continues to increase. To accommodate the demand much of the corridor has been expanded to four lanes. The impact of this growth as well as the projected increase in traffic, especially large trucks, has placed increased emphasis on the need to expand the remaining two-lane segment of this corridor, as well. That segment goes from Tama-Toledo east to the junction of U.S. 218 west of Cedar Rapids.

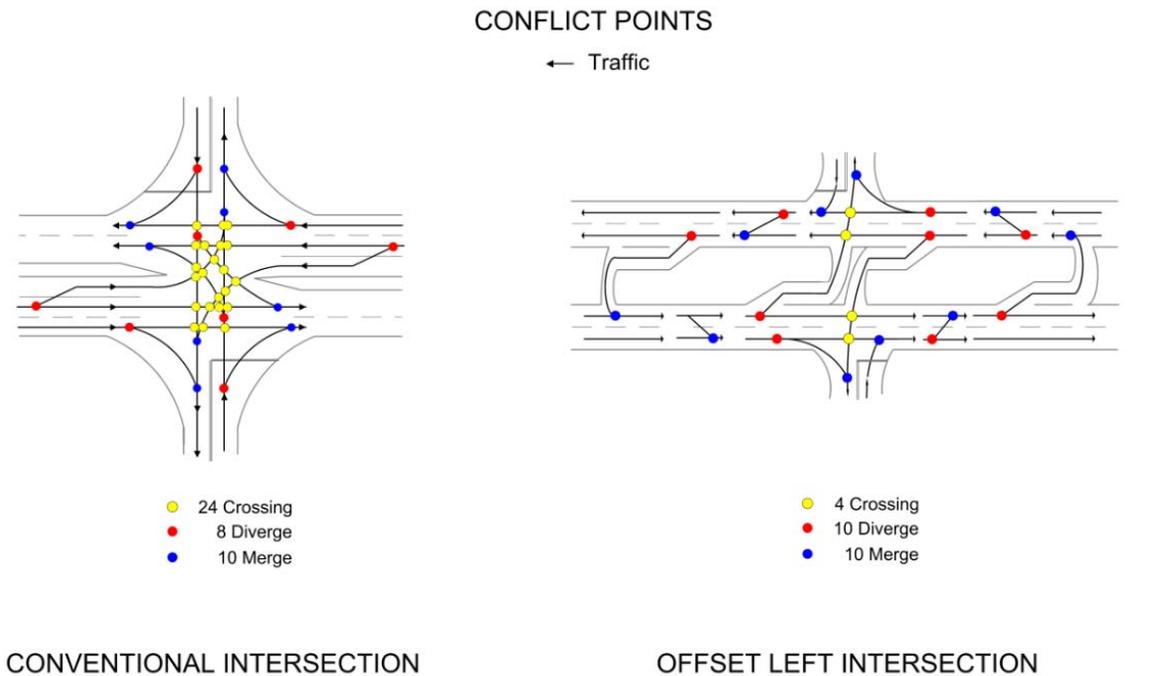
Land use and historic features along this section have complicated the design effort. A good example of this is at the intersection of U.S. 30 and U.S. 218 where the historic Youngville Café and Prairie Lutheran cemetery limit options to improve the safety of the intersection. Initially, interchange alternatives were investigated and now designers have added an innovative intersection design to address safety concerns. The intersection design utilizes offset left turns and is commonly known as a restricted crossing u-turn, also called a J-Turn intersection.



J-turn intersections are now in use in many states, including our neighboring states of Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. This type of intersection allows traffic to flow freely, and function very much like a traditional intersection.

The primary difference between a traditional intersection and the J-Turn intersection involves the number of places where vehicle's paths cross perpendicular to each other. Broadside crashes that occur at these crossing points often result in severe injuries or fatalities.

The J-Turn intersection reduces the number of crossing points from 24 to 4, a significant safety improvement.



This type of intersection has been selected because in other states, it has shown to reduce the number and severity of crashes.

### **Contact Us**

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the projects presented today or would like to be added to the project mailing list, please contact the following:

**Catherine Cutler, transportation planner**  
**Iowa DOT District 6 Office**  
**5455 Kirkwood Blvd. SW**  
**Cedar Rapids, IA 52404**  
**Phone: 319-364-0235 or 800-866-4368**  
**Email: [catherine.cutler@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:catherine.cutler@dot.iowa.gov)**

## **Public Participation**

No one is more familiar with the study area than its residents. We are interested in hearing what you have to say with regard to the proposed improvements. You may share those ideas with us today or submit them in writing using the attached comment form (self-addressed and pre-paid for your convenience). Following today's meeting, we will give careful consideration to all of the comments and information you provide, and will consider this input as we continue with project development. You will also have other opportunities throughout the project development to provide your input through additional public meetings held in the future. DOT staff will consider input received on the J Turn option before deciding to proceed with the interchange or J turn as part of the four lane project.

**Thank you for participating in this meeting.**

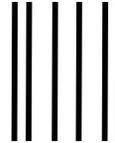
Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact 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.



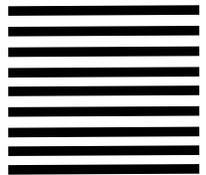
Fold

(TAPE - Do NOT Staple)

(TAPE-Do NOT Staple)



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 651 AMES, IA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SECTION  
OFFICE OF LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
800 LINCOLN WAY  
AMES IA 50010-9902

