



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING – August 15, 2013

MAHASKA COUNTY NHSX-63-3(93)--3H-62

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 Public Information Meeting for a potential U.S. 63 Oskaloosa Bypass, in Mahaska County. The purpose of this meeting is to present the project study area and to listen to your thoughts and ideas as well as answer your questions regarding the project. The study area is located northwest of Oskaloosa and extends from approximately Iowa 163 to existing U.S. 63.

Study Purpose

The purpose of this study is to evaluate improvement alternatives for a potential U.S. 63 bypass in the vicinity of Oskaloosa in order to improve the safety and operations of U.S. 63.

Background

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 5,200 to 8,800 vpd with 8 to 13% trucks and 4,200 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 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 expected to be completed in the spring of 2016 after which time the project can be considered for future funding. Once funding is committed, the DOT can develop design plans so the project can then be constructed.

Field Studies

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

Right-of-Way

As part of the proposed improvements, additional right-of-way may be required. The following paragraphs provide information regarding the right-of-way process followed by the Iowa DOT. Please keep in mind specific right-of-way needs have not been identified at this time.

Iowa DOT policy provides for appraisal of property and/or property rights needed for each project. Professional techniques and methods are used to determine “just compensation” in accordance with federal and state constitutions, laws and regulations. Appraisals are prepared to assure fair treatment for both the property owner and the public.

After completing the appraisal, a right-of-way agent contacts each owner to explain the plans and appraisals and negotiate the contract for the required right-of-way. If 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) 469-4007
E-mail: 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 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.

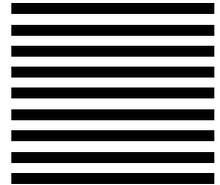
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