



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING – NHSX-61-2(50)--19-29

DES MOINES-LOUISA COUNTIES

MEDIAPOLIS HIGH SCHOOL, 725 N NORTHFIELD STREET

MEDIAPOLIS, IOWA

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 5-7P.M.

To view information concerning this project please access the following website:

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

Welcome to the Iowa Department of Transportation's Public Information Meeting for the four-lane improvement of U.S. 61 in Des Moines and Louisa counties from Burlington north to 1 mile north of Iowa 78. The purpose of this meeting is to present the proposed improvement alternatives and to listen to your thoughts and ideas as well as answer your questions regarding the project.

PROJECT HISTORY

The discussion of a proposed four-lane improvement to U.S. 61 from north of Burlington to north of Iowa 78 dates back to September 25, 1996, when the first public hearing was held. A Public Information Meeting was held July 30, 1997, a selected bypass alternative was approved by the Iowa Transportation Commission on November 25, 1997, and a Design Public Hearing was held September 27, 2001. However, in December 2001, the Iowa Transportation Commission removed the project from the Five Year Transportation Improvement Program.

The Iowa DOT re-initiated environmental and field studies for the U.S. 61 corridor in 2010. The purpose of these studies is to determine the social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed project on the surrounding area. Public Information Meetings were held November 4, 2010, and September 6, 2012, to present updates on the proposed project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project provides for reconstructing the existing two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided facility. From Memorial Park Road north to Mediapolis, the alternatives generally follow the existing alignment. At Mediapolis, one bypass alternative with a diamond interchange and a five-lane through-town alignment are being evaluated. From Mediapolis north approximately 1.5 miles, the U.S. 61 alternatives follow the existing alignment. From near the west leg of Des Moines County Road H-28 north, for the remaining 4 miles of the project, the U.S. 61 alignment would be relocated. An interchange east of the Iowa 78 junction is being considered which would also require some realignment of U.S. 61.

TRAFFIC VOLUMES

The 2010 traffic volumes on existing U.S. 61 ranged from 4,600 vehicles per day (VPD) with 14% trucks on the north end to 6,900 VPD with 10% trucks on the south end. The 2018 forecasted traffic volumes range from 5,100 to 7,500 VPD with 11% to 15% trucks. By 2038, traffic volumes are forecasted to range from 6,600 to 9,700 VPD with 13% to 17% trucks.

CRASH HISTORY

From 2006 to 2010, 229 crashes occurred in the project study area resulting in one fatality, 9 major injuries and 66 minor injuries. This represents a crash rate of 1.3 times higher than the statewide average for similar roadways.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

This project is not currently included in the 2014 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program, and therefore, no construction schedule has been established. The environmental study is expected to be completed in the fall of 2014 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.

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, P.O. Box 587
Fairfield, IA 50402-0587
Phone: 641-472-4171 or 800-766-4368
Email: 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 your participation 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.

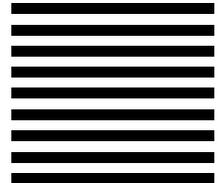
Fold first.

(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



Fold last