

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY
FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF IOWA 122/BUSINESS U.S. 18 IN MASON CITY
FROM MONROE AVENUE EAST TO CAROLINA AVENUE**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that a public hearing will be held on October 10, 2013, between 5 and 7 p.m., in the Mason City Room, Mason City Library, 225 2nd St SE, Mason City, Iowa, to discuss the proposed improvement of Iowa 122/Business U.S. 18 in Mason City from Monroe Avenue east to Carolina Avenue.

The purpose of this hearing is to update the public on the progress of the project; present the completed Environmental Assessment (EA) for the study area, the alternatives carried forward in the EA and the impacts of these alternatives; and gather feedback from the public about the project and EA. The alternatives under consideration would provide for improving the pavement conditions; enhancing safety; providing bicycle and pedestrian access and mobility; improving traffic flow; modernizing intersections; and supporting economic growth and revitalization.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration has prepared an EA for this project. Copies may be obtained by contacting either of the following:

Jim Rost, Director
Office of Location and Environment
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010
Telephone: 515-239-1798

Lubin Quinones, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Iowa Division Office
105 Sixth Street
Ames, Iowa 50010
Telephone: 515-233-7300

A copy of the EA will be available for inspection at the meeting and is also available for viewing at the Mason City Public Library, 225 2nd St. SE, Mason City, Iowa, and on the Iowa DOT website at <http://www.iowadot.gov/>.

A review deadline of October 28, 2013, has been established for receipt of comments on this document. All comments received on the EA by that date will be considered by the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration in their evaluation of the environmental impacts of the project. Comments on the EA should be submitted to the Director, Office of Location and Environment, at the above address.

The Environmental Assessment evaluates the Preferred Alternative and the No Build Alternative for the study area. Potential impacts of the alternatives to wetlands, water resources, historic buildings, homes, businesses, parks, and public facilities and services have been evaluated and are included in the EA. Information regarding the Preferred Alternative will be available at the public hearing. The No-Build Alternative would be the continuation of the highway system as it exists. It would not address the safety needs, pavement condition, 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 Preferred Alternative.

The purpose of the proposed project is to upgrade and modernize Iowa 122/Business U.S. 18 between Monroe and Carolina avenues in Mason City. The Preferred Alternative would provide for flattening the reverse curves on their current alignment at the east end of the project, narrowing the one-way pairs by eliminating some areas of on-street parking along the corridor to clearly define travel lanes, improving intersections, consolidating or removing access points, creating on-street bicycle lanes on each of the one-way roads, connecting paved sidewalks along the entire length of the project, and providing a new access road for the Mason City Fire Department to allow better access for emergency vehicles to travel south and east.

This public hearing will be conducted utilizing a combined open forum and formal format. Iowa Department of Transportation and city staff will be present with plans, displays and related information to discuss the project informally between 5 and 6 p.m. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend the hearing anytime during the informal session to express their views and ask questions about the proposed improvement.

A formal presentation will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a question and answer session. There will be a three (3) minute limit per speaker during the question and answer session. Persons wishing to make a formal presentation will need to so designate at the time of registration. Oral and written statements will be accepted during both the open forum and the formal sessions.

Written statements and related exhibits, in place of or in addition to oral statements made at the public hearing, will be accepted at the hearing or may be submitted to the Office of Location and Environment, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, 50010 or via the public meetings website at www.iowadot.gov/pim. All written material received by October 28, 2013, will be included in the hearing transcript.

For general information regarding the proposed improvement or the public hearing, contact Krista Rostad, Transportation Planner, Iowa Department of Transportation District 2 Office, 1420 Fourth Street SE, Mason City, Iowa 50401, telephone 641-422-9447 or 800-477-4368, email krista.rostad@dot.iowa.gov.

All persons interested in the project are invited to attend this hearing. The meeting room is accessible for persons with disabilities. If you require special accommodations at the hearing, please notify Ms. Rostad by October 3, 2013, so arrangements can be made.

Additional information concerning this project will be posted as it becomes available at the Iowa DOT's website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>.

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.