



PUBLIC HEARING – OCTOBER 10, 2013 5-7P.M.

MASON CITY ROOM, MASON CITY LIBRARY, 225 2ND STREET SE

MASON CITY, IOWA

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

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

Welcome to the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Public Hearing for the 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 present the Purpose and Need for the project; to present the Preferred Alternative; and to receive input regarding the Preferred Alternative as well as the approved Environmental Assessment.

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 October 28, 2013, 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 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.

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.

PROJECT HISTORY

The Iowa DOT, in partnership with Mason City, completed a Feasibility Study for IA 122 in Mason City in 2011 to evaluate the existing traffic operations and crash history. The study identified potential alternatives to improve traffic flow and improve operations. The feasibility study indicated

crash rates that were more than four times the statewide average and also found various roadway deficiencies.

In 2012, again in partnership with Mason City, the Iowa DOT initiated a Location Study and Environmental Assessment for the project. A Public Information Meeting was held June 14, 2012, to discuss alternatives for the proposed project.

PRESENT FACILITY

IA 122 is the primary east-west travel route through Mason City that transitions from a 4-lane undivided roadway, to 2-lane one-way pairs, then back to a 4-lane undivided roadway. The section of IA 122 within the project limits is approximately 66 feet wide. Currently sidewalks are not continuous throughout the project area. There is parallel parking on both sides of the roadway that is unmarked and underutilized.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve Iowa 122/Business U.S. 18 between Monroe Avenue and Carolina Avenue in Mason City. The need for the project is to improve traffic safety and operational issues as well as roadway deficiencies.

Currently, traffic volumes on the Eastbound 6th Street are 6,700 vehicles per day. Traffic volumes on the Westbound 5th Street are 7,700 vehicles per day. By 2035, these are projected to range from 6,400 to 9,400 eastbound and 9,300 to 15,300 westbound. The crash rates on this segment are more than three times the statewide average for similar roadways.

In spite of routine maintenance and repairs, the pavement is in poor condition and in need of reconstruction. Additionally, roadway design standards have changed since the roadway was originally constructed. The travelling public would benefit by more clearly defined travel lanes, reducing the severity of the tight curves on the east end, and providing a more consistent design speed throughout the road segment.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The Preferred Alternative would provide for:

- reducing the severity of the tight 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.

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND COSTS

This project is not currently included in the 2014 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program, and therefore, no construction schedule has been established. Once funding is committed, the Iowa DOT can develop design plans so the project can then be constructed.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

An Environmental Assessment for the project was signed by the Federal Highway Administration on September 5, 2013. A copy of the EA is available for inspection at this hearing. The EA evaluates the Preferred Alternative and the impacts for that alternative.

The Iowa DOT completed surveys within the project corridor to identify any possible historic properties. The term historic property includes a prehistoric or historic site, building, structure, object, or district that is listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Based on the location of these historic properties, no historic property will likely be adversely affected by this project. The Iowa DOT is requesting your comments about the impacts this project will likely have on any historic properties. This request is based on the federal regulations known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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

As part of the proposed improvements, additional right-of-way may be required. 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.

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.

CONTACT US

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the project presented today, please contact:

Krista Rostad, District 2 Planner
Iowa Department of Transportation
1420 Fourth Street SE
Mason City, IA 50401
Phone: 641-423-7584 or 800-477-4368
E-mail: krista.rostad@dot.iowa.gov

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

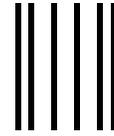
Please share your ideas with us today, submit them using the attached comment form (self-addressed and pre-paid for your convenience), email your comments to the District Planner above or through the following website <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>. All comments and information provided will be given consideration 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 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.

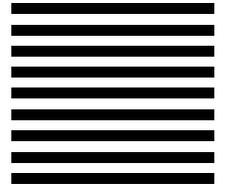
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