

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY  
FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF IOWA 934/UNIVERSITY AVENUE IN  
CEDAR FALLS/WATERLOO FROM IOWA 58 TO U.S. 63**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that a public hearing will be held on October 29, 2013, between 5 and 7 p.m., at the Clarion Inn, 5826 University Avenue, Cedar Falls, Iowa, to discuss the proposed improvement of Iowa 934/University Avenue in Cedar Falls/Waterloo from Iowa 58 to U.S. 63.

The purpose of this hearing is to update the public on the progress of the project; present the completed Environmental Assessment 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 Build Alternative under consideration would provide for improving the pavement and bridge conditions; enhancing safety; providing bicycle and pedestrian access and mobility; improving traffic flow; and supporting economic growth and revitalization.

The Iowa Department of Transportation 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 hearing and is also available for viewing at the Iowa Department of Transportation, District 2 Office, 1420 Fourth Street SE, Mason City, IA 50401; Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments, 501 Sycamore, Suite 333, Waterloo, IA 50703; Waterloo Public Library, 415 Commercial Street, Waterloo, IA 50701; Cedar Falls Public Library, 524 Main Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613; and Rod Library, University of Northern Iowa, 1227 W 27th Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50614.

A review deadline of November 18, 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 Build 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 Build 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, 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 Build Alternative.

The purpose of the proposed project is to upgrade and modernize Iowa 934/University Avenue between Iowa 58 in Cedar Falls and U.S. 63 in Waterloo. The Build Alternative would reduce the roadway from six lanes to four lanes and incorporate both optimized traffic signals and roundabouts. The completed roadway would generally include two 12-foot wide driving lanes in each direction, a 16-foot wide median, a 6-foot wide on-street bicycle lane, a 2-foot wide curb and gutter, a 6-foot wide sidewalk on the north side and a 10-foot wide multi-use path on the south side.

The following changes in access would occur along the corridor:

- Valley Park Drive, Holiday Road, Waterloo Road, Cedar Heights Drive, Midway Drive, Progress Drive, the Greenhill Road western terminal, Falls Avenue, Sager Avenue, Fletcher Avenue and U.S. 63 intersections would be converted to multi-lane roundabouts.
- New intersection access points would be developed at Royal Drive and Melrose Drive on the north side of Iowa 934/University Avenue, and at the south frontage road just east of Cedar Heights Drive. Royal Drive and the south frontage road access point would be developed as right-in/right-out intersection types to assist with traffic flow, access and connectivity to adjacent businesses. Melrose Drive would include a right-in/right-out and additional left-in movement for use by traffic traveling eastbound on Iowa 934/ University Avenue.
- The Black Hawk Village shopping center intersection would be converted from a signalized intersection to a right-in/right-out and additional left-in movement for use by traffic traveling westbound on Iowa 934/University Avenue.
- Tunis Drive would be converted from a signalized intersection to a right-in/right-out and additional left-in movements for use by both traffic traveling eastbound and westbound on Iowa 934/ University Avenue.
- Wallgate Avenue would be converted from a signalized intersection to a two-way stop controlled intersection.

All other intersections along the corridor would maintain their existing intersection types, but would incorporate improvements to turn lanes, vehicle storage lengths, signal timings and phasings.

The Build Alternative would impact relatively minor amounts of property from Rownd Park, the Peet Junior High School open space, Hope Martin Memorial Park, and the Cedar Prairie Trail. These properties are Section 4(f) resources that are subject to protection as public recreational facilities. The Build Alternative would also affect several properties that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The impacts would involve temporary construction impacts and/or acquisition of minor amounts of land (but not impacts to the structures). The affected properties include the Rownd/Kelly house, the R.P Speer/Nelson house, the Cedar Falls post-war homes residential historic district, and the city of Waterloo water tower.

*De minimis* impacts on publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges are defined as those that do not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes of the Section 4(f) resources. *De minimis* impacts on properties that are listed on or eligible for listing on the NRHP are defined as impacts that have no adverse effect on the historic properties. The Federal Highway Administration is proposing to make *de minimis* impact determinations for the effects of the Build Alternative on the recreational and historic properties listed above. This is your opportunity to review and comment on the proposed *de minimis* effect determinations.

This public hearing will be conducted utilizing a combined open forum and formal format. Iowa Department of Transportation staff along with City and INRCOG 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 minute limit per speaker during the question and answer session. Persons wishing to make a formal presentation will need to designate this 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](http://www.iowadot.gov/pim). All written material received by November 18, 2013, will be included in the project 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 641-423-7584 or 800-477-4368  
Email [krista.rostad@dot.iowa.gov](mailto: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 22, 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.