

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF U.S. 30 IN LINN AND CEDAR COUNTIES AND NOTICE TO ACQUIRE PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR SAID PROJECT

IN RE: Proposed improvement of U.S. 30 in Linn and Cedar Counties

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that a Public Hearing will be held on October 30, between 5 and 7 p.m., at Lisbon Community School, 235 West School Street, Lisbon, Iowa, to discuss the proposed Mount Vernon / Lisbon bypass from west of Wilcox Road in Linn County to Charles Avenue in Cedar County. The purpose of this hearing is to update the public on the progress of the projects, present the completed Environmental Assessment (EA) for the study area and gather feedback from the public about the projects and EA.

The proposed improvement would include:

- Construction of four new lanes to the south of Mount Vernon and Lisbon.
- Construction of an interchange between the new roadway and IA 1, approximately 0.5 miles southwest of the existing US 30/ IA 1 intersection.
- Construction of a new two lane connection from Lisbon southeast to Adams Avenue, and construction of an interchange between the new two lane and the new four lane US 30, approximately 0.5 miles southwest of the existing US 30 / Adams Ave. intersection.
- Construction of side road overpass bridges at Willowcreek Road, IA 1 Standing Rock Road, Sutliff Road, Greenridge Road, the new two lane connection to Adams Ave, and a local connector east of Lisbon.

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 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 hearing and for viewing at the Lisbon Public Library, 101 East Main Street, Lisbon, Iowa, and the Russell D. Cole Library, 600 First Street West, Mount Vernon, Iowa, after October 9, 2012.

A review deadline of November 12, 2012, 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.

This public hearing will be conducted utilizing a combined open forum and formal format. Iowa DOT staff members 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 November 12, 2012, will be included in the project transcript.

For general information regarding the proposed improvement, or the public hearing, contact Catherine Cutler, District 6 Planner, 430th 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404, telephone 800-866-4368 or 319-364-0235, or by email catherine.cutler@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. Cutler by October 22, so arrangements can be made.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

A governmental body which proposes to acquire property under the power of eminent domain for a public improvement project is required to give notice of a public hearing to all owners and contract purchasers of record of agricultural land that may be subject to condemnation.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) will consider approving the following described project:

- Construction of four new lanes to the south of Mount Vernon and Lisbon.
- Construction of an interchange between the new roadway and IA 1, approximately 0.5 miles southwest of the existing US 30/ IA 1 intersection.
- Construction of a new two lane connection from Lisbon southeast to Adams Avenue, and construction of an interchange between the new two lane and the new four lane US 30, approximately 0.5 miles southwest of the existing US 30 / Adams Ave. intersection.
- Construction of side road overpass bridges at Willowcreek Road, IA 1 Standing Rock Road, Sutliff Road, Greenridge Road, the new two lane connection to Adams Ave, and a local connector east of Lisbon.

2. PRIVATE PROPERTY MAY BE ACQUIRED BY PURCHASE OR CONDEMNATION.

If the Iowa DOT approves the above-described project, the Iowa DOT will be required to acquire property for the proposed improvements. The Iowa DOT will attempt to purchase the required property by good faith negotiations; however, it may condemn those properties, which it is unable to purchase. The proposed location of the above-described public improvement is shown on preliminary plans for the project. Preliminary plans are available from the Office of Right of Way, Iowa Department of Transportation, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010.

3. IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROCESS TO DECIDE TO FUND THE DESIGN, TO SELECT THE ROUTE OR SITE LOCATION, OR TO ACQUIRE OR CONDEMN PROPERTY INTERESTS:

In order to acquire the necessary properties and property interests required for the project, the Iowa Department of Transportation is required to approve the location of the project. The Iowa DOT will hold a public hearing to present to the public the proposed improvement and the anticipated impacts of the improvement.

Persons whose property may be affected by the project, as well as the general public, may comment on the project at the hearing. The comments will be presented to Iowa DOT staff. Based in part on the information received at the hearing, the Iowa DOT will select the location for the project and decide whether to fund the site-specific design and to authorize by purchase or condemnation the acquisition of right of way for the project.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT:

As previously stated in this notice, a Public Hearing will be held on October 30 between 5 and 7 p.m. at Lisbon Community School, 235 West School Street, Lisbon, Iowa. Iowa DOT staff will be available to answer questions about the proposed improvement. Written statements can be submitted to the Iowa DOT at the hearing, or sent 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.

5. IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTACT:

For information regarding the proposed improvement contact:

Catherine Cutler, District Planner
District 6 Office
Iowa Department of Transportation
430 16th Avenue S.W.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
Telephone 800-866-4368 or 319-364-0235
e-mail catherine.cutler@dot.iowa.gov

This notice is given by authority of the Iowa Department of Transportation.

This notice is not an offer to buy land nor is it an offer to provide relocation assistance. Affected property owners are not required to move from their residences or relocate their businesses at this time. Eligibility for relocation benefits will not occur until after an offer to purchase has been made to individual property owners.

To view information concerning this project please go to the following website: 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.