

Tower Terrace

December 2011



Overview

The Iowa 380 corridor between Hiawatha and Cedar Rapids is growing. The communities have made improvements to the local road system and in order to address transportation needs in the area, the Iowa Department of Transportation has initiated two separate, but concurrent and complementary studies—an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) and an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate if any future improvements are needed to Tower Terrace Road and I-380. The study goals are to:

- Determine what future transportation improvements, if any, in the vicinity of Tower Terrace Road and I-380 are needed.
- Evaluate the proposed improvements for environmental impacts, including natural resource, social, and economic impacts.
- Coordinate any proposed improvements with local, regional and state long-range plans.

The Iowa DOT has previously conducted studies of this area, but conditions have changed and now improvements to the area may be needed. The previous studies have given the following recommendations:

I-380 Urban Corridor Feasibility Study—this study is ongoing and is addressing the feasibility of improvements to I-380 throughout the Cedar Rapids urban area.

Tower Terrace Road Corridor Management Plan (2010)—this study suggested corridor preservation and an upgrade of Tower Terrace Road to a 5-lane arterial with a speed limit of 35 or 40 mph in the vicinity of I-380.



The Tower Terrace Study Area Map

I-380 Tower Terrace and Boyson Road Interchange Justification Report (2006)—this study approved improvements to the Boyson Road interchange, but determined a new interchange at Tower Terrace and I-380 was not warranted at the present time.



Environmental Assessment

The EA is a federally required document that helps state and federal agencies and the public make well-informed decisions about investments in their communities. The EA documents the decision-making process and answers the following questions:

- What is the purpose and need for the improvement?
- How would the proposed improvement function?
- How might improvements impact the natural and man-made environment?
- Which alternative best meets the purpose and need while minimizing or avoiding impacts?
- How do the public and project stakeholders feel about the proposed project?

Purpose and Need

Based on review of the previous studies, additional traffic and environmental review of the corridor, the study team has developed a purpose and need statement.



The purpose of the project is to accommodate increased travel demands generated by existing and future planned development in the vicinity of I-380 and Tower Terrace Road. In order to meet increased travel demands, the project is expected to meet the following needs:

- Alleviate forecasted future traffic congestion at the Boyson Road and County Home Road Interchange.
- Accommodate anticipated future traffic growth in the vicinity of the project area.
- Support planned economic development and land uses.

Environmental Issues to Consider

A project field review of the natural and man-made environmental issues will be conducted during the study. The study team will consider a number of issues and constraints during the course of the study:

Natural environment

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Water resources

- Wetlands
- Floodways
- Threatened and endangered species
- Hazardous waste

Social/economic

- Cultural and historic resources
- Property acquisitions

- Homes, neighborhoods, and businesses
- Parks and public facilities
- Noise
- Environmental justice
- Land use
- Farmland
- Safety of pedestrians and motorists



Schedule and Next Steps

The schedule shows the tasks to complete the Environmental Assessment and IJR documents. Design of the initial improvements could begin in Summer 2013. Once these steps are complete and if funding is available right-of-way acquisition and construction can begin.

Task Name	2011		2012			
	Quarter 3 June - September	Quarter 4 October - December	Quarter 1 January - March	Quarter 2 April - June	Quarter 3 July - September	Quarter 4 October - December
Collect Data	[Bar]					
Develop Purpose and Need Statement		[Bar]				
Conduct Traffic and Safety Analysis	[Bar]					
Develop Initial Alternatives		[Bar]				
Conduct Environmental Analysis	[Bar]					
Conduct Public Involvement Events		[Star]	[Star]			
Select Preferred Alternative				[Bar]		
Prepare EA			[Bar]			
Respond to Public Comments on EA					[Bar]	
FONSI Approval/NEPA Complete						[Bar]
Prepare IJR Document			[Bar]			
Submit IJR for Approval					[Bar]	
FHWA Review and Approval						[Bar]

★ PM
● Public Hearing

Contact Information

If you have additional questions or comments please contact:

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