



EAST 1ST STREET INTERCHANGE AND I-35 WIDENING

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND SECTION 4(F) *DE MINIMIS* IMPACT FINDING



East 1st Street / Interstate 35

Ankeny, Iowa

East 1st Street / I-35 Interchange

I-35 Widening

- ▣ *NE 36th Street to Oralabor Road*

East 1st Street Improvements

- ▣ *Delaware Avenue to Frisk Drive*



Project History

- An *Interchange Justification Report (IJR)* to justify improvements to the East/1st Street/I-35 Interchange was completed in March 2008. An *Amendment to Interchange Justification Report* was completed in January 2014 using updated traffic volume forecasts.
- The Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed in cooperation with the Iowa DOT and the City of Ankeny.
- Public Information Meetings were held as part of the early project study to solicit input from the public on the proposed improvements.



Purpose for this Public Hearing

- Explain the purpose and need for the project.
- Receive public input on the signed Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Receive public input on the proposed Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination for project impacts to Heritage Park.



Project Purpose and Need

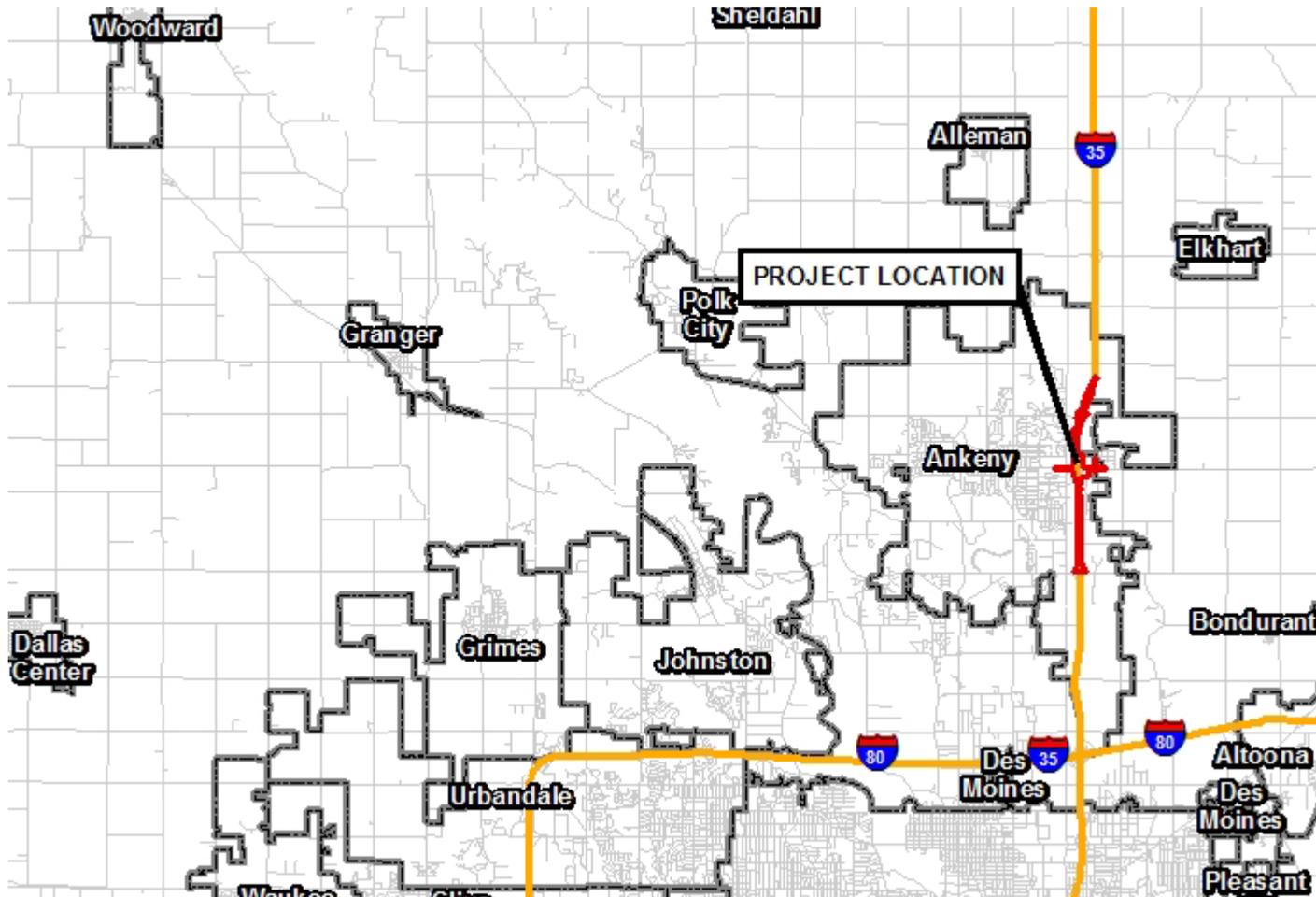
The purpose of the proposed project is to provide adequate current and long-term roadway operation within the project area and to provide efficient and safe access to the interstate from the adjacent arterial street network.

The proposed project is needed to:

- Improve traffic operations within the project area.
- Improve traffic safety on local streets and the interstate corridor within the project area.



Project Map



Preferred Alternative

- ❑ Fulfills the Purpose of the project and Needs for improvements.
- ❑ Improves interchange operations.
- ❑ Improves safety within the interchange.
- ❑ Minimizes environmental impacts and reduces cost.



Environmental Assessment (EA) of Proposed Alternative

The EA document does not require Final Design to match the Proposed Alternative.

The EA evaluates a footprint for impacts and specifies requirements for compliance with federal guidelines.

Preliminary Impact Area represents the largest footprint allowed for final decisions on improvements to be made during design phase.

The City of Ankeny and the Iowa DOT can then make decisions on final design items within the cleared footprint.



Section 4(f) Impacts

Section 4(f) of the Federal Code protects public parks and recreation areas from being permanently incorporated into transportation use, unless there is no prudent and feasible alternative or unless that impact is determined to be *de minimis*.

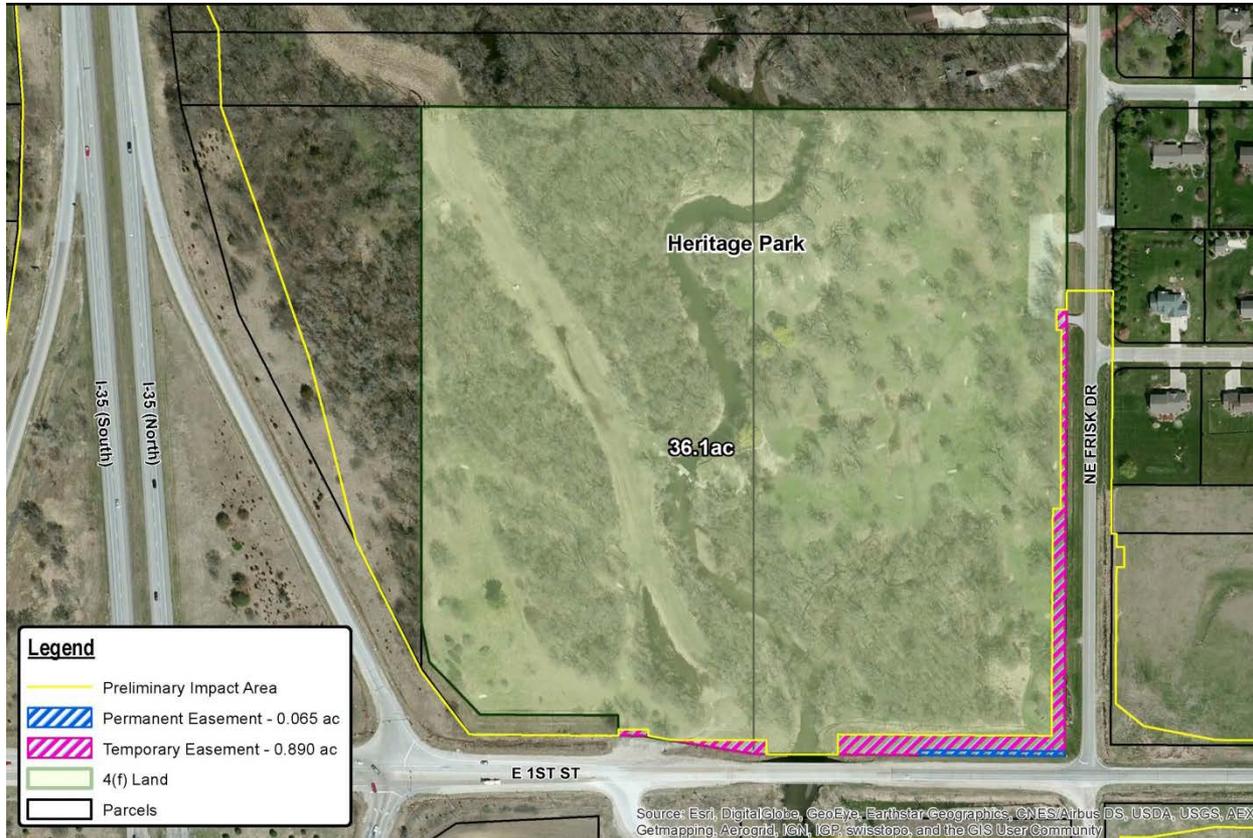


Section 4(f) Impacts

- A *de minimis* impact means the effects on public parks and recreation areas are **minimal** or that the project will have no adverse effect to features of Heritage Park.
- The following figure illustrates the *de minimis* impact the project will have on Heritage Park.

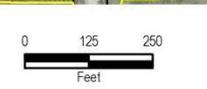


Proposed Section 4(f) Determination



SECTION 4(f) LAND

East 1st Street/I-35 Interchange
Ankeny, Iowa



Next Steps for EA

- Environmental Assessment, signed by FHWA on October 7, 2015, concluded that the project is necessary for safe and efficient travel within the project area.
- Comment Deadline is December 29, 2015.
- A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is the final step in the federal approval process.



Next Steps for Design

- The Iowa DOT and City of Ankeny will complete final design decisions.
- The Final Design will meet the Purpose and Need from the EA and fit within the impact area provided in the document. However, final decisions on modifications would be made during the final design phase of the project.



Schedule and Costs

- The E. 1st St. / I-35 Interchange preferred alternative is funded in the 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program.
 - ▣ FY 2017 - \$1,700,000 for Right of Way.
 - ▣ FY 2018 - \$13,900,000 for Bridge, Grading, and Paving Projects.
 - ▣ FY 2019 - \$14,800,000 for Grading and Paving Projects.
 - ▣ FY 2020 - \$24,200,000 for Bridge, Grading, and Paving Projects.



Questions?

Questions and comments after the meeting may be directed to:

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