

Public Information Meeting

PROJECT STATEMENT

**For the proposed four-lane improvement of U.S. 20
from just east of Woodbury County Road D-22
(Ida Avenue) east to just west of Correctionville**

**Woodbury County
NHSX-20-1(116)--3H-97**

**MEETING LOCATION:
Correctionville Community Center
312 Driftwood Street
Correctionville, IA**

June 14, 2012



**Iowa Department
of Transportation**

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

WOODBURY COUNTY
NHSX-20-1(116)--3H-97

DATE OF MEETING: JUNE 14, 2012
JIM ROST
OFFICE OF LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT
HIGHWAY DIVISION
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
800 LINCOLN WAY, AMES, IOWA, 50010
515-239-1225

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

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

INTRODUCTION

The Iowa Department of Transportation is conducting this Public Information Meeting to acquaint the people of Merville, Correctionville and vicinity with the proposed four-lane improvement of U.S. 20 from just east of Woodbury County Road D-22 (Ida Avenue) east to just west of Correctionville. This public meeting offers mutual benefits. It gives the Iowa DOT an opportunity to explain the design of the proposed project and allows the public to express their opinions regarding the proposed improvement. Consideration will be given to all suggestions.

This is your opportunity to express views either as an individual or a group representative. The Iowa DOT encourages oral and written statements pertinent to the project. Oral statements will be accepted at this meeting. Written statements and exhibits will also be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed to Jim Rost, Office of Location and Environment, at the above address. Deadline for receipt of statements or exhibits is June 25, 2012. All correspondence received will be included in the project files and reviewed as the project is developed. Information regarding the proposed project is available for inspection.

This meeting 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.

This public meeting is used to present factual information about the proposed project and to receive comments from the public. This information is then correlated into a highway improvement that will best serve the public.

PUBLIC MEETING FORMAT

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 meeting. Oral statements will be accepted at the tape recording station. Written statements should be presented to the staff person near the entry;
3. Submission of written statements following the meeting. Those received by June 25, 2012, will become a part of the public meeting summary.

Meeting summaries 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.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Public Information Meetings were held November 8-10, 1999, to gather input for a location study for the improvement of U.S. 20 from two miles east of Merville east to the north junction of U.S. 71 at Early. Additional public meetings were held June 5,

2007, in Holstein and Correctionville to discuss the status of the U.S. 20 improvement from near Merville east to approximately 1.4 miles west of U.S. 71.

A Location Public Hearing concerning the proposed improvement of U.S. 20 in Woodbury, Ida and Sac counties was held August 26, 2008. The concept at that time, for the segment of U.S. 20 from Merville to Correctionville, was to reconstruct the existing two lanes and to add a median and two new lanes to the north side of present U.S. 20. Location approval was given by the FHWA on October 20, 2008.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed project begins at the existing four-lane roadway just east of Ida Avenue in Woodbury County and continues east to just west of Osceola Avenue/Aspen Street at Correctionville. (See map at back of handout.) The improvement provides for construction of a four-lane divided highway generally along the north side of existing U.S. 20. The completed facility would provide two 24-foot wide roadways with 6-foot wide inside and 10-foot wide outside shoulders. The inside 4 feet of the inside shoulder and the inside 6 feet of the outside shoulder would be paved. The remainder of the shoulders would be granular surfaced.

Dual bridges would be constructed over Wolf Creek and the Little Sioux River. Other drainage structures would be constructed as necessary. Existing county roads would be reconstructed as necessary to accommodate the improvement. Left-turn lanes would be constructed at county road intersections.

Access rights would be acquired as part of this improvement. Access would be allowed at a minimum 1,000 foot spacing, 1/4 mile preferred. Median crossovers would be constructed at all County Road intersections. Traffic would be maintained on existing U.S. 20 during construction.

PRESENT FACILITY

The section of existing U.S. 20 within the project limits was constructed 24 feet wide in 1958. Climbing/passing lanes were included in that project which increased the roadway width to 34 feet in spot locations. The Climbing lanes were widened in 2007 to increase the total roadway to 36 feet. The roadway was resurfaced in 1971, 1983, and 2007.

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND COSTS

The Draft 2013 – 2017 Transportation Improvement Program shows the following schedule and costs for the improvement of U.S. 20 from east of Merville to west of Correctionville:

ACTIVITY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Right of Way	1,000,000	2,500,000			
Bridge, New		Westbound 1,600,000			Eastbound 1,700,000
Culvert, New		Westbound 340,000			Eastbound 360,000
Grade		Westbound 35,500,000			Eastbound 16,400,000
Wetland Mitigation		300,000			
Pave				Westbound 23,500,000	
Total Programmed: \$83,200,000					

TRAFFIC VOLUMES

The 2011 annual average daily traffic using U.S. 20 in this area was 4,080 vehicles per day. Anticipated 2039 AADT is expected to 6,200 VPD.

SUFFICIENCY RATINGS

Sufficiency ratings in Iowa are composed of five major categories, which measure the roadway's structural adequacy, motorist safety, and capability to accommodate traffic with a minimum of conflict. A rating of 90 – 100 is classified as excellent; 80 – 89 is good; 65 – 79 is fair; 50 – 64 is tolerable; and 0 – 49 is poor. The 2012 sufficiency ratings for this segment of existing U.S. 20 range from 61 (tolerable) to 66 (fair).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

An Environmental Assessment for the improvement of U.S. 20 in Woodbury, Ida and Sac counties was signed on August 4, 2008. The EA concluded that the proposed project is necessary for safe and efficient travel within the project corridor and that the project will have no significant social, economic or environmental impacts of a level that would warrant an environmental impact statement. A Finding of No Significant Impact was signed by the Federal Highway Administration on October 20, 2008. A copy of the FONSI is available for inspection at this meeting. Due to changes made in the project during design, a reevaluation of the environmental decision is currently being conducted.

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

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.

Personnel from the Office of Right of Way, Relocation Assistance Section, have studied the proposed project presented at this meeting and anticipate that 2 businesses, 1 farm operation, 1 residence and 5 people would be displaced as a result of this improvement.

Questions or issues concerning relocation assistance should be directed to the Office of Right of Way, Relocation Assistance Section, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, 50010.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

If you have any comments on the proposed project or questions about its development, please make your comments known at this meeting or forward them on the attached self addressed Citizen Comment form. A comment form is also available at the following website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>.

Thank you for your participation in this meeting.

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.

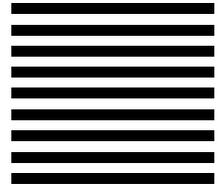
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