

Potential Improvements

The Iowa DOT team that is conducting the I-380 Corridor Feasibility Study is still developing and refining potential improvement concepts for the highway.

It is using technical analysis and public input to introduce real-world considerations of possible solutions, which leads to identifying improvements, locations and timing. The ultimate goal is to meet local and state transportation needs.

Demand management

As the team develops the “menu” of potential improvements for I-380, it is possible to identify two broad categories of possible solutions likely to be considered.

The first category is broadly called Transportation System and Demand Management Concepts. These concepts are designed to manage or reduce travel demand or to redistribute this demand in space or in time. They include (but aren't limited to): improving pedestrian- or bicycle-oriented design elements; improving public transportation infrastructure; and ramp metering.

Built improvements

The second category is Infrastructure Improvement Build Concepts, which involve improvements requiring physical changes or construction to achieve goals established for improving the corridor. Examples include:

1. Spot improvements are small “fixes” at specific locations, intersections or along a short length of roadway. Widening the roadway along a short

stretch is an example of this.

2. Interchange modifications involve moderate improvements at locations where a highway meets another highway or roadway; adding a lane would be an example.
3. System reconfiguration involves major redesign and reconstruction of a highway or highway network to simplify how it operates, thus reducing traffic conflicts, congestion and accidents. It can involve changing a road network's location, access, traffic patterns and other elements.

Over the next few months, the Iowa DOT study team will evaluate many different improvement concepts for I-380. It will stringently screen concepts on the basis of how well they:

- Address corridor improvement goals;
- Improve corridor traffic and safety performance;
- Reduce engineering, construction and maintenance challenges and costs; and
- Minimize environmental, flood recovery and land use impacts.

The concepts that meet this analysis will serve as the foundation for the set of recommendations the study team will document in its final report due later this year. These recommendations will help guide Iowa DOT decisions, as well as those of local public and private decision makers, in effectively investing in this important highway corridor.

Staying Involved in I-380

The I-380 Corridor Feasibility Study relies upon feedback from motorists, taxpayers, businesses and others who rely on this important highway.

That's why the Iowa DOT provides several opportunities for learning more about the project and to respond with questions and comments, including:

- Consultation with stakeholders to make sure the Iowa DOT fully understands their needs as it develops improvement recommendations.
- Public meetings where people can review project information while meeting informally with the study team to ask questions and comment on project topics.
- Stakeholder outreach through media relations, community events and social media. You can stay informed about the Iowa DOT and efforts like I-380 at <http://www.news.iowadot.gov/>. You also can subscribe to Iowa DOT news releases sent directly to your email in-box at <http://www.graphicmail.com/rwcode/subscribe.aspx?SiteID=25681&Mode=subscribe>.

Comments or Questions?

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The I-380 Corridor Feasibility Study

The I-380 Corridor Feasibility Study is examining how the Iowa Dept. of Transportation (Iowa DOT) can maintain this important highway's ability to serve the safety, economic vitality and quality of life of Iowa residents, travelers and taxpayers.

The result will be a set of recommended concepts (along with projected costs) for improving I-380's safety and efficiency while preserving this significant corridor.

These recommendations will prioritize the projects, locations and timing that make the most sense in meeting local and state transportation needs when future design and construction funding becomes available.

As a result, they will help public and private decision makers more effectively make local and regional choices and investments that best leverage the value of this important highway corridor.

Two phases examine highway's technical and community needs

The study is being conducted in two phases:

Phase 1 began in 2010 and involved gathering technical data about the corridor, its condition and how it's used.

Phase 2, now underway, is scheduled to be completed later this year. It will result in recommendations about potential I-380 improvements, benefits and costs. The recommendations will be developed through technical analysis and public feedback.

Exploring alternatives, making choices

As the study team works on developing potential concepts for improving I-380, it will measure possible solutions and their effectiveness against a set of goals developed through technical analysis and public input.

The goals include: (1) maximize system efficiency; (2) minimize cost of improvements; (3) improve regional mobility; (4) promote economic vitality; (5) enhance sustainability; (6) increase safety; and (7) preserve existing assets.

These goals serve as a yardstick, for the team and the public, to measure the merit of potential improvement concepts as they are developed, discussed and analyzed.

The I-380 Corridor Study Area



The I-380 Corridor Feasibility Study will detail current and future issues and opportunities that shape how well the 17.5-mile corridor serves the surrounding region and state. This section of the highway, which was constructed between 1976 and 1984, stretches from the Johnson/Linn County line north through Cedar Rapids to the I-380 interchange at County Home Road. The study team broke the corridor into four sections for examination based on similarities in use, design and geography. Fifteen specific locations along the corridor (see numbered boxes) were identified for further study based on potential traffic and safety concerns.

Developing Potential Solutions

The I-380 Corridor Feasibility Study will identify ways that the Iowa DOT, over time, can maintain and improve the highway's safety, efficiency and cost effectiveness.

To achieve that goal, the study team is developing and evaluating many concepts for making sure the highway meets Iowa's current and future needs.

By year's end, when the study will be completed, the concept development and evaluation process will have accomplished a variety of things through the combination of technical analysis and public feedback. The study team will have:

1. Eliminated concepts that are technically or financially unrealistic or have broadly unacceptable social or environmental impacts;
2. Highlighted concepts that need further study;
3. Identified potential projects that offer clear benefits and their potential costs; and
4. Recommended a set of priorities and projects to be adopted for corridor improvement.

Along the way, the team will have evaluated potential improvement concepts on the basis of how well they meet one or more of the goals, which include:

1. Maximize system efficiency (the ability of the corridor to move vehicles);
2. Minimize cost of improvements;
3. Improve regional mobility (the ease with which people can move from place to place);
4. Promote economic vitality;
5. Enhance sustainability (the ability to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs);
6. Increase infrastructure safety; and
7. Preserve assets (the protection of the value of the highway and taxpayer dollars invested in building and maintaining it).

Evaluating Strategies and Alternatives

To evaluate I-380 improvement concepts, the study team is using the technical process shown below. Phase 1 identified corridor conditions and challenges. Phase 2 involves developing and evaluating potential improvements, then making a final set of recommendations about future projects and priorities. The goal is to ensure I-380 meets the current and future needs of Iowa residents, travelers and taxpayers.

