

# **PROJECT STATEMENT**

**FOR THE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING  
CONCERNING INITIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND FIELD STUDIES FOR THE U.S. 61 CORRIDOR IN  
LOUISA COUNTY FROM IA 78 NORTH TO THE  
EXISTING FOUR-LANE ROADWAY SOUTH OF THE  
MUSCATINE COUNTY LINE**

**PROJECT NUMBER: LOUISA COUNTY  
NHS-61-3(48)- -19-58**

**MEETING LOCATION:**

**LOUISA-MUSCATINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
14506 170TH STREET  
LETTS, IOWA**

**OCTOBER 15, 2009**

**Prepared by  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING – October 15, 2009**

**LOUISA COUNTY**

**NHS-61-3(48)--19-58**

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

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

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) wishes to thank you for attending this Public Information Meeting regarding the initiation of environmental and field studies for the U. S. 61 corridor in Louisa County from north of IA 78 north to the existing four-lane roadway south of Muscatine. The purpose of this meeting is to present to you details of the proposed improvement and to answer any questions that you may have.

### **PROJECT HISTORY**

Pre-location studies were conducted for the U. S. 61 corridor from the Missouri State line north to the Muscatine County line in 1987 and 1989. The Iowa DOT initiated a Planning Study in 1994 for U. S. 61 from IA 92 north to the Muscatine County line. The purpose of this study was to explore potential improvements to the US 61 highway corridor.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The north section, that starts two miles south of Grandview and extends north to the existing four-lane roadway at the Muscatine County line, will be studied and evaluated for environmental concerns. (See location map and study area information at the back of this handout.) This study will include preliminary engineering and preparation of an environmental document.

For the south section, from north of IA 78 north to two miles south of Grandview, field studies will be conducted and information gathered to allow for preliminary analysis of potential impacts.

## **PRESENT FACILITY AND TRAFFIC VOLUMES**

Existing U. S. 61 is a two-lane highway from IA 78 north to the Muscatine County line. The 2008 traffic north of IA 92 was 5700 vehicles per day (vpd) and the 2008 traffic south of IA 92 was 4150 vpd.

## **PROJECT COSTS AND SCHEDULE**

A portion of the north section, from Grandview north to the Louisa/Muscatine County line, is included in the 2010-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with \$3 million for right of way acquisition in 2014. The remainder of the U. S. 61 corridor in Louisa County is not currently included in the 2010-2014 TIP; however, it may be considered during the preparation of future transportation programs.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

If you have any comments concerning the environmental and field studies, please make your comments known at this meeting or forward them on the attached self addressed Citizen Comment form. Deadline for receipt of comments is October 26, 2009. 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.

# PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STEPS

## Hold Public Information Meeting

Informational meetings are an important part in a project's development. It is an opportunity to raise questions, share individual and community viewpoints, and resolve any differences. (Public meetings may be held any time during the process.)

## Collect Data

The project corridor becomes the focus of a variety of studies and data gathering. These activities may include:

- Historic/architectural investigation.
- Archeological studies.
- Wetland identification.
- Biological surveys.
- Regulated substances studies (hazardous materials).
- Soils/borrow site identification.
- Ground survey and aerial photography mapping.
- Traffic counts.

## Perform Planning Study

Before major or complex transportation projects are developed, they are first studied to determine need and location, and to assess environmental issues. Studies are reviewed by the Iowa Transportation Commission, which determines whether the project is a candidate for further action or construction.

## Develop Concepts

With an understanding of the project's purpose and need, transportation planners and engineers develop various concepts and define the limits for the project.

## Develop Alternatives

Based on the project's concept, design criteria, data collection results, and public comments, various project location alternatives are developed.

## Hold Public Information Meeting

Project alternatives are presented for public comment at a public information meeting.

## Prepare Environmental Document

An environmental document (normally an environmental assessment) is prepared. An environmental assessment documents the purpose of and need for the project, along with the anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts for each alternative under consideration. This document is made available to the public and governmental agencies.

## Hold Public Hearing

Details of location alternatives and preliminary design features are discussed in a formal public hearing. Proceedings and comments are recorded and transcribed as part of the hearing record. A preferred alternative is often identified at this stage.

## Seek Project Approval

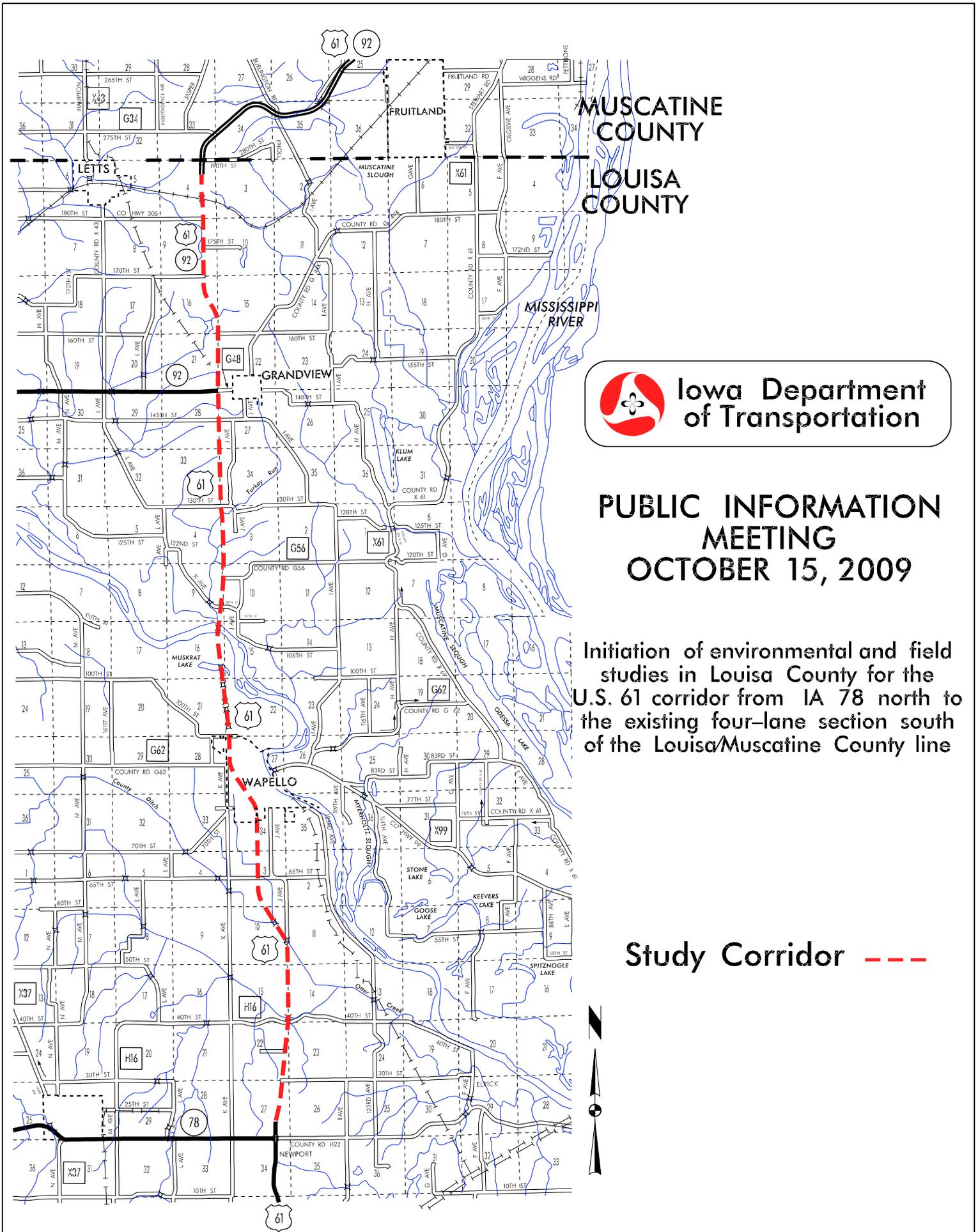
Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) staff recommend a preferred location alternative and preliminary design features to the Iowa Transportation Commission for approval.

## Complete Environmental Document

The selected alternative and associated impacts are documented in a final environmental report, including a description of any required mitigation or special conditions. The project is then submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for approval.

### Notes:

- 1) *If the project is approved by the Iowa Transportation Commission, it may be included in the Iowa Transportation Improvement Program and funded for design, right-of-way acquisition and construction.*
- 2) *The entire project corridor may not be reconstructed at one time. Individual projects within the corridor may be selected and programmed as funding becomes available.*
- 3) *Time to complete individual development steps vary by project. Time necessary to complete the entire development process may take as little as six years, but will vary according to the complexity of the project.*
- 4) *Information provided depicts the most common type of development schedule. Where warranted, steps may be added or omitted.*
- 5) *It is the Iowa DOT's goal to have projects completed according to established schedules; however, dates may change due to unforeseen situations, congressional or legislative action, or general economic conditions.*



MUSCATINE  
COUNTY

LOUISA  
COUNTY



**PUBLIC INFORMATION  
MEETING  
OCTOBER 15, 2009**

Initiation of environmental and field studies in Louisa County for the U.S. 61 corridor from IA 78 north to the existing four-lane section south of the Louisa/Muscatine County line

**Study Corridor - - - -**



# NORTH SECTION

Louisa County U.S. 61 Corridor  
Study Area

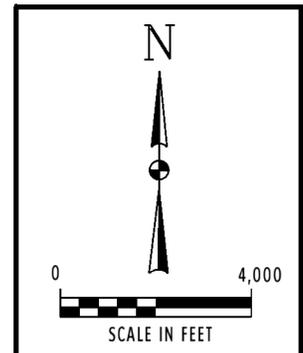
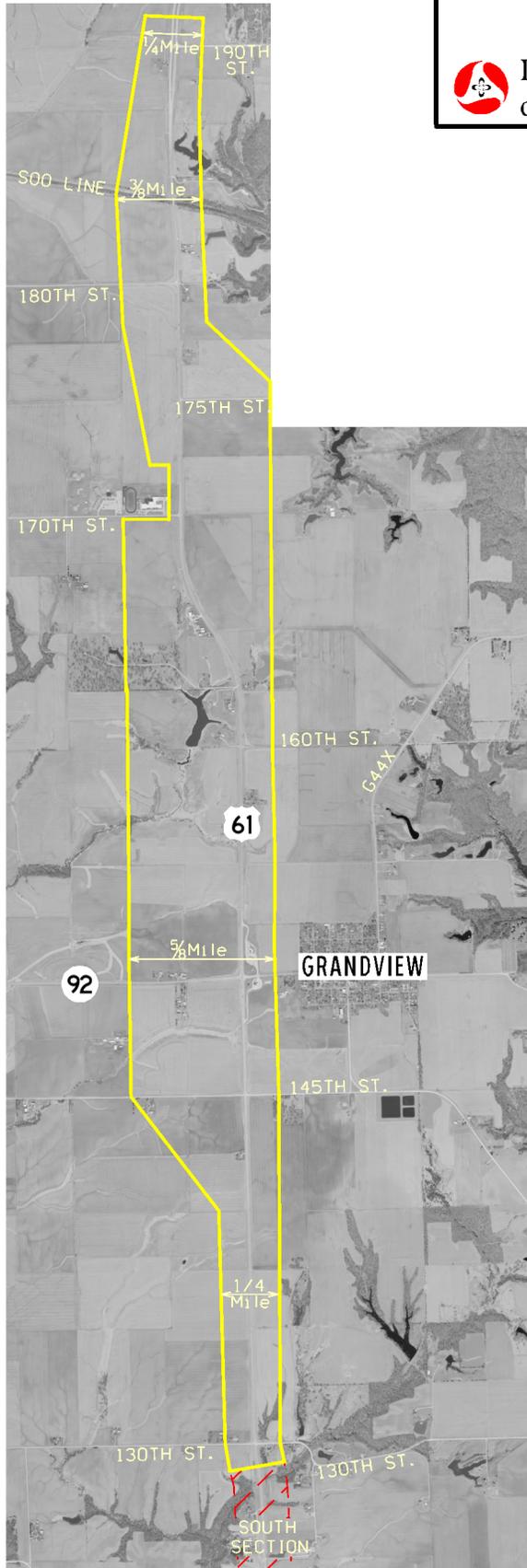


Iowa Department  
of Transportation

Study Area shown  
at the Oct. 15, 2009  
Public Information Meeting

## LEGEND

 = STUDY AREA



**PRELIMINARY**

NOT FINAL - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# SOUTH SECTION

Louisa County U.S. 61 Field Survey  
Study Area

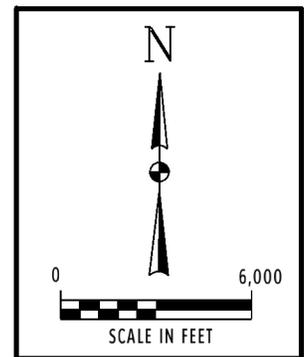
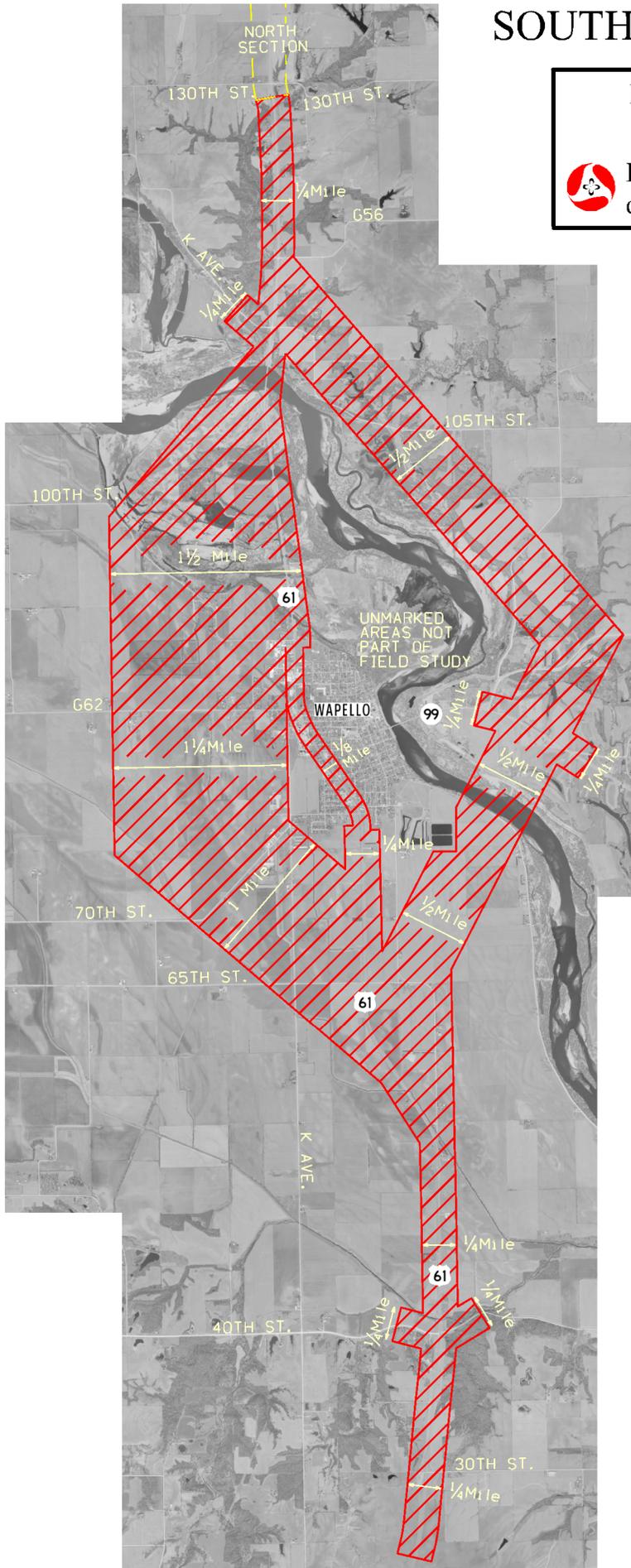


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Study Area shown  
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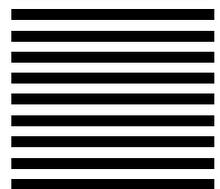
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