

PROJECT STATEMENT

**FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF AN
INTERCHANGE WITH U.S. 20 AT DYERSVILLE**

**PROJECT NUMBER: DUBUQUE COUNTY
NHSN-20-9(195)--2R-31**

HEARING LOCATION:

**DYERSVILLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MEMORIAL BUILDING
340 1ST AVENUE E
DYERSVILLE, IOWA**

FEBRUARY 24, 2011

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

PUBLIC HEARING

DUBUQUE COUNTY
NHSN-20-9(195)--2R-31

DATE OF HEARING: FEBRUARY 24, 2011
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 (DOT) is conducting this Public Hearing to acquaint the people of Dyersville and vicinity with the proposed construction of an interchange with U.S. 20 at Dyersville. This public hearing offers mutual benefits. It gives the Iowa DOT an opportunity to explain the proposed project and the environmental document 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 hearing. Written statements and exhibits will also be accepted at the hearing or may be mailed to Jim Rost, Office of Location and Environment, at the above address. Deadline for receipt of statements or exhibits for inclusion in the printed transcript is March 14, 2011; however, all correspondence received after this date will be included in the project files and reviewed as the project is developed. Information regarding the proposed project is available for inspection.

This hearing 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 hearing 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 HEARING FORMAT

This public hearing will be conducted utilizing a combined open forum and formal format. The hearing will begin with an open forum session during which interested individuals are encouraged to express their views and ask questions in an informal setting. A formal presentation, followed by a question and answer session, will follow the open forum session. Oral and written statements will be accepted during both the open forum and the formal sessions.

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 hearing. Written statements should be presented to the staff person near the entry;
3. Submission of written statements following the hearing. Those received by March 14, 2011, will become a part of the public hearing transcript.

Hearing transcripts are provided to Iowa DOT staff, the Transportation Commissioners and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 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

The evaluation of a new U.S. 20 interchange in or near Dyersville began in early 2009. A Public Information Meeting was held September 30, 2009, to gather input for a location study and for the environmental document for the proposed improvement. A second Public Information Meeting was conducted on August 3, 2010, to provide project information to the public and to gather public feedback on the project.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Two alternatives are being carried forward for the proposed improvement, The Build Alternative and The No-Build Alternative. The Build Alternative provides for the construction of an interchange connecting 330th Avenue to 332nd Avenue/County Road X-49 at Dyersville. This interchange would provide direct access across U.S. 20 from the 20 West Industrial Center to the west edge of Dyersville. Access to U.S. 20 from 320th Avenue, 330th Avenue, 332nd Avenue/County Road X-49, and 7th Street SW would be closed. Direct access to the interchange would be provided via the extension of 12th Avenue SW and Field of Dreams Way west to 332nd Avenue and the extension of 221st Street to the east. (See the attached map at the back of this handout.)

The No-Build Alternative would be the continuation of the highway system as it exists. It would not address the safety needs, increasing traffic volumes and outdated geometrics of the roadway within the project corridor. This alternative would not satisfy the Project Purpose and Need requirements. However, it is carried forward to serve as a baseline for comparison with the Build Alternative.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed action is to improve safety and to provide more efficient traffic flow in the southwest area of Dyersville to accommodate development that is planned and is occurring today.

The need for the proposed action is based on a combination of deficiencies:

- Safety – Since 2005, the intersection at U.S. 20 and 7th Street SW has been the site of four crashes that have resulted in five fatalities.
- Capacity – The current at-grade intersections are not sufficient to meet the anticipated traffic capacity resulting from planned and occurring development.
- Direct access across U.S. 20 – No direct access across U.S. 20 is currently present. The nearest direct access is over two miles away at the IA 136 interchange.

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND COSTS

This project is not currently included in the 2011 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program; however, it may be considered during the preparation of future transportation programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvement was approved for public availability on January 6, 2011. This EA concludes that the proposed project is necessary for safe and efficient travel within the project corridor. The project will have no significant social, economic or environmental impacts of a level that would warrant an environmental impact statement. Final alternative selection will occur following completion of a public review period and Public Hearing. Unless significant impacts are identified as a result of public review or at the Public Hearing, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared.

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.

It is anticipated that 3 farmsteads, and 2 residences would be displaced as a result of the Build Alternative.

Questions or problems 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 hearing 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 hearing.

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.

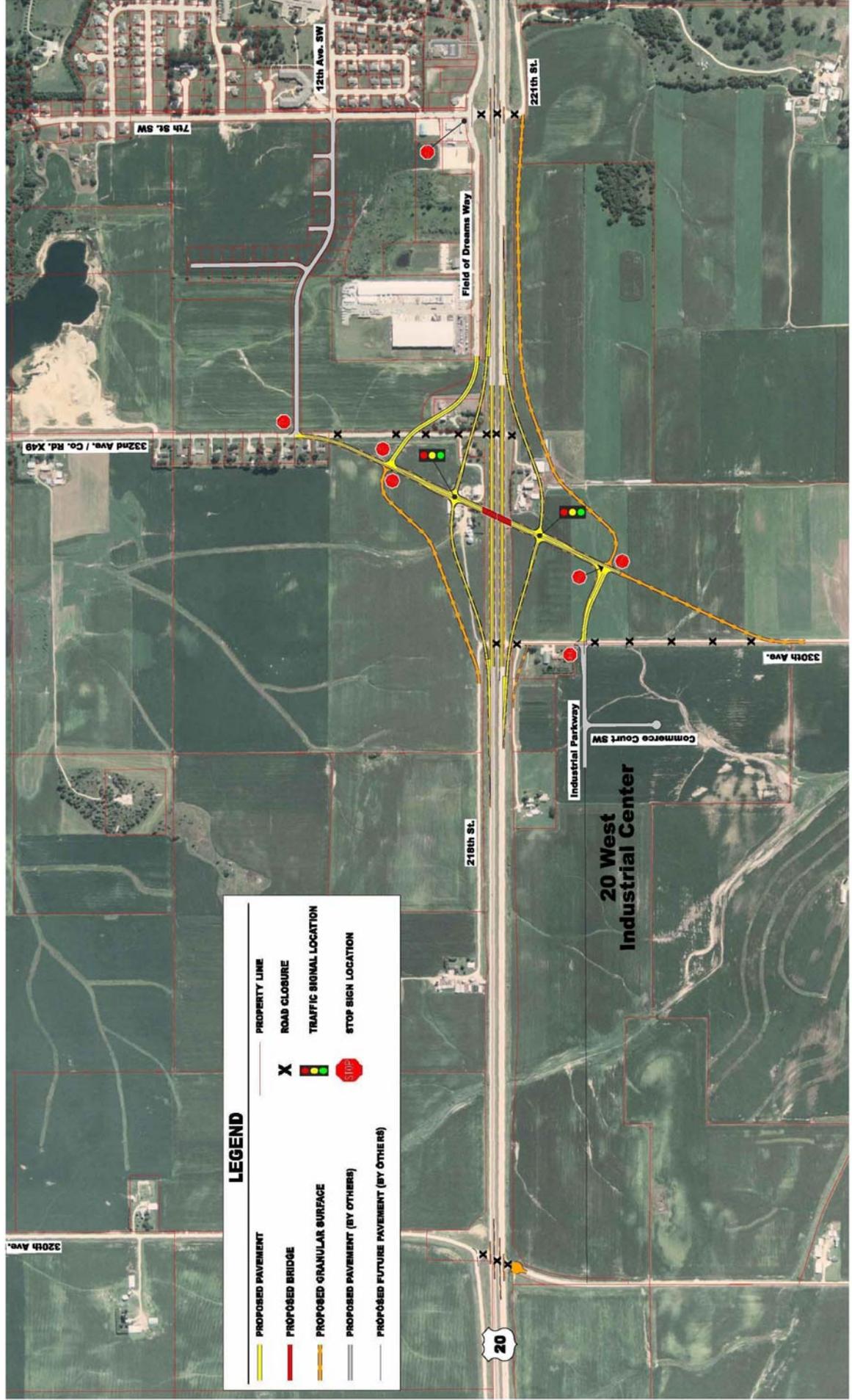
Proposed U.S. 20
Dyersville interchange

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Iowa Department
of Transportation

DELAWARE / DUBUQUE COUNTIES



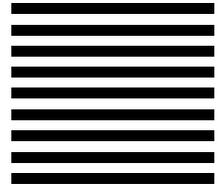
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