



Contact us

The Office of Location and Environment's public involvement section can be reached at:

**Public Involvement
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

a guide to staying informed



Why INVOLVE THE PUBLIC?



Because transportation projects can greatly affect a community, public input is extremely important. Each public involvement opportunity allows the public a chance to provide ideas and comments regarding the development of a transportation project.

Federal and state regulations require public involvement activities during project development.

How WILL WE KEEP YOU INFORMED?



The Iowa DOT mails letters regarding public involvement opportunities to property owners and local officials within the project area. In addition, posters are placed in the communities, and a news release and newspaper ad(s) are provided to local media outlets.

There are additional formal notification procedures, which are followed if a project may impact agricultural parcels of 10 acres or more in size.



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Public information meetings are held at different stages of project development. A meeting may be held to discuss new construction, a detour, a road closure, or when additional right of way is needed.

The meeting is held as an open forum so attendees can see displays, ask questions, and share concerns directly with Iowa Department of Transportation staff.

During and after the meeting, individuals are encouraged to send in written comments or leave comments online (iowa.dot.gov/pim) regarding the project or detour. After the comment period is over, staff review and consider the comments as the project is refined. Responses are sent to those asking for follow-up.



MODIFIED PUBLIC INFORMATION/ONLINE EVENT

A modified public information opportunity presents similar information as a public information meeting, but no meeting is held.

This method of public involvement can be used when the Iowa DOT intends to purchase very little or no right of way or when a detour is involved.



PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is held when an environmental document, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), has been prepared and is available for the public to review. An environmental document compares different project alternatives and their influence on the environment.

The hearing involves a formal presentation made by Iowa DOT staff and an open forum, where attendees may ask their questions directly to Iowa DOT staff.

During and after the meeting, individuals are encouraged to send in written comments or leave comments online (iowa.dot.gov/pim) regarding the project. Those comments are reviewed by Iowa DOT staff and considered as the project alternatives are refined, with responses sent to those asking for follow-up.



CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

This is a legal process that allows the Iowa DOT the ability to protect an area called the corridor preservation zone (CPZ) that may be needed for future highway improvements.

Having a CPZ ensures coordination between the Iowa DOT and potentially affected property owners takes place and local development is consistent with potential future transportation improvements. The CPZ is valid for three years and is eligible for renewal.

A legal notice is prepared and published in the local newspaper(s). Notices are also sent to local officials requiring them to contact the Iowa DOT if a rezoning request, subdivision plat, or building permit (with an estimated value greater than \$25,000) is received for property located within the CPZ.

