

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE DES MOINES
RIVER OVERFLOW PROJECT AND NOTICE TO ACQUIRE PRIVATE
PROPERTY FOR SAID PROJECT**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that a Public Meeting will be held on September 8, 2011, between 5 and 7 p.m., at the Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Drive, Pleasant Hill, Iowa, to discuss the proposed construction of dual overflow bridges on U.S. 65 along the Des Moines River floodplain southeast of Des Moines.

The proposed improvement would impact Eagles Roost Wildlife Area which is a Section 4(f) resource and is subject to protection as a wildlife and waterfowl refuge. The management rights to approximately 138 acres of adjacent Iowa Department of Transportation(DOT) land would be transferred to Polk County Conservation to mitigate for the conversion of Section 4(f) land to highway right-of-way use. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing to make a *de minimis* effect determination for the impacts. This is your opportunity to review and comment on the proposed *de minimis* effect of the proposed project on the wildlife areas. Comments on the proposed *de minimis* effect will be accepted through September 19, 2011, at the address listed below. *De minimis* impacts on publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges are defined as those that do not "adversely affect the activities, features and attributes" of the Section 4(f) Resource.

This public meeting will be conducted utilizing an open forum format. No formal presentation will be made. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend the meeting anytime between 5 and 7 p.m. to express their views about the proposal. Oral and written statements will be accepted at the public meeting.

For general information regarding the proposal, or the public meeting, contact Tony Gustafson, Assistant District Engineer, District 1 Office, Iowa Department of Transportation, 1020 South Fourth Street, Ames, Iowa 50010, telephone 515-239-1635 or 800-899-0623, e-mail tony.gustafson@dot.iowa.gov.

Written statements and related exhibits, in place of or in addition to oral statements made at the public meeting, will be accepted at the meeting or may be submitted to the Office of Location and Environment, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, 50010 or via the public meetings website at www.iowadot.gov/pim. All written material received by September 19, 2011, will be included in the meeting summary.

All persons interested in the project are invited to attend this meeting. The meeting room is accessible for persons with disabilities. If you require special accommodations at the meeting, please notify Mr. Gustafson by September 1, 2011, so arrangements can be made.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

A governmental body which proposes to acquire property under the power of eminent domain for a public improvement project is required to give notice of a public meeting to all owners and contract purchasers of record of agricultural land that may be subject to condemnation.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) will consider approving the following described project:

Proposed construction of dual overflow bridges on U.S. 65 along the Des Moines River floodplain southeast of Des Moines.

2. PRIVATE PROPERTY MAY BE ACQUIRED BY PURCHASE OR CONDEMNATION.

If the Iowa DOT approves the above-described project, the Iowa DOT will be required to acquire property for the proposed improvements. The Iowa DOT will attempt to purchase the required property by good faith negotiations; however, it may condemn those properties, which it is unable to purchase.

3. IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROCESS TO DECIDE TO FUND THE DESIGN, TO SELECT THE ROUTE OR SITE LOCATION, OR TO ACQUIRE OR CONDEMN PROPERTY INTERESTS.

In order to acquire the necessary properties and property interests required for the project, the Iowa Department of Transportation is required to approve the location of the project. The Iowa DOT will hold a public meeting to present to the public the proposed improvement and the anticipated impacts of the improvement.

Persons whose property may be affected by the project, as well as the general public, may comment on the project at the meeting. The comments will be presented to Iowa DOT staff. Based in part on the information received at the meeting, the Iowa DOT will select the location for the project and decide whether to fund the site-specific design and to authorize by purchase or condemnation the acquisition of right of way for the project.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT.

As previously stated in this notice, a Public Meeting will be held on September 8, 2011, between 5 and 7 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Drive, Pleasant Hill, Iowa. Iowa DOT staff will be available to answer questions about the proposal. Written statements can be submitted to the Iowa DOT at the meeting, or sent to Office of Location and Environment, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010 or via the public meetings website at www.iowadot.gov/pim.

5. IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTACT.

For information regarding the proposal contact:

Tony Gustafson, Assistant District Engineer
District 1 Office
Iowa Department of Transportation

1020 South Fourth Street
Ames, Iowa 50010
telephone 515-239-1635 or 800-899-0623
e-mail tony.gustafson@dot.iowa.gov.

This notice is given by authority of the Iowa Department of Transportation.

This notice is not an offer to buy land nor is it an offer to provide relocation assistance. Affected property owners are not required to move from their residences or relocate their businesses at this time. Eligibility for relocation benefits will not occur until after an offer to purchase has been made to individual property owners.

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.