



**Public Information Meeting
for the proposed improvement of U.S. 30 in Benton County
from the Tama County line east to the west junction of U.S. 218**

October 6, 2010

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Blairstown Community Center – Community Room

Welcome to the Iowa Department of Transportation's public information meeting for the proposed four-lane expansion of U.S. 30 in Benton County.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide you with an opportunity to review and comment on the range of alternatives for the expansion of U.S. 30 from two lanes to four lanes including possible interchanges at IA 21 and U.S. 218. You are also being asked to comment on the project's Purpose and Need statement which will be included in the environmental document.

Project History

A Public Information Meeting was held April 20, 2010, to inform the public that the U.S. 30 corridor study through both Tama and Benton Counties that was started in the mid 1990's has been reinitiated. Environmental field studies in the two counties were started during the summer of 2010 and will be completed for Benton County in the fall of 2010. Additional study area was added to the corridor in August 2010 to accommodate the potential for an interchange at U.S. 218. Studies for this area will be completed throughout the fall of 2010.

Alternative roadway alignments for the improvement of U.S. 30 were presented at a Public Information Meeting in September 1999. The proposed concept presented at that meeting is being carried forward as Alternative 1 and is described below.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of the proposed project is to improve safety, provide system continuity for more efficient traffic flow, and increase capacity of the highway. This will be accomplished by upgrading and modernizing the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane highway.

Range of Alternatives - Roadway

There are three build alternatives and a No Build Alternative that are under consideration for this segment of U.S. 30. Each build alternative is proposed to have a median width of 82 feet. Intersections with higher traffic volumes will be studied to determine if the median should be widened further at those locations to accommodate turning traffic.

Access control through the corridor will be, at a minimum, Priority III with access allowed approximately every one-quarter mile. As the development of the alternatives progresses, the

access locations throughout the corridor will be reviewed to determine if any modifications will be needed.

The following is a description of the alternatives:

No Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative would be a continuation of the highway system as it currently exists. This alternative will be carried forward throughout the development of the environmental document as a baseline for comparison with the Build Alternatives. The No-Build alternative would not meet the Purpose and Need identified for the project.

Alternative 1

Alternative 1 represents the alignment as proposed in 1999. This alternative provides for construction of four new lanes to the south of the existing roadway starting just east of the IA 21 intersection. The new lanes would proceed east and tie into the existing four-lane roadway section at U.S. 218. This alternative would generally maintain the right-of-way line on the north side of the existing highway.

Alternative 1 would avoid impacts to a potentially eligible historic property as well as Calvary Cemetery located between County Road V-56 and 20th Ave.

Alternative 2

Alternative 2 provides for construction of four new lanes to the north of the existing roadway from just west of the IA 21 intersection to just west of the 19th Avenue/County Road V-56 intersection. At this point the alignment would shift to the south of the existing roadway to avoid impacting Calvary Cemetery and would continue on the south side to tie into the existing four-lane roadway section at U.S. 218.

This alternative would utilize some of the existing roadway alignment for the east bound lanes of travel but would require right-of-way to be acquired on both the north and south sides of the existing roadway. Alternative 2 would have an impact to a potentially eligible historic property.

Alternative 3

Alternative 3 provides for construction of four new lanes with the westbound lanes generally on the alignment of the existing roadway. The new roadway would tie-into the existing four-lane section at U.S. 218.

This alternative would require right-of-way to be acquired on both the north and south sides of the existing roadway. The Alternative 3 alignment may need to be moved further to the south in the area of the potentially eligible historic property and the Calvary Cemetery to avoid impacts to these properties.

Range of Alternatives - Interchanges

Studies are currently underway to determine the need for interchanges at IA 21 and U.S. 218. Options for interchanges will be included in the environmental document however the interchanges may not be initially built with the construction of the new four-lanes. The right of

way needed may be acquired with the project but actual construction could be deferred to a later time. Following is a description of the interchange options.

U.S. 30 and IA 21

There are two interchange options, both diamond interchanges, being considered for the IA 21 intersection. The options are as follows:

- For Option 1 the mainline (U.S. 30) would be constructed over IA 21.
- In Option 2 the side road (IA 21) would be constructed over U.S. 30.

U.S. 30 and U.S. 218

There are three interchange options being studied for the U.S. 218 intersection. All three options include the relocation of U.S. 218 to the west to accommodate an interchange. Due to the location of Prairie Cemetery and the Youngville Café, an interchange at the existing intersection of U.S. 30 and U.S. 218 is not feasible. The interchange options are as follows:

- Option 1 would relocate U.S. 218 to the west approximately 450 feet. The interchange proposed for this option is a folded diamond interchange with U.S. 218 constructed over U.S. 30.
- Option 2 would relocate U.S. 218 to the west approximately 3,000 feet. The interchange proposed for this option is a diamond interchange with U.S. 218 constructed over U.S. 30.
- Option 3 would relocate U.S. 218 to the west approximately 2,000 feet. The interchange proposed for this option is a three quadrant interchange with U.S. 218 constructed over U.S. 30.

Project Schedule

The Benton County portion of the corridor is currently included in the 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program with \$6.1 million for right of way acquisition in 2014 and \$6.3 million for right of way acquisition in 2015.

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.

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 a comment, question, or concern regarding the Purpose and Need, the range of alternatives or the corridor in general, please provide your comments during the meeting or forward them on the attached self addressed Citizen Comment form. Deadline for receipt of comments is October 21, 2010. A comment form is also available at the following website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim>.

Contact Us

If you have a comment or concern regarding the proposed improvements of U.S. 30 in Benton County or would like to be added to the project mailing list, please fill out a comment form at tonight's meeting or contact:

Catherine Cutler

Transportation Planner
Iowa Department of Transportation
District 6 Office
430 16th Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-3150
800-866-4368 (toll free)
Catherine.Cutler@dot.iowa.gov

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.



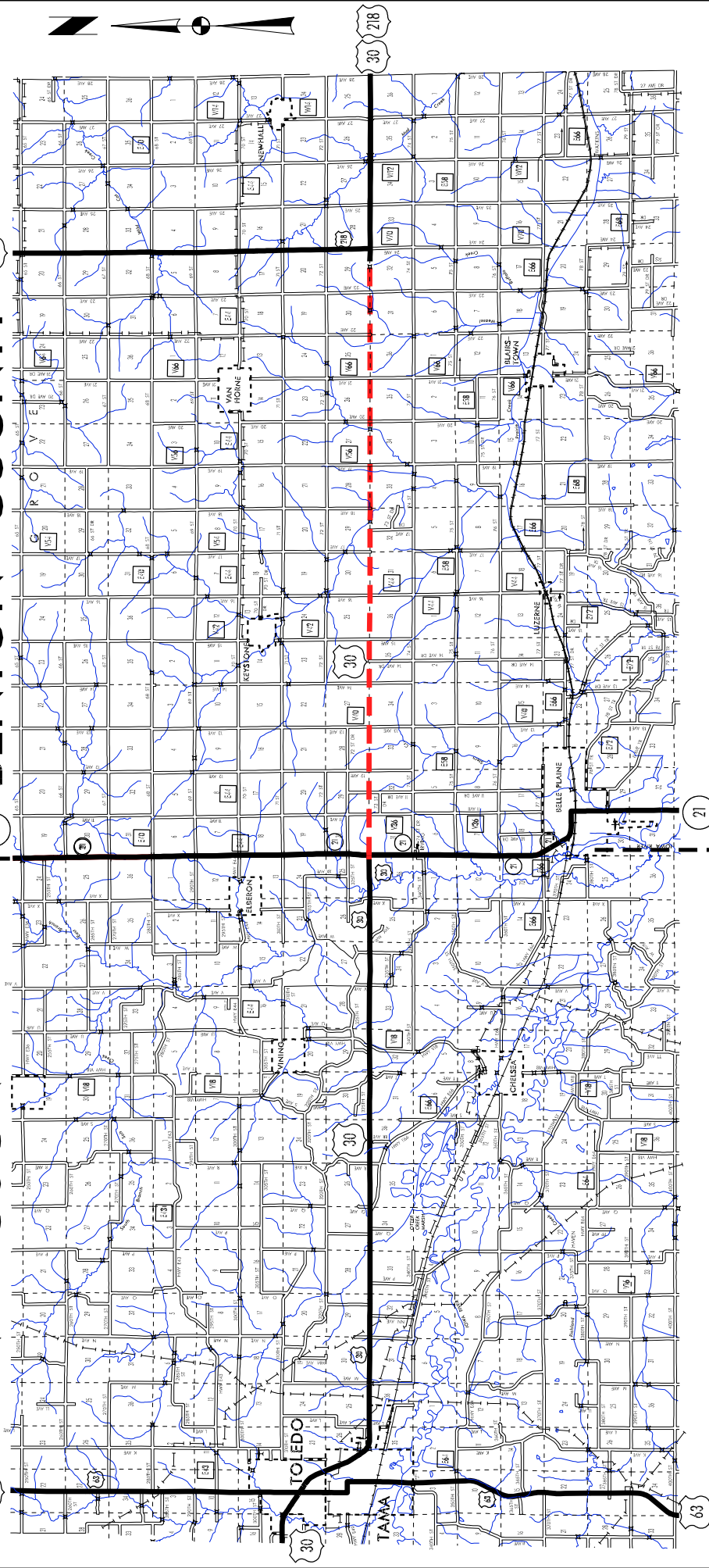
Iowa Department
of Transportation

Discuss improvement alternatives for
U.S. 30 from the Tama County line
east to the west junction of U.S. 218

PUBLIC INFORMATION
MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2010

TAMA COUNTY

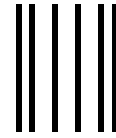
BENTON COUNTY



Proposed Improvement

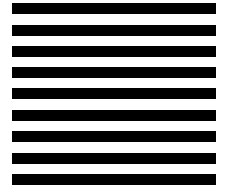
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