

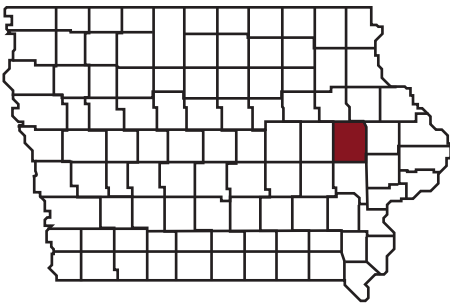


PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 12, 2019

LINN COUNTY

NHSX-151-3(131)--3H-57



U.S. 151 and Linn County Road X-20 in Linn County

Welcome to the Iowa Department of Transportation's Public Hearing for U.S. 151 in Linn County. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed improvements of U.S. 151 and Linn County Road X-20, and to gather public feedback on the environmental documentation, preferred alternative, and potential impacts related to the planned improvements. We would like to listen to your thoughts and ideas, and answer any questions regarding the project.

STUDY AREA

The study area for the proposed improvements includes the intersection of U.S. 151 and Linn County Road X-20 near the City of Springville. The study area extends approximately 1-mile east and 1-mile west of the existing intersection along U.S. 151 and from 1,710 feet north of the intersection to approximately 2,190 feet south of the intersection along Linn County Road X-20.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the intersection of U.S. 151 and Linn County Road X-20 to safely and efficiently accommodate existing and future traffic volumes.

The project is needed to improve safety conditions at the intersection due to the existing crash rate. During the study period from January 2012 to December 2016 there were 25 crashes. This equates to a crash rate of 91.3 crashes per million vehicle miles traveled (MVMT), which is higher than the statewide average of 76 MVMT for rural expressway roadways.

BACKGROUND

In 2002, U.S. 151 opened as a 4-lane, partially controlled expressway with a southern bypass of Springville. In 2008, following numerous crashes at this intersection, Iowa DOT proposed to improve the at-grade crossing by constructing a J-turn intersection. The J-turn concept was presented at public meetings in 2008, 2009, and 2010, where it was then dismissed as several citizens pointed out that the different elevations of the existing roadway reduced sight distance

Contact Us

If you have any concerns regarding the project presented today, please contact:

Catherine Cutler, transportation planner
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5455 Kirkwood Blvd. SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Phone: 319-364-0235 or
800-866-4368

Email: catherine.cutler@iowadot.us

To view information concerning this project please access the following website:

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





CRASH HISTORY

From 2003-2016 there were a total of 61 crashes.

2007: High crash rate at this location was identified.

From 2003-2007 there were a total of 23 crashes.

2008: Installation of warning signs and flashing beacons on U.S. 151 (westbound/southbound), along with additional signage and pavement markings within the median to encourage drivers to cross the highway in a safe manner.

2011: Installation of paved shoulders

2012: Installation of flashing beacon warning (eastbound/northbound), advisory speed limit signs, and automated intersection warning system.

From 2012-2016 there were total of 25 crashes.

at the intersection and thought this may be the cause of many of the crashes at this location. Citizens also expressed concerns regarding the ability of larger vehicles, particularly farm implements being able to safely make crossing maneuvers required of a J-turn. The public asked that other alternatives be explored, including grade separated interchange options.

In October 2010, another PIM was held to present 16 alternatives developed by Iowa DOT. As a result of public input from this meeting, the interchange options were further refined and screened to four reasonable interchange alternatives. These four alternatives were taken through an agency review and concurrence process. As a result of this process, three alternatives were eliminated from further consideration and the Preferred Alternative was selected.

PROJECT COSTS AND SCHEDULE

This project is not currently included in the Iowa DOT's FY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program and therefore no construction schedule has been established. The EA has been reviewed and signed by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by FHWA is expected to be completed in 2019, after which time the project can be considered for future funding. Once funding is committed, the DOT can develop design plans so the project can then be constructed.

RIGHT OF WAY

As part of the proposed improvements, additional right-of-way may be required. The following paragraphs provide information regarding the right-of-way process followed by the Iowa DOT. Please keep in mind specific right-of-way needs have not been identified at this time.

Iowa DOT policy provides for appraisal of property and/or property rights needed for each project. Professional techniques and methods are used to determine "just compensation" in accordance with federal and state constitutions, laws and regulations. Appraisals are prepared to assure fair treatment for both the property owner and the public.

After completing the appraisal, a right-of-way agent contacts each owner to explain the plans and appraisals and negotiate for the acquisition of the required right-of-way. If an agreement cannot be reached through negotiations, the required right-of-way may be acquired through eminent domain.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Department of Transportation appreciates your attendance today. We encourage you to share your ideas concerning this project with us. If you prefer, you may submit them electronically using the following website: www.bit.ly/iowadot86052222, by the attached comment form (self-addressed and pre-paid for your convenience), or by emailing your comments to the District Planner. All comments and information provided will be given consideration as the project development process continues. Other opportunities for input will be provided throughout the project development process.


Thank you very much 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.

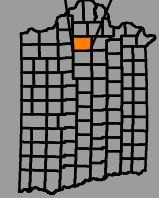




NEPA Boundary is the area of environmental clearance and contains potential impacts. The right-of-way, which will be determined later, should be within the NEPA Boundary and be less.



Created: 1/23/2019



Project Location within Linn County

NEPA Boundary

Preferred Alternative

Preliminary Plan:
Not Final- Subject to Change

LOCATION MAP

NHSX-151-3(130)-3H-57

U.S. 151: Springville Interchange
Linn County, Iowa





You may also leave comments at <http://www.iowadot.gov/pim> or www.bit.ly/iowadot86052222

Would you like a response?

11

YES

NO

What is your level of support for this project?

1

In Favor

1

Neutral

1

Not in Favor

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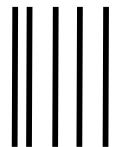
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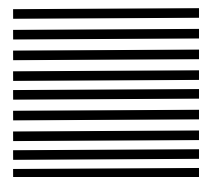
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