

# **PROJECT STATEMENT**

**FOR THE OPEN FORUM DESIGN PUBLIC  
HEARING REGARDING THE RECONSTRUCTION  
OF THE I-29/U.S. 275/IA 92 INTERCHANGE AND  
THE ASSOCIATED RAILROAD MODIFICATIONS  
IN COUNCIL BLUFFS**

**PROJECT NUMBER: POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY  
IM-29-2(56)48--13-78**

**HEARING LOCATION:  
COUNCIL BLUFFS COMMUNITY HALL  
205 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA**

**MAY 28, 2009**

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

## **DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY**  
**IM-29-2(56)48--13-78**

**DATE OF HEARING: MAY 28, 2009**  
**MARK KERPER**  
**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 Design Public Hearing to acquaint the people of Council Bluffs and vicinity with the proposed reconstruction of the I-29/U.S. 275/IA 92 interchange, the associated railroad relocations and possible land acquisition needs for the improvement. This public hearing offers mutual benefits. It gives the Iowa DOT an opportunity to explain the design of the proposed project 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 Mark Kerper, Office of Location and Environment, at the above address. Deadline for receipt of statements or exhibits for inclusion in the printed transcript is June 8, 2009; 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**

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. Oral statements will be accepted at the tape recording station. Written statements should be presented to the staff person near the entry;
3. Submission of written statements following the hearing. Those received by June 8, 2009, 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**

Several public meetings have been conducted for the improvement of the interstate system in Council Bluffs and additional meetings are anticipated as project development continues.

## **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

This project provides for the reconstruction of the I-29/U.S. 275/IA 92 interchange and associated railroad relocation in Council Bluffs. Land adjacent to the proposed improvement which may be impacted by the project will also be identified. The extent of the land acquisition will not be known until environmental studies and project development have been completed.

The interstate reconstruction will be completed in stages. It is anticipated that this interchange will be completed and connected to existing I-29 prior to construction of the east I-80/I-29 systems interchange.

## **PROJECT SCHEDULE AND COSTS**

The Draft 2010-2014 Iowa Department of Transportation Improvement Program includes \$218,448,000 for the reconstruction of the interstate system in Council Bluffs. The ultimate improvement will be completed over several years based on the availability of funding.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for segment 3 of the Council Bluffs Interstate System (CBIS) improvement is being prepared. The EA will determine if the proposed project meets the purpose and need and if the project will have no significant adverse social, economic or environmental impacts of a level that would warrant an

environmental impact statement. Final alternative selection would occur following completion of a Location Design Public Hearing and a public review period.

Unless significant impacts are identified as a result of public review or at the Public Hearing, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would 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.

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.

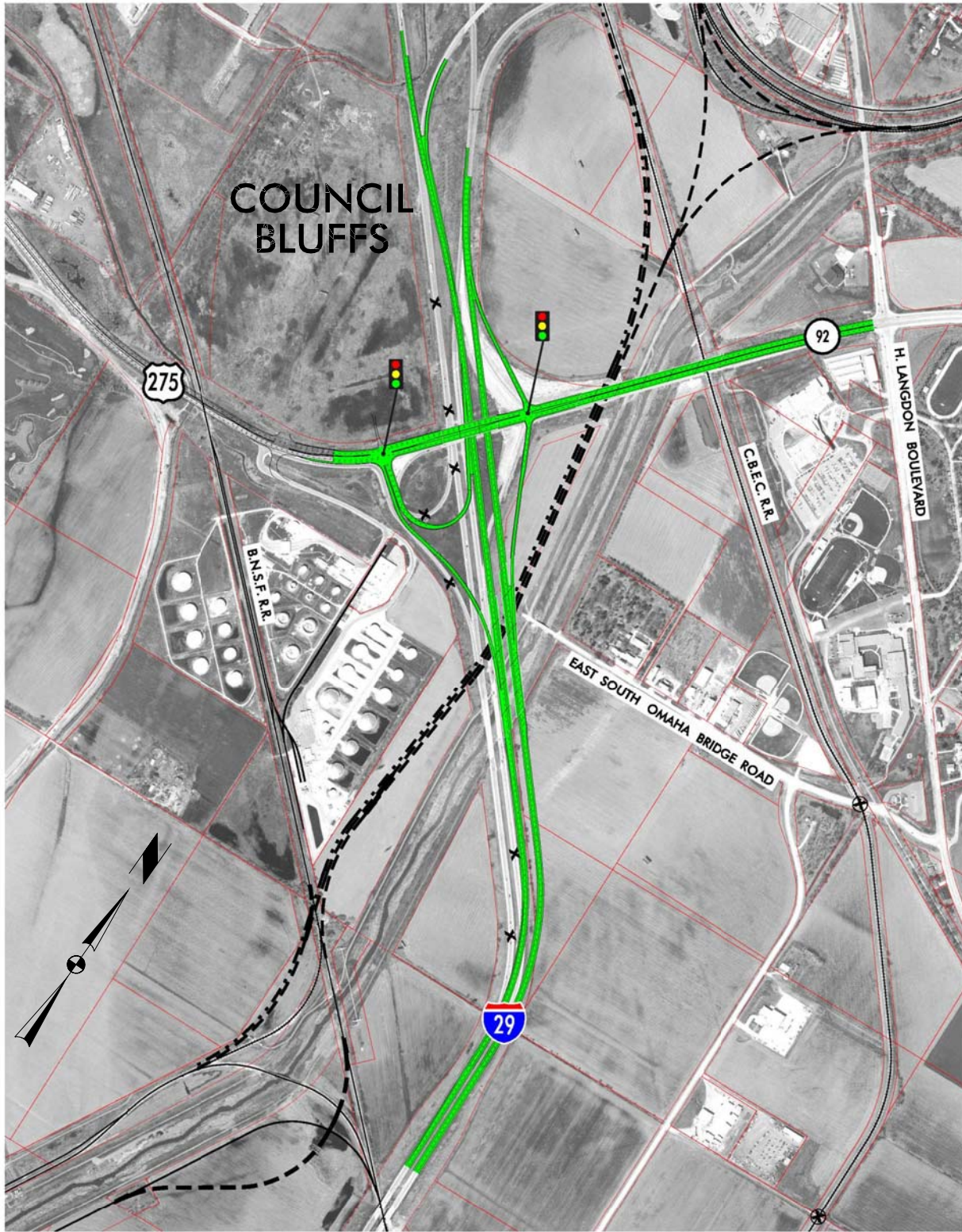
Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact 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 reconstruction of the  
I-29/U.S. 275/IA 92  
interchange and construction of the  
railroad relocation in Council Bluffs



**OPEN FORUM  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MAY 28, 2009**

**POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY**



Proposed Improvement



Railroad Relocation





# Iowa Department of Transportation

HIGHWAY DIVISION, OFFICE OF LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT, 515-239-1225

## Citizen Comments

**POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY**

**IM-29-2(56)48--13-78**

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E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

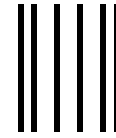
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**Written statements received by  
June 8, 2009, will be included  
in the public hearing transcript.**



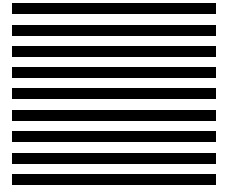
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