



Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvements

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INSIGHT

"Rebuilding for the Future"

Issue Four

September 2005



Public Information Meeting To Be Held

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) invites you to participate in a public information meeting for the Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvements Project (CBIS Improvements Project). The meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2005, at the Mid-America Center from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to update the public on the progress of the project as it moves into Tier 2 and gather feedback. The meeting will be an open house format with a variety of materials available for viewing.

In addition, representatives from the Iowa DOT and the Nebraska Department of Roads will be available to discuss issues and answer questions.



Mark Your Calendars!

**Public Meeting
Oct. 11, 2005**

**Where: Mid-America Center
Room H-I-J
One Arena Way
Council Bluffs, IA**

When: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Open House Format
Come Any Time**



Build Concepts to be Shown

Displays showing the preliminary concepts will be shown for the first time at the public information meeting on Oct. 11. In Tier 2, these concepts will be evaluated with respect to engineering details, environmental impacts and public input, and a preferred concept for Segments 1, 2 and 3 will be identified by mid-2006. The concepts shown on Oct. 11 will include:

Segment 1

- Additional lanes on I-80 between 13th St. and the Missouri River
- New I-80 bridge over the Missouri River (located north of the existing bridge)

Segment 2

- Additional lanes on I-80 and I-29
- Reconstructed interchange at Nebraska Ave. or a new interchange at 23rd Ave.
- Two concepts for the west system interchange

Segment 3

- Additional lanes on I-80 and I-29
- Reconstructed interchanges at South Expressway, Madison Ave. and U.S. 275
- Two concepts for the east system interchange

Segment 4

- Additional lanes on I-29
- Two concepts for the I-29/I-480/West Broadway system interchange providing direct access between West Broadway and I-29

Segment 5

- Additional lanes on I-80
- New interchange layout at U.S. 6/Kanesville Blvd.

Tier 2 for Segments 1, 2 and 3 is beginning now. Tier 2 for Segments 4 and 5 will begin later.

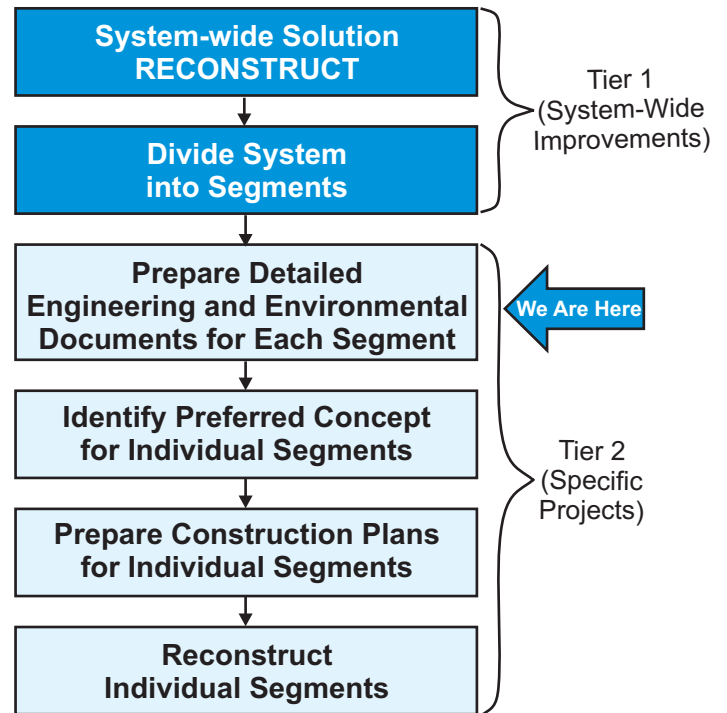


CBIS Improvements Project Moves into Tier 2

The CBIS Improvements Project is a major effort focused on improving the interstate system in Council Bluffs. Due to the size and difficulty of the project, the Iowa DOT developed the project in two tiers. In Tier 1, the need to improve the interstate system was examined. The preferred solution in the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to rebuild the interstate system.

Also in Tier 1, key decisions with respect to the preferred solution were identified and presented at a public hearing held in Feb. 2005 (see below for more information about the key decisions). Finally, the interstate system was divided into smaller, manageable segments for evaluation in Tier 2. See Page 3 to learn more about the project segments.

Tier 2 will focus on further development of engineering details and environmental analysis to determine the preferred concepts for the individual segments within the study corridor. A flow chart of key points in Tier 1 and Tier 2 is shown to the right.



Key Element Decisions Made in Tier 1

The Tier 1 Draft EIS for the CBIS Improvements Project identified the construction alternative (rebuild the interstate) as the preferred solution for the identified needs of the system. At the Feb. 2005 public hearing for the Tier 1 Draft EIS, the Iowa DOT requested public input on two key elements of the construction alternative. After receiving public input on these issues, the following decisions were documented in the Tier 1 Final EIS:

I-80/I-29 from 24th St. to South Expressway

How should traffic be handled on the overlapping section of I-80 and I-29 from west of 24th St. to east of South Expressway?

Two very different concepts (“dual-divided freeway” and “combined freeway”) were developed and were discussed at the Feb. 2005 public hearing. The Tier 1 Final EIS identifies the “dual-divided freeway” concept as the preferred concept for the I-80/I-29 overlap section. In this concept, traffic on I-29 and traffic destined for Council Bluffs would use the outer lanes to access 24th St. and South Expressway. Through traffic on I-80 would use the inner “express”

lanes and would be free-flowing through Council Bluffs. Although I-80 and I-29 would be separated, drivers on either route will be able to access the other interstate in both directions.

Access at West Broadway

Should access to West Broadway be provided from I-29 or should access remain similar to existing conditions?

Based on an evaluation of traffic operations and input received during the Tier 1 Draft EIS comment period, the construction alternative includes providing direct access from I-29 to West Broadway. Specifics on how access will be provided will be determined in Tier 2.

The Tier 1 Final EIS documenting these decisions was approved by the Federal Highway Administration on Aug. 30, 2005. The concepts chosen for these key decisions will be refined with additional detailed engineering and environmental studies in Tier 2.



CBIS Project Will be Divided Into Five Segments

During Tier 1 of the CBIS Improvements Project, the interstate system was studied as a whole and rebuilding the interstate (the construction alternative) was identified as the preferred solution to address the needs of the system. Due to the magnitude of the improvements, the project will be implemented in smaller, manageable segments over time. Boundaries were established to divide the system into segments with logical ending points that could be designed and built independent of adjacent segments.

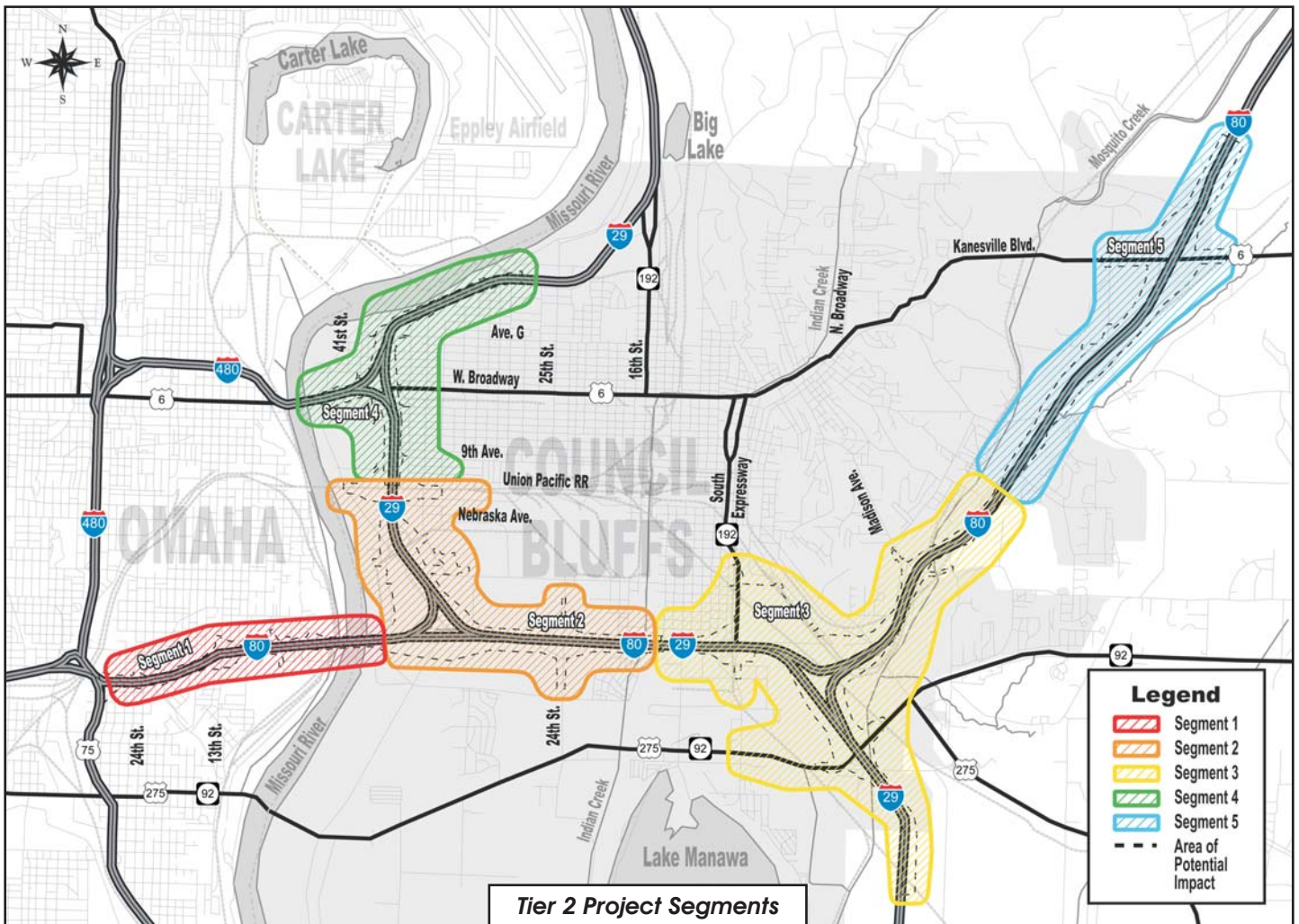
The following segments (as shown in the graphic below) were identified for Tier 2 projects:

- **Segment 1** - I-80 in Nebraska, including the 13th St. interchange and expansion of the Missouri River Bridge;
- **Segment 2** - I-80/I-29 from the Missouri River to Indian Creek, including the west system interchange, the 24th St. interchange, the

Nebraska Ave. interchange, and the Union Pacific Railroad overpass;

- **Segment 3** - I-80/I-29 from east of Indian Creek to north of Madison Ave., including the east system interchange, and the South Expressway, U.S. 275, and Madison Ave. interchanges;
- **Segment 4** - I-29 north of I-80, including the I-29/I-480/West Broadway system interchange and the 9th Ave. interchange; and
- **Segment 5** - I-80 from north of Madison Avenue to east of Kanesville Blvd., including the Kanesville Blvd. interchange.

Additional engineering and environmental studies will be conducted for each of these segments in Tier 2. Segments 1, 2 and 3 have been identified as the first priorities for Tier 2.



Future Public Involvement Opportunities

Public involvement is an important part of the CBIS Improvements Project. During Tier 1, three newsletters were distributed, two public information meetings and a public hearing were conducted, and several discussions were held with interested parties. The study team is looking forward to continued participation and input from the public as the project moves into Tier 2.

Over the next several months, a variety of public involvement opportunities will be available. On Oct. 11, 2005, a public meeting will be held in Council Bluffs to kick off the start of Tier 2. As the project progresses, there will be opportunities for business groups, neighborhood groups, and property owners to meet with the design team to discuss the project. An additional public meeting is planned for 2006 in which the preferred concepts for Segments 1, 2 and 3 will be presented.

For more information or to discuss the project, please contact John Selmer (contact information at right).

Contact Us



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CBIS Improvements Project

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