

Notice of public hearing and environmental assessment availability

Proposed improvements of the I-29/I-480/West Broadway Interchange area and intent to acquire property in Pottawattamie County to be discussed in Council Bluffs on August 15, 2017

All interested persons are invited to attend a public hearing between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. August 15, 2017, at the Council Bluffs Interstate Program Office in the Mall of the Bluffs, 1751 Madison Avenue, Suite 750, in Council Bluffs. The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss the proposed improvements of the I-29/I-480/West Broadway Interchange area in Council Bluffs from just north of the Union Pacific Railroad crossing to just south of the 25th Street interchange, as well as to gather feedback from the public regarding the completed environmental documentation, alternative(s), and impacts for the proposed improvements. The area also includes the I-29 and I-480 system interchange. A meeting to discuss specific right-of-way acquisition will be held later this year.

The proposed project will impact two publicly owned recreational properties. Dodge Riverside Golf Course located at 421 Harrah's Boulevard and Westwood Park, located at 1200 South 35th Street. These facilities are owned and operated by the City of Council Bluffs.

Dodge Riverside Golf Course and Westwood Park have been determined to be a Section 4(f) resource and the proposed project is expected to have a de minimis impact to both properties. De minimis impacts are defined as those that, after consideration of any measures to minimize harm (such as avoidance, minimization, mitigation, or enhancement), do not adversely affect the activities, features and attributes that qualify it for Section (f) protection. The use of property from Dodge Riverside Golf Club and Westwood Park will, for transportation purposes, include all measures to minimize harm to the affected activities, features, or attributes that qualify them for Section 4(f) protection. Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 was enacted as a means of protecting publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife/waterfowl refuges, as well as historic sites of local, state, or national significance from conversion to transportation uses. With this notice, the public is invited to review and comment on the impacts this project will have on the protected activities, features and attributes to the facilities.

The Iowa Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project. A copy of the EA will be available for inspection at the meeting, and can also be found on the Iowa DOT website (www.councilbluffsinterstate.iowadot.gov), and at the Council Bluffs Public Library, 400 Willow Ave, in Council Bluffs. Copies may be obtained by contacting either of the following:

Tamara Nicholson, Director
Iowa DOT Office of Location and Environment
800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010
Telephone: 515-239-1798
Tamara.Nicholson@iowadot.us

Karen Bobo, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
105 Sixth Street, Ames, IA 50010
Telephone: 515-233-7300
Karen.Bobo@dot.gov

Iowa DOT staff members will be available to discuss the project informally between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. and following a formal presentation until 7:00 p.m. A formal presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by a question and answer session (3 minute limit per speaker). Oral and written statements will be accepted at the public hearing. Written statements and related exhibits, in place of or in addition to oral statements made at the 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 or at www.councilbluffsinterstate.iowadot.gov. All written comments received by September 14, 2017 will be included in the project transcript.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

When the Iowa DOT is proposing to acquire property under the power of eminent domain for a public improvement project it is required to give notice of a public hearing to all owners and contract purchasers of record of agricultural land which may be subject to condemnation.

Proposed improvements: Notice is hereby given that the Iowa DOT will consider approving the project described above.

Private property may be acquired by purchase or condemnation: If the Iowa DOT approves the project described above, the Iowa DOT will be required to acquire property for the proposed improvement(s). The Iowa DOT will attempt to purchase the required property by good faith negotiations; however, it may condemn those properties it is unable to purchase through eminent domain. The proposed location of the public improvement(s) described above is shown on preliminary plans for the project. Preliminary plans are available from the Office of Location and Environment, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Process to decide to fund the design, select the route or site location, or acquire or condemn property interests: To acquire the necessary properties and property interests required for the project, the Iowa DOT is required to approve the project location. The Iowa DOT will hold a public hearing, to present the proposed improvement(s) and potential impact(s) as a result of the improvement(s). Persons, whose property may be affected by the project, as well as the general public, may comment on the project at the public hearing. Based in part on the information received at the hearing, the Iowa DOT will select the project location and determine whether to fund the site-specific design and to authorize by purchase or condemnation the acquisition of right of way for the project.

Iowa DOT contact: For general information regarding the proposed improvements or public hearing, contact Scott Suhr, transportation planner, Iowa DOT District 4 Office, 2210 E. Seventh St., Atlantic, Iowa 50022, phone 712-243-3355 or 800-289-4368, email Scott.Suhr@iowadot.us.

This notice is given by authority of the Iowa DOT and 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.

More information will be posted as it becomes available at the Iowa DOT's website: www.iowadot.gov/pim and www.CouncilBluffsInterstate.IowaDOT.gov.

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.