



Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvements

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INSIGHT

"Rebuilding for the Future"

Issue One

January 2003



Iowa DOT Launches Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvements Project

Dear Citizen:

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) has begun a major effort to improve Interstates 80 and 29 within the Council Bluffs metropolitan area. This project is known as the Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvements Project (CBIS Improvements Project). This is a multi-year project that will require several phases for implementation.

The first phase of the project is underway and includes a planning study to evaluate the interstate system and determine the best type of solution to accommodate existing and future traffic demand. The initial phase of the project, being conducted by the consultant team of HDR and CH2M Hill, is expected to take two and a half years and includes preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The CBIS Improvements Project is one of the largest interstate improvement projects undertaken by the Iowa DOT. If it is determined that full reconstruction of the interstate system in this area is required, a significant financial investment would be needed and implementation may take 20 years or more to complete. This project will have a major impact on the city of Council Bluffs, so it is important that the public be involved from the beginning and provide input to the project team for use in developing and evaluating solutions. I invite you to get involved in the project now, because together we can make this project a success in "Rebuilding for the Future."

John Selmer, P.E.
District 4 Engineer

Public Information Meeting To Be Held

Mark Your Calendars!

Public Meeting Jan. 23, 2003

**Where: Best Western Crossroads
2216 27th Avenue
(24th Street & I-80)**

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

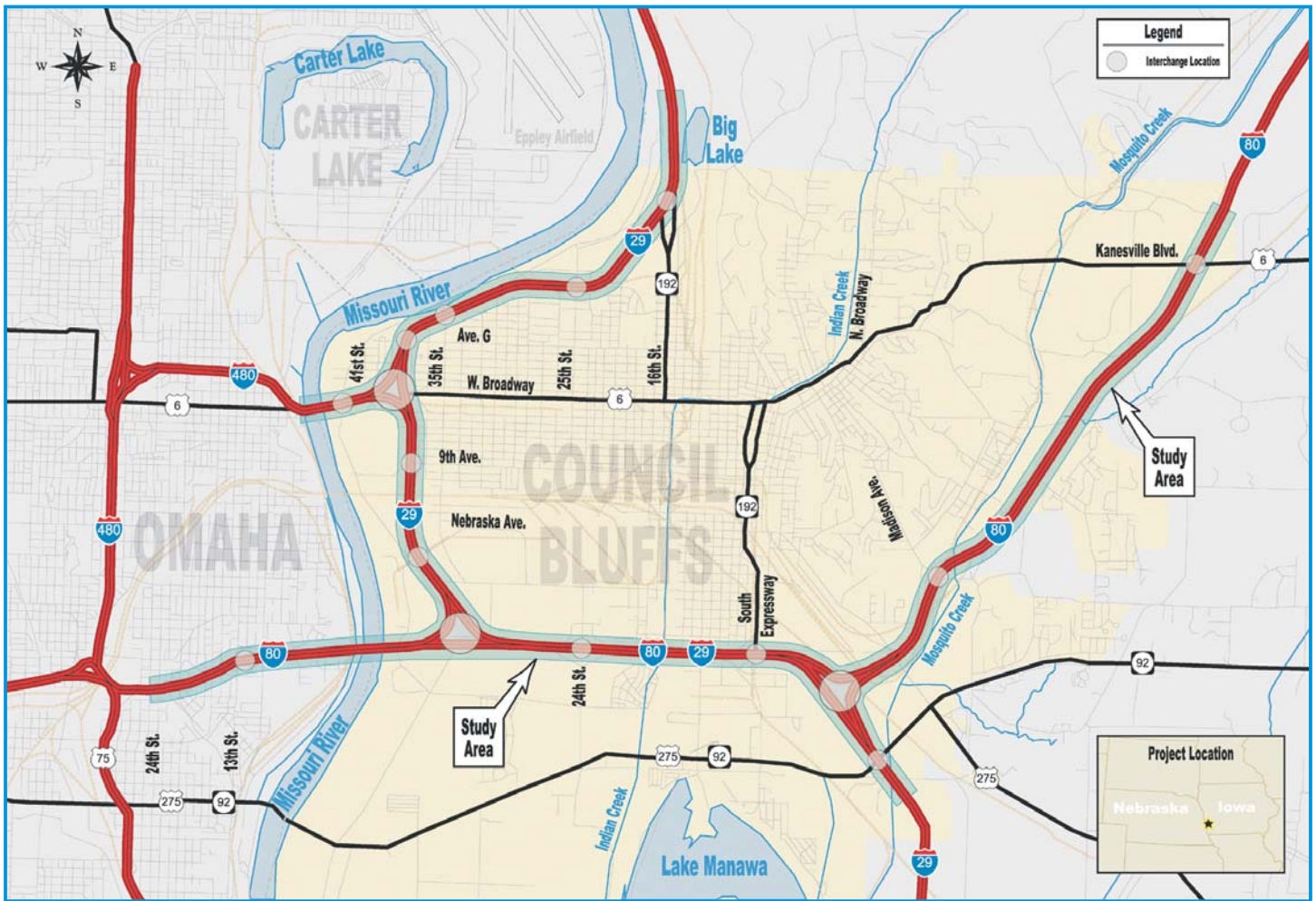
Open House Format



Directions to Public Meeting

The Iowa DOT invites you to participate in the first public information meeting for the CBIS Improvements Project. The meeting will be held Jan. 23, 2003, at the Best Western Crossroads of the Bluffs from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the project, and gather information from the public about existing traffic problems and important features that exist within the project area. Potential solutions will not be presented at this meeting. The meeting will be an open house format with a variety of project background materials available for viewing. In addition, staff will be available to discuss issues and answer questions.



Study area for Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvements Project

CBIS Improvements Project Covers Entire Metro Area

The study area for the improvements to the Council Bluffs interstate system includes approximately 18 miles of I-80 and I-29, and 16 interchanges in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metropolitan area. The limits of the area to be studied are I-80 from the 24th Street interchange in Omaha to the U.S. 6 (Kanesville Blvd.) interchange northeast of Council Bluffs, and I-29 from just south of the Iowa 92 and U.S. 275 interchange south of Council Bluffs north through the Iowa 192 (16th Street) interchange north of Council Bluffs. Also included is I-480 from the Nebraska side of the Missouri River bridge to the system interchange with I-29 in Council Bluffs.

Contact Us



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Be Part of the Solution - Get Involved in the CBIS Improvements Project

Public involvement will be on-going throughout the multi-year implementation of the CBIS Improvements Project. During this initial phase, public input will be important in identifying existing traffic problems and significant features within the project area that need to be considered. Examples of significant features include: archaeological and historical sites, wetlands and floodplains.

Public input is also essential in defining the future transportation needs of the community, with respect to the interstate system and developing a means of serving those needs. As the project progresses to more detailed study and design in later phases, public input will be required on issues such as noise, landscaping and aesthetics. Public involvement opportunities during the initial phase of the CBIS Improvements Project, include the following:



Public Meetings

Meeting with the public will be the primary means of gathering information and feedback. These meetings will include public open houses, as well as small group meetings to discuss specific project issues. The first public information meeting will be held Jan. 23, 2003. See page 1 for details.



Newsletters

Project newsletters will be mailed to persons on the project mailing list and available at city hall, the library and chamber of commerce; or call the Iowa DOT Project Coordinator, Tracy Roberts at 800-289-4368 to have a newsletter sent to you. The newsletters will announce public meetings and provide updates on the progress of the project.

Speakers Bureau

Members of the project team are available to make a presentation to your civic group or organization. If you would like to have someone present at your meeting, contact Tracy Roberts at 800-289-4368.

Steering Committee

A steering committee has been established for the CBIS Improvements Project to provide the project team with a link to the local community. The committee will meet periodically throughout the initial phase of the project and assist the project team in identifying existing traffic problems and important features within the study area. The steering committee will also serve as a sounding board for the project team when identifying proposed solutions. Most importantly, the committee will assist the project team in keeping the public informed about the project. The committee consists of DOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) staff and twelve members from the Council Bluffs area who were chosen based on their interest in the project and commitment to improving the community.

<i>Jane Bell</i>	Ameristar
<i>Scott Belt</i>	Councilman City of Council Bluffs
<i>Matt Buchanan</i>	Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce
<i>Don Gross</i>	Community Development Director City of Council Bluffs
<i>Tom Hanafan</i>	Mayor City of Council Bluffs
<i>Rebecca Hiatt</i>	Operations Engineer FHWA
<i>Paul Mullen</i>	Program Director Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
<i>Greg Reeder</i>	City Engineer City of Council Bluffs
<i>Tracy Roberts</i>	Project Coordinator Iowa DOT
<i>Lisa Rold</i>	Transportation Engineer FHWA
<i>John Selmer</i>	District 4 Engineer Iowa DOT
<i>Chuck Smith</i>	Iowa West Foundation
<i>Scott Suhr</i>	Field Services Coordinator, Iowa DOT
<i>Mike Taylor</i>	Citizen
<i>Paulette Tyrakoski</i>	Sapp Brothers
<i>Mike Wallner</i>	Public Works Director City of Council Bluffs
<i>Matt Walsh</i>	Councilman City of Council Bluffs

Why Does the Interstate System Need Improvement?

The interstate system in Council Bluffs is typically used by 20,000 to 75,000 cars each day, with approximately 11 to 25 percent of those vehicles being trucks. In some areas, I-80 has more than twice the number of cars using it today than it was designed for in the 1960s. Traffic on I-80 between the I-29 interchanges is projected to increase to over 110,000 cars a day by the year 2030. Traffic on I-29 north and south of I-80 currently averages 20,000 cars per day, and is expected to double by the year 2030.

In addition to the high number of vehicles using the interstate, there are several interchanges in the metro area that are carrying higher traffic volumes than they were originally designed to serve. This has resulted in congestion at interchanges during peak traffic periods.

The high traffic volumes on the Council Bluffs interstate system are partly the result of the intense economic development that has occurred along the interstate. In addition to existing land uses, several new land uses are being planned or are under construction.

Most of the Council Bluffs interstate system was constructed in the late 1960s. Although routine maintenance projects were conducted throughout the 1980s and 1990s, no major improvements have been made to the interstate system since it was constructed.

The average life expectancy for highway pavement is 20 to 30 years, so the Council Bluffs interstate has outlived its expected life span. Much of the pavement and many of the bridges need updating.

The Council Bluffs interstate system was designed to roadway standards developed in the 1950s and 1960s. These standards have been improved over the years based on research and experience. Utilizing these contemporary roadway standards provides the opportunity to improve safety and efficiency.



CBIS Improvement Project

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