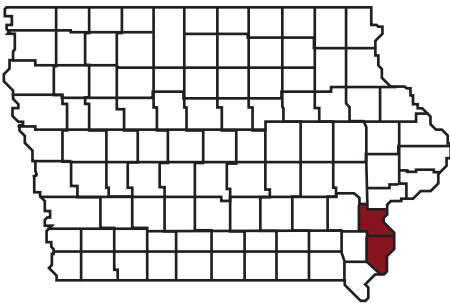




# ONLINE PUBLIC MEETING

APRIL 19, 2021  
DES MOINES & LOUISA COUNTIES  
NHSX-061-2(66)--3H-29



## **Reconstruction of U.S. 61 from north of Mediapolis to about 0.5 miles north of Iowa 78**

The purpose of this online meeting is to discuss the right-of-way needs for the proposed reconstruction of U.S. 61, from just north of 235th Street in Des Moines County to just south of 30th Street in Louisa County, to a four-lane divided highway with a new grade separated diamond interchange over State Highway 78/Louisa County Road H-22. The online meeting is available to view at [www.iowadot.gov/pim](http://www.iowadot.gov/pim).

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would reconstruct about 5.13 miles of two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided highway with a new diamond interchange at the Iowa 78/Louisa County Road H-22 intersection. The preferred alignment begins just north of 235th Street in Des Moines County and ends just south of 30th Street in Louisa County. This section will connect with the new U.S. 61 four-lane highway being constructed from Burlington to just north of the city of Mediapolis. Just north of 250th Street, the proposed new U.S. 61 alignment is relocated upwards of about 0.25 miles to the east of the existing highway prior to tying back into existing U.S. 61 at 30th Street. The new grade separated diamond interchange will be located just east of the existing U.S. 61 and Iowa 78 intersection. The 2018 annual average daily traffic (AADT) traffic volumes within the limits of the proposed project is about 5,100 vehicles per day (vpd) with 13% trucks.

## PROJECT HISTORY

The project is part of three sections of reconstruction of 18-miles of the U.S. 61 corridor to construct a four-lane divided rural expressway from Memorial Park Road in Burlington north to one mile north of Iowa 78. The first section, nearly 10.6 miles, begins just north of the City of Burlington to just south of 210th Street. In 2018, construction started on Section 1. Section 2, about 2.8 miles, starts from just south of 210th Street to north of Mediapolis. Section 3, approximately 5.13

### Contact Us

If you have any concerns regarding the project please contact:

Hector Torres-Cacho  
transportation planner  
Iowa DOT District 5 Office  
205 E. 227th Street  
Fairfield, Iowa 52556

Phone: 641-472-4171 or  
800-766-4368

Email: [hector.torres-cacho@iowadot.us](mailto:hector.torres-cacho@iowadot.us)

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

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

If you do not have access to the internet, or need assistance viewing the materials, please contact Hector Torres-Cacho.





The proposed project from north of Mediapolis to about 0.5 miles north of Iowa 78 has been added to the 2021-2025 Five Year Iowa Transportation Program for construction. The funding is broken down as follows:

**2023 – \$2.4 million**

RIGHT-OF-WAY

**2024 – \$12.8 million**

GRADING

**2024 – \$3.1 million**

RCB CULVERT CONSTRUCTION

**2025 – \$2.8 million**

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

## Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic operations and improve economic development opportunities. The need for this project is a combination of the following issues:

-U.S. 61 was built in 1920's and does not meet current design standards.

-Poor sight distance at curves.

-Access to roadways and driveways impede flow of traffic.

-Traffic volumes are anticipated to increase by 34 percent by 2041 with 13 percent of heavy trucks along the 18 mile U.S. 61 corridor project area.

-U.S. 61 corridor was identified as a Commercial and Industrial Network (CIN) "to enhance opportunities for the development and diversification of the state's economy" and to "improve the flow of commerce; make travel more convenient, safe, and efficient; and to better connect Iowa."

miles, begins north of Mediapolis to about one mile north of Iowa 78.

Discussion of the four-lane improvement to U.S. 61 from north of Burlington to north of Iowa 78 dates back to September 25, 1996, when the first public hearing was held. A Public Information Meeting was held July 30, 1997, a selected bypass alternative was approved by the Iowa Transportation Commission on November 25, 1997, and a Design Public Hearing was held September 27, 2001. However, in December 2001, the Iowa Transportation Commission removed the project from the Five-Year Transportation Improvement Program. The Iowa DOT re-initiated environmental and field studies for the U.S. 61 corridor in 2010. In the 2016-2020 Five-Year Program, the Iowa Transportation Commission approved construction funds for Section 1. In the 2020-2024 Five-Year Program construction funds were committed for Section 2 and Section 3.

## RIGHT OF WAY

As part of the proposed improvements, additional right-of-way will be required. The following paragraphs provide information regarding the right-of-way process followed by the Iowa DOT.

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

An online public meeting is now available to view on the Iowa DOT's Public Involvement webpage: [www.iowadot.gov/pim](http://www.iowadot.gov/pim). To view meeting and related content click on "U.S. 61 in Des Moines and Louisa County" from the list of events. The online meeting allows you to watch a pre-recorded presentation with information about the project at your own pace and at any time. The Iowa DOT is asking interested parties to take a few minutes to view the information and offer any feedback. If you do not have access to the internet, or need assistance viewing the materials, please contact the DOT representative listed on the first page.

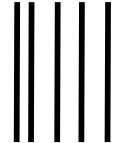
Visit the Iowa DOT's project related public involvement website at [www.iowadot.gov/pim](http://www.iowadot.gov/pim) for information about scheduled public meetings and hearings, or view and offer input on any DOT project using the new "Map Search" feature. Comments and questions regarding the online meeting should be received by May 10, 2021. If you would like to receive future email notifications, or submit a comment or question regarding this project, go to: [www.bit.ly/iowadot3737](http://www.bit.ly/iowadot3737).



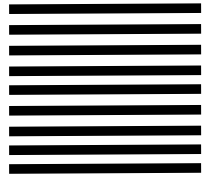
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