

PROJECT STATEMENT

**FOR THE OPEN FORUM DESIGN
PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE
PROPOSED I-29 IMPROVEMENT IN SIOUX
CITY FROM 0.5 MILE SOUTH OF SERGEANT
BLUFF NORTH TO NEAR THE BNSF RAILWAY
BRIDGE (SEGMENT 1)**

**PROJECT NUMBER: WOODBURY COUNTY
IM-29-6(151)142--13-97**

HEARING LOCATION:

**SIOUX CITY CONVENTION CENTER
801 FOURTH STREET
SIOUX CITY , IOWA**

FEBRUARY 5, 2009

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

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

WOODBURY COUNTY
IM-29-6(151)142--13-97

DATE OF HEARING: FEBRUARY 5, 2009

MARK KERPER

LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT

HIGHWAY DIVISION

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

800 LINCOLN WAY, AMES, IOWA, 50010

515-239-1225

INTRODUCTION

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is conducting this Open Forum Design Public Hearing to acquaint the people of Sioux City and vicinity with the proposed reconstruction of I-29, in Sioux City, from 0.5 mile south of Sergeant Bluff north to just south of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge (Segment 1). 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 February 16, 2009; however, all correspondence received after this date will be included in the project file 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 February 16, 2009, will become a part of the public hearing transcript.

Hearing transcripts are provided to Iowa DOT staff, the Transportation Commission and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review. 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

A Pre-Location Study for the I-29 corridor in Sioux City was conducted in 1997. On November 4, 2004, a Public Information Meeting was held to discuss the I-29 Interstate Study and proposed corridor improvements including interchange reconfigurations, accommodations for future traffic, and alleviation of merging issues.

A Public Information Meeting was held May 10, 2006, to discuss the development progress for Segment 1.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed project provides for the reconstruction of I-29, in Sioux City, from 0.5 mile south of Sergeant Bluff north to 0.25 mile south of the BNSF Railway Bridge (Segment 1). Total length of this project is 5.8 miles. This project is part of the 10.2-mile improvement of I-29 from 0.5 mile south of Sergeant Bluff north to the Big Sioux River.

The project provides for reconstruction of I-29 in Sioux City as a variable width multi-lane facility. From the beginning of the project north approximately one mile, the roadway would provide two traffic lanes in each direction. The roadway would then widen to a six-lane facility as the project continues north to the BNSF Railway Bridge. Auxiliary lanes would also be constructed from the Singing Hills Boulevard interchange north to the U.S. 20/U.S. 75/I-129 interchange to address the additional traffic movements between the interchanges. York Street east of I-29 would be reconstructed.

The Singing Hills Boulevard interchange would be reconstructed as part of this project. Although the U.S. 20/U.S. 75/I-129 interchange will not be rebuilt, several ramps will have segments reconstructed to accommodate the proposed improvement. The existing First St/Ogden Avenue interchange will be used as it presently exists. New dual bridges will be constructed on I-29 over 8th St, the Union Pacific Railroad and Singing Hills Boulevard. Drainage structures and storm sewer would be constructed as necessary. Portions of the existing recreation trail along the west side of I-29 would be reconstructed to accommodate the reconstructed roadway. The four-lane section of I-29 would have a depressed grass median while the six-lane roadway would provide a paved median with concrete barrier rail constructed within the median.

Traffic would be maintained on existing I-29, U.S. 20, U.S. 75, I-129 and Singing Hills Boulevard by staged construction. Ramps associated with the various interchanges within the project limits may need to be closed and the traffic detoured during construction.

Access rights were previously acquired for this section of I-29. Access rights would be acquired on Singing Hills Boulevard through the interchange reconstruction area.

PRESENT FACILITY

Existing I-29 in Sioux City is a four-lane divided roadway. It was constructed in 1961. The roadway was resurfaced in 1970, 1988 and 2002.

TRAFFIC VOLUMES

The 2008 annual average daily traffic (AADT) using I-29 in the project area was 37,500 vehicles per day (VPD). Anticipated 2030 AADT is 49,000 VPD.

SUFFICIENCY RATINGS

Sufficiency ratings in Iowa are composed of five major categories, which measure the roadway's structural adequacy, motorist safety, and capability to accommodate traffic with a minimum of conflict. A rating of 90 – 100 is classified as excellent; 80 – 89 is good; 65 – 79 is fair; 50 – 64 is tolerable; and 0 – 49 is poor. The current sufficiency rating for existing I-29 in the project area ranges from 74 (fair) to 86(good).

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND COSTS

The 2009 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Program shows the following schedule and costs for the reconstruction of I-29 in Sioux City:

ACTIVITY	2009	2010	20011	2012	2013
Grade and Pave	\$7,491,000	\$21,962,000	\$20,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$34,000,000
Right of Way	\$2,465,000	\$ 4,279,000			
Bridge & Culverts	\$ 699,000				
Lighting, Signals & Signs	\$1,100,000				
Total Programmed: \$131,996,000					

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

A categorical exclusion discussing the environmental constraints within the Segment 1 study area was prepared and approved August 8, 2007. A categorical exclusion is a category that has been found not to have a significant environmental impact and, thus, does not require an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. The I-29 Segment 1 project falls into this category.

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.

Personnel from the Office of Right of Way, Relocation Assistance Section, have studied the proposed project presented at this hearing and anticipate that no displacements will result from this improvement.

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

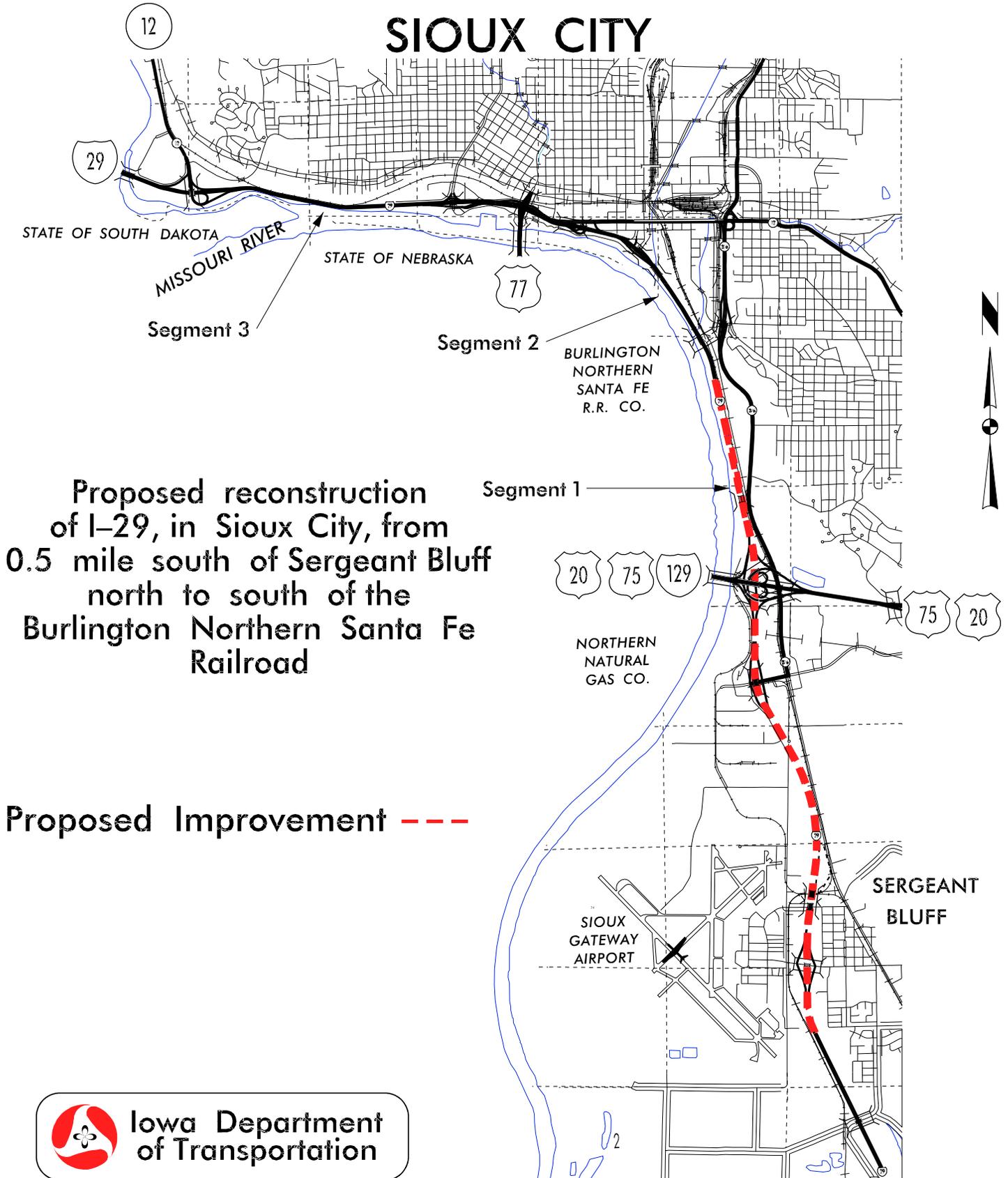
If you have any comments on the proposed project or questions about its development, please make your comments known at this hearing or forward them on the attached self addressed Citizen Comment form.

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.

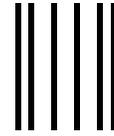
DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 5, 2009

SIoux CITY



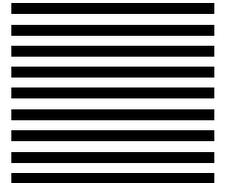
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