

**NOTICE OF  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AVAILABILITY  
AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR I-29 IN WOODBURY COUNTY**

IN RE: Proposed improvement of Interstate 29 in Sioux City from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway to west of the Hamilton Boulevard interchange (Segment 2).

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that an Open Forum Location Design Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2008, between 5 and 7 p.m. at the Sioux City Convention Center, Rooms 1 & 2, 801 Fourth Street, Sioux City, Iowa, to discuss the location and design of the following improvement:

Project IM-29-6(168)146--13-97 is a 3.5-mile improvement which begins approximately 0.25 mile south of the BNSF Railway Bridge over the Missouri River and continues north and west to about 0.7 mile west of the existing Hamilton Boulevard Interchange. This project is one of three segments being developed to improve I-29 through Sioux City from the South Dakota border east and south to approximately 0.5 mile south of the Sergeant Bluff/Sioux Gateway Airport Interchange.

The improvement being discussed at this hearing provides for the expansion of the existing four-lane roadway to six lanes and modifying several interchanges; specifically, the Floyd Boulevard, Nebraska Street/Pierce Street, US 77/Wesley Parkway, and Hamilton Boulevard interchanges. The proposed improvement will consider reconfiguring the four interchanges to increase safety, enhance connections to the local roadway system, improve traffic operation, replace aging infrastructure, and address traffic merging issues that currently exist in this corridor.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) evaluates three Build Alternatives and the No Build Alternative for this segment. Potential impacts of the alternatives to wetlands, water resources, historic buildings, homes, businesses, parks, and public facilities and services have been evaluated and are included in the DEIS.

The three Build Alternatives represent the range of reasonable and representative alternatives that meet project purpose and need. Information regarding these alternatives will be available at the public hearing.

This is your opportunity to review and comment on the proposed *de minimis* effect of the I-29 Segment 2 project on portions of Chris Larsen Park (a Section 4(f) Resource). *De minimis* impacts on publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges are defined as those that do not “adversely affect the activities, features and attributes” of the Section 4(f) Resource.

This public hearing will be conducted utilizing an open forum format. No formal presentation will be made. Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) staff members will be present with plans, displays, and related information to discuss the project informally.

Interested individuals are encouraged to attend the hearing anytime between 5 and 7 p.m. to express their views and ask questions about the proposed improvement. 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 public hearing, will be accepted at the hearing or may be submitted to: Office of Location and Environment, Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, 50010. All written material received by June 9, 2008, will be included in the hearing transcript.

A copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available for inspection at the hearing and is also available for viewing at the Main Sioux City Public Library, 529 Pierce Street; Morningside Branch, 4005 Morningside Avenue; Perry Creek Branch, 2912 Hamilton Boulevard; and at the Iowa Department of Transportation District 3 Office, 2800 Gordon Drive, all in Sioux City, Iowa. A review deadline of June 9, 2008, has been established for receipt of comments on the document. All comments received on the DEIS by that date will be considered by the Iowa DOT and the Federal Highway Administration in their evaluation of the environmental impacts of the project. Comments on the DEIS should be submitted to James P. Rost, Director, Office of Location and Environment, at the above address.

Pertinent information which has been developed by the Iowa DOT in the planning and design of this project, as well as correspondence received from governmental agencies or public advisory groups interested in or affected by the proposed highway improvement, will be available for inspection at the hearing. For general information regarding the proposed improvement or the public hearing, contact Tony Lazarowicz, District 3 Engineer, Iowa DOT, 2800 Gordon Drive, P.O. Box 987, Sioux City, Iowa, 51102, telephone 800-284-4368 or 712-276-1451.

All persons interested in the project are invited to attend this hearing. The meeting room is accessible for persons with disabilities. However, if you require special accommodations at the hearing, please notify Mr. Lazarowicz by May 15, 2008, so arrangements can be made.

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.