

INTERSTATE 80 PLANNING STUDY (PEL)

Public Involvement Plan

Office of Location and Environment | November 2015



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1. INTRODUCTION

Because transportation projects can greatly affect a community, public input is extremely important. Public involvement opportunities allow the public a chance to provide ideas and comments regarding the development of a transportation project. This I-80 Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is the guiding document for the public involvement process. The I-80 Planning Study will follow the Planning Environmental Linkages (PEL) model, (also commonly referred to as the Planning Study), which allows the system decisions made with the feasibility study to be carried into subsequent project development.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is preparing the planning study for Interstate 80 (I-80) from Council Bluffs in western Iowa to Bettendorf in eastern Iowa. I-80 spans over 300-miles across Iowa carrying vehicle volumes ranging from 20,000 to 35,000 vehicles per day with heavy truck/freight traffic making up anywhere from 15 to 30 percent of that traffic. Nationally, I-80 extends nearly 3,000 miles from California to New Jersey. Interstate 80 in Iowa is vital to the state and national economy providing the infrastructure to move people and goods across Iowa and throughout the nation. The purpose of the Planning Study is to determine whether the current infrastructure will meet the demands in the next 30 years and what potential improvement alternatives will be necessary in the foreseeable future.

2. PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The purpose of this document is to outline the PIP for the I-80 Planning Study. It is important to provide outreach to community stakeholders and the general public to ensure that they are informed of the project, and also to gather ideas, opinions, and general comments throughout the process. The purpose of the PIP process, as outlined in this document, is to:

- Inform and raise awareness of the study
- Generate interest from the general public/stakeholders
- Solicit feedback

Community stakeholders to be included in the public involvement process include state, local, tribal, and federal agencies, special interest groups, and resource agencies. This PIP identifies the stakeholders, or list of officials whom have been identified for providing outreach, and the means to provide them with information and gain their feedback.

Due to the length of the I-80 corridor and the large population base surrounding I-80 (nearly one-third of Iowa's population), it was determined that the most efficient way to reach out to a larger audience would be through online information. A project website will be created (and updated frequently) to display information regarding the study so that one consistent message is being distributed to the general public and stakeholders. Additionally, the website will be setup to allow anyone from the general public and stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback and share their opinions with the DOT.

When the I-80 Planning Study website is created and ready to go live, the DOT will distribute the link to the identified stakeholders and the general public through:

- E-mail
- Social media: Twitter and Facebook
- Media release, local newspapers

Following the I-80 Feasibility Study website debut, there will be three additional distributions as outlined below:

- Distribution 1: Spring 2016 when the online public information meeting (PIM) is available
- Distribution 2: Summer 2016 when the online PIM is available
- Distribution 3: Late 2016/early 2017 when the I-80 PEL is complete

3. OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

A large component to the I-80 PIP is to identify appropriate stakeholders. A stakeholder is a person or group who is involved in or affected by a course of action. For the I-80 study, stakeholders will include elected and community officials, government agencies, tribal groups, freight groups, and the general public. While the majority of the I-80 mileage runs through rural settings, such as farmland, over one-third of Iowa's population lives along the I-80 corridor. Since I-80 serves such a large population base in Iowa, a large focus of this PIP revolves around identification of the appropriate contacts in which to distribute information (by e-mail and online).

An official contact list with stakeholders will be compiled by the DOT. The contact list will be compiled electronically, in spreadsheet format, with e-mail addresses for each of the stakeholder groups. An e-mail will be sent to the list of official contacts prior to each of the PIMs to notify them of the upcoming meeting.

The following provides an outline of the contacts to be compiled in the "Officials" contact list:

1. **Environmental**: contacts from federal and state agencies normally included in our early project coordination efforts will be included on the official list of contacts.
2. **Tribal Contacts**: tribal contacts from nations requesting involvement with the I-80 effort will be included on the official list of contacts. When email is available, an e-mail will be sent to tribal contacts. The remaining will receive a hard copy letter/notification in the mail.
3. **County Officials**: county officials from counties through which I-80 passes will be included on the official list of contacts. The Iowa State Association of Counties website will be utilized for this effort. Refer to **Table 1** for a list of counties.

County contacts should include e-mail addresses for the following officials if they are available:

- Engineer
- Board of Supervisors
- Sheriff
- Emergency Management
- Zoning

Table 1. List of Counties to Compile for the "Official Distribution List"

Counties			
Adair	Iowa	Polk	*Audubon (optional)
Cass	Jasper	Pottawattamie	*Guthrie (optional)
Cedar	Johnson	Poweshiek	*Shelby (optional)
Dallas	Madison	Scott	

*Optional counties are those which are in close proximity to I-80

4. City Officials:

Contacts from cities through which I-80 passes and those which have incorporated limits within 5 miles of I-80 will be included in the official list of contacts. There are two different priority classes from which to obtain city official contact information. Priority 1 cities include a larger distribution list of city officials (if they are available); whereas, for Priority 2 cities only the City Clerk and/or the City Administrator e-mail address will be included on the distribution list.

- Priority 1: cities which I-80 passes through and/or large urban areas within close proximity to I-80. Refer to **Table 2**. Contacts at a minimum should include the City Clerk and/or Administrator; however, if e-mail addresses are available online for the following, they should also be included:
 - Mayor
 - Clerk
 - Council Members
 - Police Chief
 - Fire Chief
 - Chamber of Commerce President (if applicable)
- Priority 2: cities which have incorporated limits within 5 miles from I-80. Refer to **Table 3**. The City Clerk and/or Administrator's e-mail will be populated for Priority 2 cities.

Table 2. List of Priority 1 Cities to Compile for the “Official Distribution List”

Priority 1 Cities			
Adair	Council Bluffs	Johnston	Urbandale
Altoona	Davenport	Le Claire	Walcott
Ankeny	De Soto	Mitchellville	Walnut
Avoca	Des Moines	Newton	Waukee
Bettendorf	Dexter	Shelby	West Branch
Bondurant	Grinnell	Stuart	West Des Moines
Coralville	Iowa City	Tiffin	Williamsburg

Table 3. List of Priority 2 Cities to Compile for the “Official Distribution List”

Priority 2 Cities			
Adel	Eldridge	Menlo	Riverdale
Anita	Grimes	Minden	Stockton
Atalissa	Guernsey	Mingo	Underwood
Brayton	Hills	Neola	University Heights
Brooklyn	Kellogg	North Liberty	Valeria
Carter Lake	Ladora	Oakland Acres	Van Meter
Casey	Lambs Grove	Oxford	Victor
Clive	Malcom	Panorama Park	West Liberty
Colfax	Marne	Pleasant Hill	Wilton
Durant	Maysville	Princeton	Windsor Heights
Earlham	McClelland	Redfield	Atlantic

Iowa League of Cities:

In addition, the Iowa League of Cities will be contacted so that they will be informed of the Planning Study as well.

5. MPO/RPA contacts:

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Planning Association's (RPAs) which have jurisdiction in counties or cities where I-80 is located will be included on the official list of contacts. The Director and/or Transportation Planner will be represented on the list of contacts. **Table 4** provides a list of the MPOs and RPAs to be included on the contact list.

6. Transit contacts:

Public transit agencies, intercity bus carriers and transit mobility coordinators will be included on the official list of contacts.

Table 4. List of MPO's and RPA's

MPO/RPA's	
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)	RPA 13/Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO)
RPA 14/ATURA Transportation Planning Affiliation/Southern Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG)	RPA 11/Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA)
Des Moines Area MPO (DMAMPO)	Region 6 Planning Commission
East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)	Metropolitan Planning Organization of Johnson County (MPOJC)
Bi-State Regional Commission	

7. Iowa Legislature:

Official legislators whose districts cover areas where I-80 is located will be included on the official contact list. Refer to **Table 5** for a list of Iowa Legislative Districts to be contacted.

Table 5. Iowa Legislature Districts to Contact

Iowa Congressional Districts			
District 1	District 2	District 3	
Iowa Senate Districts			
District 8	District 10	District 11	District 15
District 16	District 18	District 19	District 20
District 22	District 37	District 38	District 39
District 43	District 46	District 47	District 49
District 17	District 21	District 45	
Iowa House Districts			
District 16	District 19	District 20	District 21
District 22	District 29	District 30	District 31
District 32	District 35	District 36	District 38
District 39	District 40	District 73	District 74
District 76	District 77	District 85	District 92
District 97	District 86	District 89	District 93
District 94	District 90	District 44	District 41
District 42	District 43	District 33	District 34
District 37	District 15		

8. Freight/Trucking:

Major truck stops along I-80 will be included in the official contact list. A list of these truck stops is shown in **Table 6**. Additionally, the Iowa Motor Truck Association, Iowa Freight Advisory Council, and Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) will be included in the list of Freight/Trucking contacts.

Table 6. Truck Stops to Contact

Truck Stops
Travel Centers of America (TA)- Walcott, Brooklyn, Council Bluffs
Love's Travel Stop- Davenport, Newton, Clive
Pilot Travel Center- Walcott, Brooklyn, Atalissa, Des Moines, Avoca, Council Bluffs
Flying J Travel Center- Davenport, Altoona
Freight/Trucking
Iowa Motor Truck Association
Iowa Freight Advisory Council
Owner Operated Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA)

9. I-80 Rest Areas:

Iowa DOT staff that is in charge of the I-80 rest areas will be included on the official list of contacts. They will be forwarded informational material to post at the rest area bulletins. Refer to **Table 7**.

Table 7. Rest Area Contacts

Iowa DOT Rest Area Contacts	
Rest Area Region	Rest Area Locations-nearest city (mile marker)
<i>State Rest Area Administrator</i>	
Western Iowa Rest Areas	Underwood (19)
Central Iowa Rest Areas #1	Adair (81)
Central Iowa Rest Areas #2	Mitchellville (147), Grinnell (180)
Eastern Iowa Rest Areas #1	Wilton (270), Davenport (300), Tiffin- EB (237)
Eastern Iowa Rest Areas #2	Victor (208), Tiffin- WB (237)
<i>Statewide Rest Area Inspection</i>	

10. Media Contacts:

The DOT will publish a media release to inform local media of the I-80 Planning Study.

11. Internal DOT Contacts:

Internal contacts at the DOT will be included on the official list of contacts in order to keep them notified on the progress and status of the I-80 Feasibility Study.

4. ADVERTISING/PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS

The previous sections focus on the groups that will be included within the public outreach. This section provides a closer look at the actual Outreach Process.

Newspaper Advertisement

With such a large project corridor, information will be distributed electronically through the project website, e-mail, and social media as much as possible. Traditional media will also be used in order to reach, invite, and inform the general public who may have been missed with an e-mail distribution or those who might not have access to a computer or the internet.

Traditional media such as local newspapers will be used to communicate information about the study. PI staff will work with Department Location Engineer(s) to develop an advertisement for each of the public meetings. The advertisement will be placed in local newspapers associated with Priority 1 cities as shown in **Table 8**. The advertisement will also be sent to the Office of Strategic Communications to include on the project website. Along with information about the Feasibility Study, the ad will include a link to the location or URL of the online PIM's and also a link for comments and feedback.

Table 8. Publications for the Priority 1 Cities

Advertisements Newspapers- Priority 1 Cities			
Adair- Adair News	Council Bluffs- Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil	Johnston- NA	Urbandale- NA
Altoona- Altoona Herald Index	Davenport- Davenport Quad-City Times	Le Claire- NA	Walcott- NA
Ankeny- NA	De Soto- Adel Dallas Co. News	Mitchellville- Colfax Jasper County Tribune	Walnut- NA
Avoca- Avoca Journal-Herald	Des Moines- Des Moines Register	Newton- Newton Daily News	Waukee- NA
Bettendorf- Bettendorf News	Dexter- NA	Shelby- Harlan Tribune	West Branch- West Branch Times
Bondurant- NA	Grinnell- Grinnell Herald-Register; Grinnell Poweshiek County CR	Stuart- Stuart Herald	West Des Moines- NA
Coralville- NA	Iowa City- Iowa City Press-Citizen	Tiffin- NA	Williamsburg- Williamsburg Journal Tribune
Iowa League of Cities publication			

Poster

A poster with information about the study and to publicize the meetings will be developed. The poster will be e-mailed to officials in order to print and distribute throughout their community. Along with information about the Feasibility Study, the poster will include a link to the location or

URL of the online PIM's and also a link to for comments and feedback. The poster will be distributed to the following groups:

- List of Officials
- Iowa DOT District Offices
- Iowa DOT Rest Stop Contacts
- Truck Stop Contacts

Social Media

Social media will be used to communicate announcements about the study and to publicize meetings. PI staff will coordinate with the Office of Strategic Communications to distribute the information through social media including Twitter and Facebook. Along with information about the Feasibility Study, the social media blast will include a link to the location or URL of the online PIM's and also a link to for comments and feedback. A hashtag for the study could be produced which allows one to follow any social media related to this project.

5. PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

It is anticipated that there will be three PIMs held throughout the duration of the I-80 Planning Study. The first two PIM's will likely be an online meeting posted to the official webpage, and the final meeting will likely be an in-person meeting.

Online PIM's

The online meeting would consist of a slide by slide presentation (with audio) for viewers to watch. At the end of the presentation there will be a link for stakeholders/public to provide comments and questions. The Department Location Engineer(s) will be responsible for putting together the presentation and any associated materials for the online PIM and will provide these materials to Office of Strategic Communications to post to the website. Each of the PIMs will cover information developed within one of the various technical memoranda developed as part of the Planning Study. The tech memos along with other materials such as maps, scrolls, plans etc. will be attached to the PIM website.

- Public Information Meeting 1: will cover Coordination Points 1 (Project Initiation) and 2 (Existing System). This online PIM will give the stakeholders and the general public an opportunity to learn about the study and the existing system (Corridor Vision, Goals and Description) and to provide input along with suggestions for improvement strategies.
- Public Information Meeting 2: will cover Coordination Point 3 (Corridor Strategies). This online PIM will give the stakeholders and the general public an opportunity to provide input during development of improvement strategies.

Public Information Meeting

It is anticipated that the final meeting will be held as an in-person public information meeting (PIM) after completion of the final PEL study, the Vision for Infrastructure Investment document. The PIM would be an open house format with informational materials and DOT/consultant staff available to explain the PEL study and answer questions. The public information meeting would be open to the general public and advertised in publications identified in the previous section. E-mail invitations will be sent to the list of officials, as well as any subscribers on the project. A news release and social media will also be used advertise the PIM. The project website would be updated to reflect information on the PIM, for those who are not able to attend, and provide a forum for persons to submit questions/comments.

6. PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING SUMMARIES

After each public meeting, a summary booklet containing information regarding the advertising, invitations, content, comments, and responses will be compiled. The following items will be included in the PIM summary booklets:

- Summary of the PIM
- General Content
- Comments & Responses
- Survey Results (if applicable)
- Advertising
- Invitation Letters