

Merrill Rail Crossing Elimination Planning Study

Fact Sheet | August 2026

Project Overview

This Study will identify ways to:

- Improve highway safety and traffic flow in the Merrill area.
- Mitigate a physical barrier posed by the rail corridor in the community.
- Reduce the risk of future highway-rail grade crossing crashes/incidents along this half-mile portion of the rail corridor through the elimination and/or improvement of three at-grade crossings.

Purpose & Need

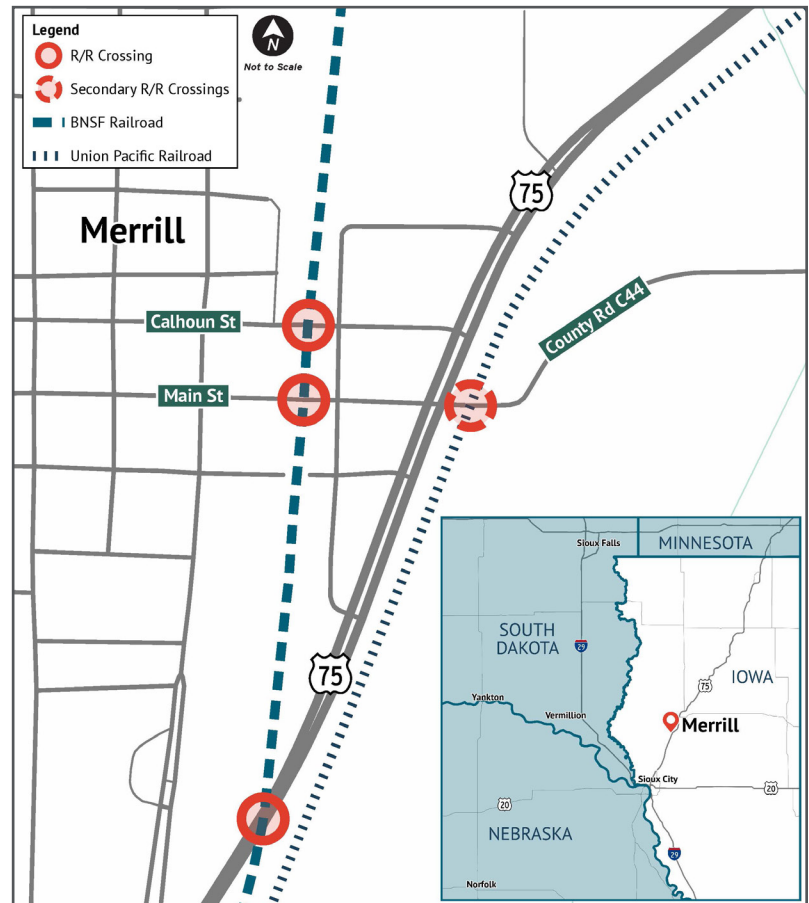
Project Purpose Statement

The Study's purpose is to mitigate the challenges posed by the BNSF Marshall Subdivision railway in Merrill, Iowa with safety and traffic flow upgrades at the U.S. 75, Main Street (in conjunction with County Road C44), and Calhoun Street crossings.

Project Need

The Study is needed to:

- Improve the mobility of people and goods
- Correct rail and roadway geometric deficiencies
- Reduce the potential for rail crossing-related crashes



Project Location

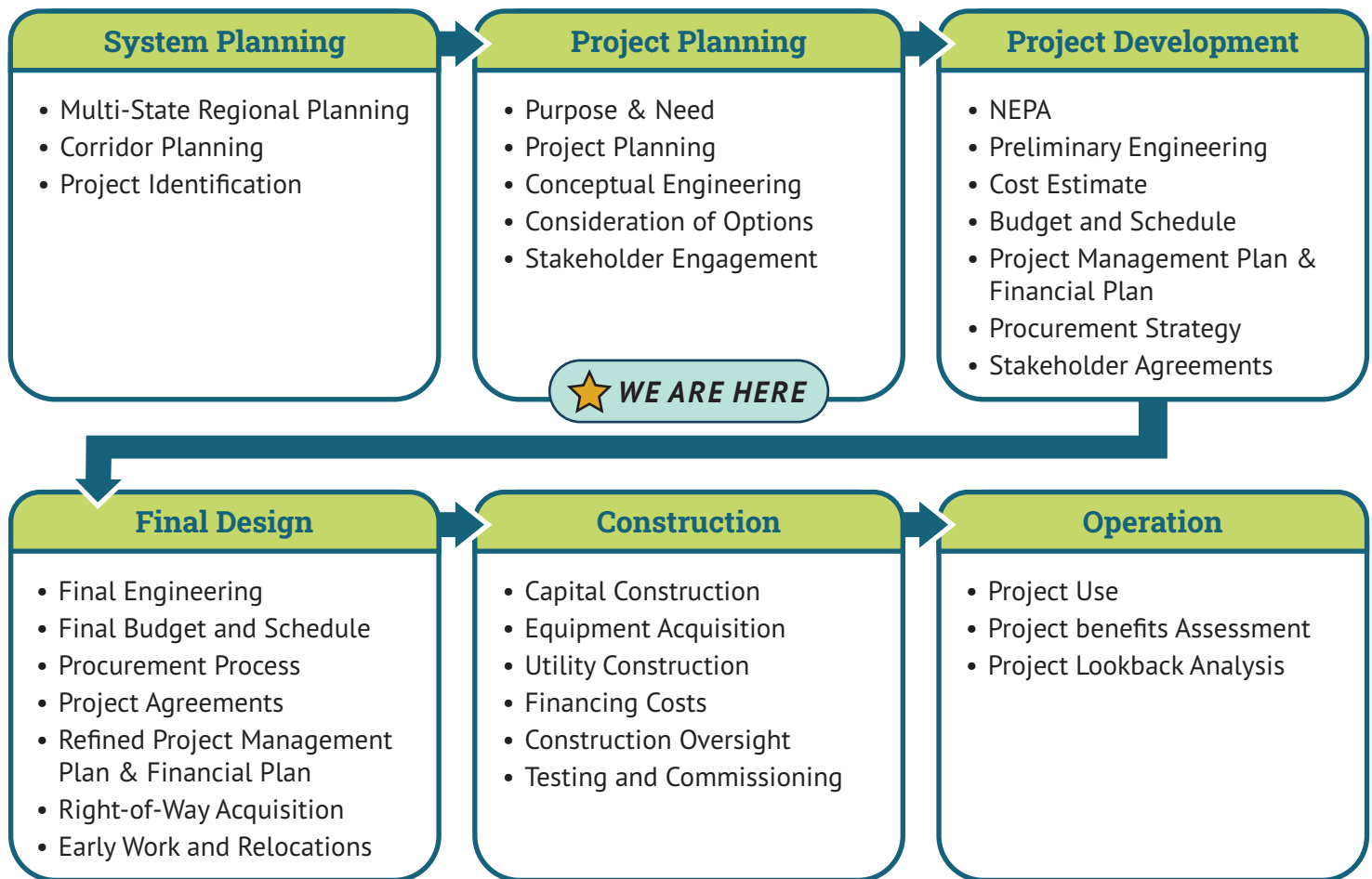
The following existing highway-rail crossings will be examined in this study:

- U.S. 75
- Main Street
- Calhoun Street
- County Road C44*

**County Road C44 is being reviewed in conjunction with the Main Street rail crossing and may be considered for improvements, if applicable.*

➤ Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Development Project Lifecycle

The Federal Railroad Administration, or FRA, has developed a six-stage framework for projects to ensure that projects are implemented efficiently. We are wrapping up the Project Planning phase. The next phase, Project Development, will include Preliminary Engineering and NEPA, or the Environmental Analysis. Public Engagement will occur throughout the entire project life cycle to keep you informed.



Contact

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Project Website



Please review the Public Meeting Information and comment form on the project webpage:
<https://iowadot.gov/modes-travel/rail/highway-railroad-crossings/merrill-rail-crossing-elimination>

Comments



Please share your feedback with us by:
Monday, August 17, 2026
Scan the QR code or visit
<https://publicinput.com/e41673>
to leave comments.