

US 30 Cedar and Clinton Counties PLANNING STUDY (PEL)

Public Involvement Plan

Office of Location and Environment | March 2019



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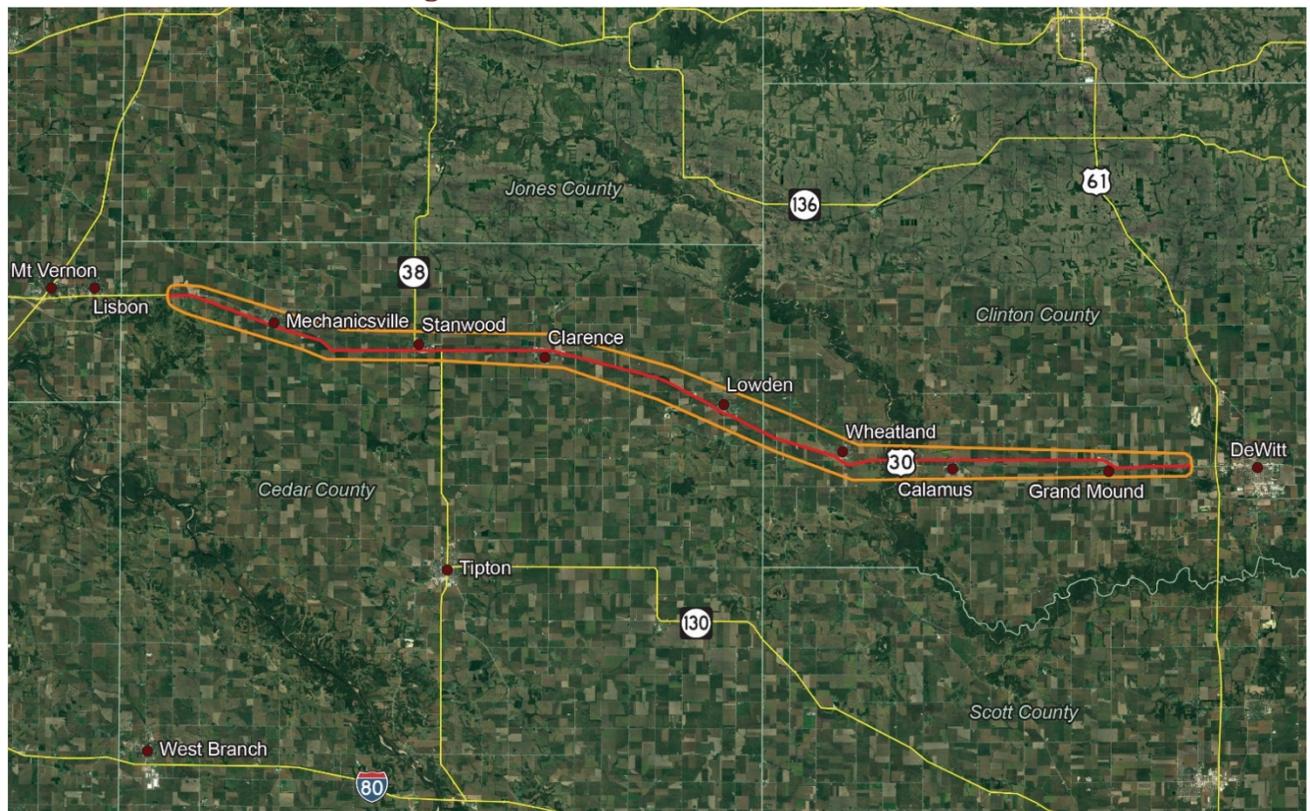
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1 INTRODUCTION

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is conducting a planning study for a 40-mile-long section of US 30 in eastern Iowa, extending from Charles Road just east of Lisbon, in Cedar County, to 260th Avenue just west of DeWitt, in Clinton County (hereafter referred to as “the Study”; see Figure 1). Existing US 30 passes through or near seven communities and, depending on the location within the corridor, carries between 2,200 and 5,600 vehicles per day (of which 13 to 24 percent are trucks and other heavy vehicles). The Study will examine whether the existing facility is able to meet current and future travel and mobility needs and identify any potential improvement projects that may be necessary to meet future demands. Specifically, the goals of this Study are:

- Provide a range of improvement alternatives for the corridor.
- Provide recommendations on the potential bypass of one or more communities along the corridor.
- Provide a recommended prioritization of improvement projects that can be used to consider project construction needs against available construction funding.

Figure 1. US 30 PLANNING STUDY AREA



LEGEND

- Study Area
- County Line



For the Study, Iowa DOT is following the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study process, which represents an approach to transportation decision making that considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning stage and carries them through project development, design, and construction. The PEL Study process is intended to be an efficient decision-making model that:

- Minimizes duplication of effort
- Promotes efficient and cost-effective solutions and environmental stewardship
- Reduces delays in project implementation

Transportation projects can greatly affect communities and the traveling public. Given the length of the Study corridor, the number of communities along the corridor, and the importance of US 30 to local, regional, and statewide travel, public involvement is an important part of the PEL process and this Study. Active engagement of project stakeholders, with opportunities for the public to comment and share ideas, provides valuable insight that will assist Iowa DOT when considering future corridor needs and potential improvements.

2 PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The Iowa DOT values public input and believes that communities are better served when a variety of perspectives on the issues are shared. The purpose of this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to describe the tools and strategies proposed for public involvement and agency coordination that will be used during the Study and to identify likely project stakeholder groups and how information will be shared with them. The PIP will be updated regularly throughout the Study to reflect newly identified stakeholders and other changes related to public outreach activities.

The following are the objectives of the PIP:

- Educate the public and project stakeholders about the Study process and findings.
- Generate interest in the Study and any future projects resulting from the Study.
- Provide the traveling public, property and business owners, elected/local officials, agencies, community groups, and other stakeholders served by US 30 with sufficient opportunity to contribute input to Iowa DOT to inform and help shape the results of the Study.
- Share the means through which the Iowa DOT will solicit feedback from the public and project stakeholders to assist with identifying project needs and evaluating possible transportation solutions.
- Identify and use innovative tools and strategies to collaborate and effectively share information with stakeholders.

3 PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

A stakeholder is anyone who could be affected (directly or indirectly) by a project(s) resulting from the Study and who has a stake in its outcome. Stakeholders identified for the US 30 PEL Planning Study may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Residents
- Property owners
- Business owners
- Institutions (churches, schools, etc.)
- Advocates for community and historic interests
- Special interest groups (environmental, etc.)
- Legislators
- Elected and other local community officials
- Government and transportation resource agencies
- Tribal nations
- US 30 Coalition of Iowa
- Emergency responders
- Transportation system users/area motorists
- Chambers of commerce
- Neighborhood groups
- Environmental coalitions
- Bicycle groups
- Railroads and utilities
- Others with an interest in the project

To facilitate communication with all stakeholders, a stakeholder contact list has been prepared for the Study and will be updated throughout the duration of the Study as needed. This list includes contact information, including names, phone numbers, mailing address, and email address when available. Iowa DOT will use the collected contact information to communicate with and alert stakeholders of upcoming public involvement events and opportunities to share feedback. This list will also be used by Iowa DOT to share project status and findings with those interested parties.

The following subsections summarize the key stakeholders identified at the onset of this Study.

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL

Federal and state agencies typically included in transportation planning project coordination efforts will be included in the stakeholder contact list. Table 1 lists the resource agencies that have been invited to participate in the project coordination activities.

Table 1. FEDERAL AND STATE RESOURCE AGENCY STAKEHOLDERS

U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Region 3
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	State Historical Preservation Office
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Federal Aviation Administration
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Federal Railroad Administration
Federal Transit Administration, Region VII	National Park Service
National Trust for Historic Preservation	U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Agriculture	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

3.2 COUNTIES

The Study corridor includes portions of Cedar and Clinton counties in eastern Iowa. Key representatives from each county have been invited to participate in the study process and are listed in Table 2. The Iowa State Association of Counties and individual county websites will be used to identify the appropriate stakeholders and contact information.

Table 2. CEDAR COUNTY AND CLINTON COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

County Engineers	Emergency Management Agencies
Board of Supervisors	Zoning
Sheriff's Departments	

3.3 CITIES

Input from each of the cities within the PEL Study area (see Figure 1) will be valuable throughout the Study process. Table 3 lists the cities that are near or along the existing US 30 corridor within the PEL Study area. Elected and non-elected City officials, including those listed in Table 4, have been invited to participate in the Study process.

Table 3. CITIES WITHIN THE PEL STUDY AREA

Lisbon	Wheatland
Mechanicsville	Calamus
Stanwood	Grand Mound
Clarence	DeWitt
Lowden	

The Iowa League of Cities, an advocacy organization representing more than 870 of the cities in Iowa, will also be used as a vehicle to promote upcoming public involvement opportunities. Iowa DOT will advertise upcoming public involvement events and opportunities through the League of Cities.

Table 4. CITY AND SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Mayor	Police Chief
Clerk/Administrator	Fire Chief
Planning/Zoning Directors	School District Superintendents
City Council	

3.4 TRIBAL GROUPS

To protect possibly historic and culturally sensitive properties within the Study corridor, consultation with tribal representatives from those tribes having a current and/or historic interest in Iowa properties has been initiated via the Tribal Notification Form. Table 5 lists the tribes to be contacted.

Table 5. TRIBES

Flandreau Santee Sioux	Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Ho-Chunk Nation	Prairie Island Indian Community
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska	Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma	Santee Sioux Nation
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma	Sisseton - Wahpeton Oyate
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska	Spirit Lake Tribe
Osage Nation	Three Affiliated Tribes - Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara
Otoe-Missouria Tribe	Upper Sioux Community
Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska	Yankton Sioux Tribe

3.5 LEGISLATORS

Elected federal and state legislators who represent the districts in which the US 30 PEL Study corridor is located have been added to the stakeholder contact list. Table 6 lists the legislators that represent the US 30 corridor Study area.

Table 6. IOWA LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Iowa US Congressional District 2: Dave Loebsack	Iowa House District 73: Bobby Kaufmann
Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley	Iowa House District 95: Louie Zumbach
Iowa Senator Joni Ernst	Iowa House District 97: Norlin Mommsen
Iowa Senate District 37: Robert Dvorsky	Iowa House District 98: Mary Lynn Wolfe
Iowa Senate District 48: Dan Zumbach	
Iowa Senate District 49: Rita Hart	

3.6 REGIONAL PLANNING ASSOCIATIONS

Regional Planning Associations (RPAs) conduct transportation planning for the non-metropolitan areas of Iowa and cover all 99 counties. The Cedar and Clinton County areas of the US 30 PEL Study corridor are covered by two RPAs: RPA 8, East Central Intergovernmental Association and RPA 10, East Central Iowa Council of Governments. RPA Directors and their key transportation planners have been added to the stakeholder contact list.

There are no Metropolitan Planning Organizations within the Study area.

3.7 US 30 COALITION OF IOWA

According to their website, the US 30 Coalition of Iowa is a group of concerned citizens, local and state officials, economic development organizations, freight shippers, and transportation stakeholders that are devoted to the future improvement of US 30. The President and board members of the US 30 Coalition of Iowa have been added to the stakeholder contact list. Members of the US 30 Coalition of Iowa will be invited to participate in various public- and Coalition-specific public involvement and outreach events.

3.8 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/INDUSTRY LEADERS/ FREIGHT COMPANIES

Economic and Community Development organizations representing the communities within the Study corridor, including major employers in the Study area, have been added to the stakeholder contact list. Tables 7-9 list the economic development organizations, major area employers, and key industry leaders that were identified through review of City websites and stakeholder outreach. Others will be added to the list as appropriate throughout the life of the project.

Table 7. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Cedar County Economic Development Commission	Farm Bureau
Clinton County Mayor's Group	ICR Iowa
Clinton Regional Development Corporation	Mechanicsville Economic Development Company
DeWitt Chamber & Development Company	Mount Vernon & Lisbon Community Development Groups

Table 8. MAJOR* EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Employer	Industry/Products	Current Employment**
Custom-Pak Dewitt, Manufacturing	Industrial blow molded parts manufacturers	725 (among plants in Clinton and Dewitt)
C & J Trucking of Iowa	Trucking	
Guardian Industries	Float glass	350
North Cedar Community School District	Pre-K - 12 education	245
Custom-Pak	Blow Molding	190
Genesis Medical Center - DeWitt	Healthcare	185
Car-Freshner	Air Fresheners	125
Ennis Business Forms	Business, medical forms	100

*Major employers are those with 100 or more employees

**<http://www.dewittiowa.org/economic-development/business-advantages/major-employers;>
<http://www.clintondevelopment.com/Data/leading-employers>

Table 9. REGIONAL BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY

Advantage Farm Service	Ingredion Inc.
Archer Daniels Midland	John Deere
ARTCO Fleeting Services	Kirkwood Community College
Cargill	Lloyd Table Company
Cornell College	Midwest Trucking
Determann Industries, Inc.	Quaker Oats
Farner-Bocken	River Valley Co-op
General Mills	Schneider Trucking
Hawthorne Trucking	Union Pacific (UP) Railroad
Heartland Trucking	Wendling Quarries Inc.
Hirschbach trucking company	Wild Rose Casino

3.9 GENERAL PUBLIC

Any individuals or groups who wish to be added to the PEL Study stakeholder contact list in order to receive Study updates and information about public outreach opportunities may opt in at any time during the Study via the Iowa DOT Public Involvement Website (<http://www.news.iowadot.gov/pim>), via comment cards made available at public meetings or online at www.bit.ly/US30PEL, or by contacting a project team member by phone or email.

3.10 UTILITIES

Table 10 lists potential utility owners within the corridor based on a high-level Internet search; additional utility owners may be identified during the Study and will be added to the list as appropriate. At this time, no formal outreach to utility owners is anticipated since no specific roadway alignments or improvements have been identified. More formal outreach and coordination with the utility owners will occur in subsequent studies once projects are better defined and programmed.

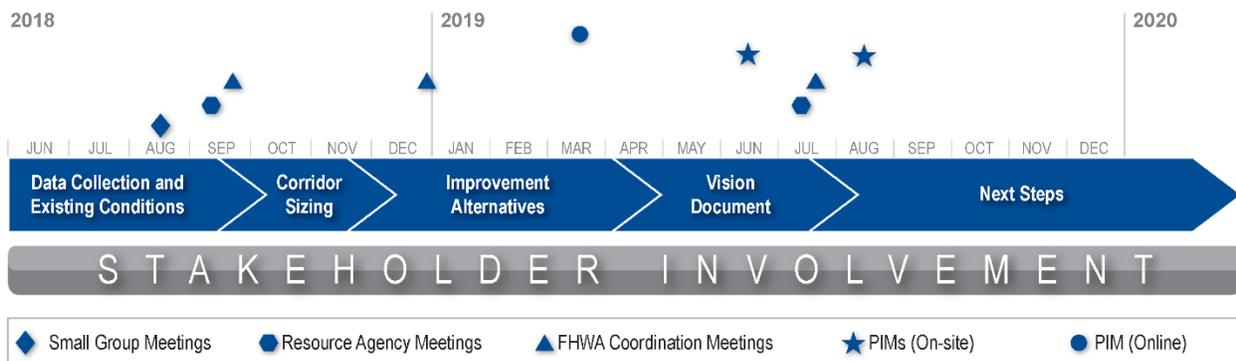
Table 10. POTENTIAL UTILITIES

Alliant Energy	Mediacom
Century Link	MidAmerican Energy
Eastern Iowa Light & Power Coop	Sprint
F&B Communications	The Iowa-American Water Company

4 OUTREACH TO PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

Major steps in the US 30 PEL Study process and associated stakeholder involvement activities are illustrated in Figure 2 and discussed in the following subsections.

Figure 2. US 30 PEL PLANNING STUDY TIMELINE AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES



4.1 SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

Generally held early in a study to assist with data collection and to determine existing conditions in the study area, small group meetings provide an opportunity to engage stakeholders, share information and foster discussions. Representatives from the cities, counties, and other stakeholder groups identified in the Study area will have the opportunity to meet with Iowa DOT and the Consultant PEL Study Team (PST) to get information about the Study and to share their viewpoints related to US 30. These meetings offer each stakeholder group the opportunity to share their perspectives, the current and future needs along the corridor, and the issues of greatest concern specific to their community or group. To encourage active participation and productive discussion, it is anticipated that these small group meetings will, in general, have 10

or less attendees participating. Project handouts or other appropriate meeting materials will be prepared for distribution at these meetings by the PST.

Table 11 indicates the target audience for each type of small group meeting.

Table 11. SMALL GROUP MEETING REPRESENTATIVES

Cities	Counties	RPA's	US 30 Coalition
Mayor	County Engineer	Director	President
City Council Representative	County Emergency Management Director	Transportation Lead	Key Coalition members
City Clerk/Administrator	County Sheriff's Office Representative	Planning Staff	
Police Chief	County Zoning Director		
Fire Chief			
Economic Development			
Schools Superintendent			
Public Works			

Early in this Study, representatives from each of the cities in the Study area (listed in Table 3), Cedar and Clinton counties, and RPA's 8 and 10 were invited to participate in small group meetings to discuss the US 30 PEL Study. In addition, a small group meeting was held with representatives of the US 30 Coalition of Iowa. Coalition representatives attending the small group meeting will be coordinated with the PST and designated by the US 30 Coalition President.

The small group meetings included a short presentation by the PST followed by open floor discussions with the participants. The PST coordinated and lead the small group meeting scheduling, location, and list of invitees. The PST facilitated the open floor discussions, and representatives from Iowa DOT attended the small group meetings.

4.2 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

A total of three public involvement meetings (PIMs) are planned for this Study.

The initial PIM will be hosted online via the Iowa DOT's Public Involvement website (<http://www.news.iowadot.gov/pim>). The online PIM will consist of a prepared presentation complete with audio. For persons viewing the material, links will be available to provide comments through the website. As with the open-house format PIMs, the online PIM comment period will be 2 weeks.

The other two PIMs will be held in an open-house format. These PIMs will be held in a centrally located venue within the Study area at locations on or near US 30. Various study displays, maps, and informational boards will be available for public viewing and comment and Iowa DOT staff and PST members will be on hand to discuss the Study and answer questions.

Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to share their comments in the following ways: speaking directly with the Iowa DOT staff and PST members in attendance, providing written comments and/or recording verbal comments at the meeting, and/or providing comments via an online comment form (www.bit.ly/US30PEL). PIM comment periods will typically be 2 weeks from the PIM date.

The PIMs will be held at locations that are accessible to persons with disabilities, and an interpreter will be made available if necessary, or upon request. For those unable to attend in person, meeting materials will be posted to the Iowa DOT Public Involvement website (<http://www.news.iowadot.gov/pim>).

PIM #1 SPRING 2019 - ONLINE

The results from the initial data collection efforts and the existing conditions analysis will be shared, and stakeholders will be encouraged to provide their input on the existing conditions in the Study corridor and share any characteristics of the existing corridor they think should be considered as part of this Study. This PIM is planned as an online meeting and will be facilitated through the Iowa DOT Public Involvement website (<http://www.news.iowadot.gov/pim>).

The online meeting will consist of a slideshow with audio, prepared by Iowa DOT, that attendees will be able to view anytime during the meeting comment period using their electronic device (computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone). Any supplemental displays or informational materials will be posted on the website with the slide presentation.

The online meeting platform will allow participants to provide feedback and submit comments to Iowa DOT. The period to provide comments online will remain active for 2 weeks following the official PIM meeting date. Comments received online will be documented and responded to in the same manner as those associated with traditional, in-person PIMs.

PIM #2 EARLY SUMMER 2019 - OPEN HOUSE FORMAT

The second PIM will focus on sharing information related to existing and future traffic volumes and the range of roadway typical sections capable of meeting future travel and mobility demands. Also presented will be the approach of incorporating this range of roadway sections into the alternative development and evaluation process. The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the various preliminary improvement alternatives being considered for the corridor. Stakeholders will be able to discuss and share with the PST what they consider positive and negative characteristics of the various alternatives. Public feedback will be considered by the PST and Iowa DOT when performing future alternative comparisons and evaluations that will result in the recommended improvement projects to be taken to the next phase of development.

PIM #3 LATE SUMMER 2019 - OPEN HOUSE FORMAT

The third and final PIM will be held near the conclusion of the Study and will present the findings of the overall study and the planned next steps in the project planning and delivery process. Iowa DOT staff and PST members will be onsite to discuss the findings with attendees and receive feedback and comments from the public.

4.3 RESOURCE AGENCY COORDINATION MEETINGS

Iowa DOT will coordinate with the various resource agencies regarding the US 30 PEL Study via letter. Since no regulatory actions or approvals are part of the PEL process, specific resource agency coordination meetings are not anticipated. Should a need arise during the execution of this project that would warrant specific resource agency coordination, meetings will be considered and held on a case-by-case basis.

4.4 FHWA COORDINATION MEETINGS

A representative from the FHWA Iowa Division has been identified and added to the project stakeholder contact list. Throughout the project, Iowa DOT will coordinate with FHWA to keep the federal agency up to date on project status, decisions, and next steps. It is anticipated that Iowa DOT will schedule three coordination meetings with FHWA—one in the early stages, one approximately halfway through, and one at the end of the Study. Iowa DOT will prepare for and lead these meetings with support from the PST in preparing for and documenting the meetings.

5 ADVERTISING/PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS

Iowa DOT will conduct outreach prior to the various public involvement activities. This section describes the outreach process and avenues anticipated to be used for the US 30 PEL Study. All press releases and material shared via print or electronic media will be prepared and released by the Iowa DOT Office of Strategic Communications.

5.1 NEWSPAPER

Notices of upcoming PIMs, including the meeting date, time, and location, will be prepared by the Iowa DOT Office of Strategic Communications and provided to local newspapers within the immediate Study corridor and surrounding region. Notices will be sent to the newspapers listed in Table 12; other newspapers or publications local to the region identified during the Study can also be added to this list as deemed appropriate by Iowa DOT. It is anticipated that these notices will be printed and included in online versions of these publications.

Table 12. PRINT MEDIA AND NEWSPAPERS

<i>Iowa City Press - Citizen</i>	<i>Tipton Conservative and Advertiser</i>
<i>The DeWitt Observer</i>	<i>North Scott Press</i>
<i>The Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun</i>	<i>Clinton Herald</i>
<i>The Gazette – Cedar Rapids</i>	<i>Coralville Courier</i>
<i>Quad City Times</i>	<i>Durant-Wilton Times</i>
<i>Tipton Sun News</i>	<i>West Branch Times</i>
<i>Lowden Sun News</i>	

5.2 TV/RADIO

The Iowa DOT Office of Strategic Communications will prepare press releases to announce upcoming public involvement opportunities for the Study. The press releases will be available to local television and radio stations for their use on a voluntary basis. Iowa DOT will not reach out to each news outlet individually.

5.3 SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAIL

Iowa DOT Office of Strategic Communications will share study information and public involvement opportunities on social media, including Facebook and Twitter. A hashtag (#US30PEL) for the US 30 PEL Study will be created, encouraging users to follow social media postings for the project.

Email addresses for Study stakeholders will be compiled, as discussed in Section 3 of this PIP. Email will be used to push information out to the stakeholders, alerting them of upcoming public involvement events and Study status.

5.4 PROJECT WEBSITE

The Iowa DOT Public Involvement website (<http://www.news.iowadot.gov/pim>) will be used to share the various Study findings, reports, and updates presented at the PIMs. This website will also host the online PIM as described in Section 4. The website will include a forum for stakeholders to submit comments or sign up for the Study mailing list. The website will be shared with project stakeholders and the public via social media, mailings (primarily electronic), and other outreach events. The website will provide 24-hour/7-day-a-week access for stakeholders to review posted Study materials and submit questions, concerns, and other feedback.

6 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TOOLS AND DOCUMENTATION

6.1 TOOLS

A variety of tools will be used for this project based on the type of public involvement activity, anticipated audience, content, and feedback desired. These tools may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Roll plots and maps
- Write-on-wipe-off maps and exhibits
- Display boards
- Google Earth animations
- Study website links (online open house, described above)
- Study videos
- Fact sheets
- Live polling
- Electronic surveys
- Telephone Town Halls

6.2 PUBLIC RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATION

Throughout this study, both direct and indirect public comment is anticipated. Direct public comment may come as email (by a direct link from the website - www.bit.ly/US30PEL), standard mail, phone calls, and comment forms issued at meetings and briefings. Indirect public comment will come through the media, non-agency-sponsored meetings, and third-party websites. It is important to address both direct and indirect public comment to ensure the public that their concerns and opinions are being recognized.

A centralized comment/response management system called Public Involvement Management Application (PIMA), will be implemented and managed by Iowa DOT. The goal of this system is to provide a secure and electronically accessible repository for comments. The system will be capable of categorizing the comment types and issues, tracking the status of comment responses, and maintaining a comment record for environmental documentation. The system will also collect and maintain stakeholder contact information for mailing list automation.

The Iowa DOT and PST will respond to public inquiries in a timely manner. All comments received will be responded to with a written response unless specified otherwise as part of the comment. The Iowa DOT Office of Location and Environment and the PST will coordinate in preparing comment response letters and communication.

In addition, each formal PIM and small group meeting will be documented with a summary of the material presented and shared, a summary of general feedback received, any action items that result from the meeting, and all individual written and verbally recorded comments received.

7 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

Table 13 lists the key points of contact for Iowa DOT and the PST regarding public involvement and related activities.

Table 13. IOWA DOT AND PROJECT CONSULTANT KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Name	Role/Organization	Phone	Email
Cathy Cutler (Cedar County)	District 6 Planner/Iowa DOT	319-286-4908	Catherine.Cutler@iowadot.us
Gary Harris	Iowa DOT Project Manager, Office of Location and Environment	515-239-1459	Gary.Harris@iowadot.us
Carla Mykytiuk	Public Involvement Lead/Jacobs	773-458-2842	Carla.Mykytiuk@jacobs.com
Jon Rees	Public Involvement Lead/Iowa DOT	515-239-1431	Jon.Rees@iowadot.us
Sam Shea (Clinton County)	District 6 Planner/Iowa DOT	319-286-4907	Sam.Shea@iowadot.us
Dan Smith	Project Manager/Jacobs	515-619-5069	Dan.Smith2@jacobs.com

It is anticipated that a summary of the public involvement process, including all comments received, will be incorporated into the project Vision Document, which catalogues information about the corridor’s transportation needs, and can help frame the purpose and need for future projects along the US 30 PEL Planning Study corridor.