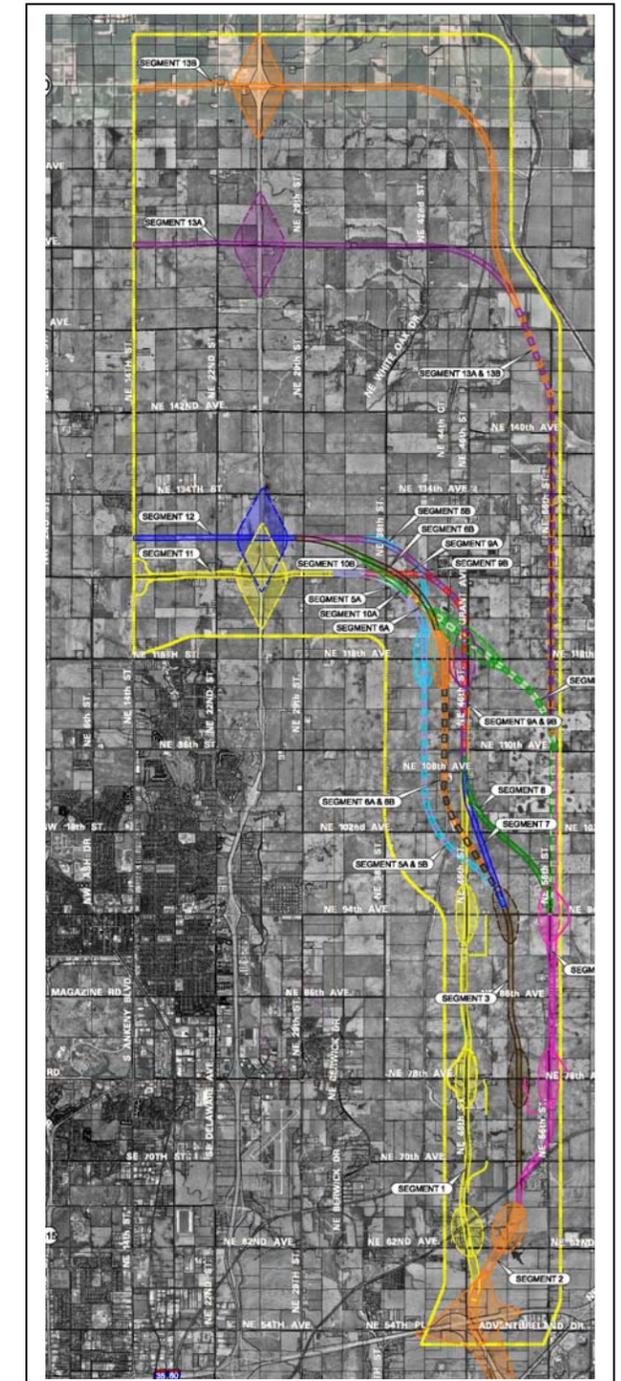
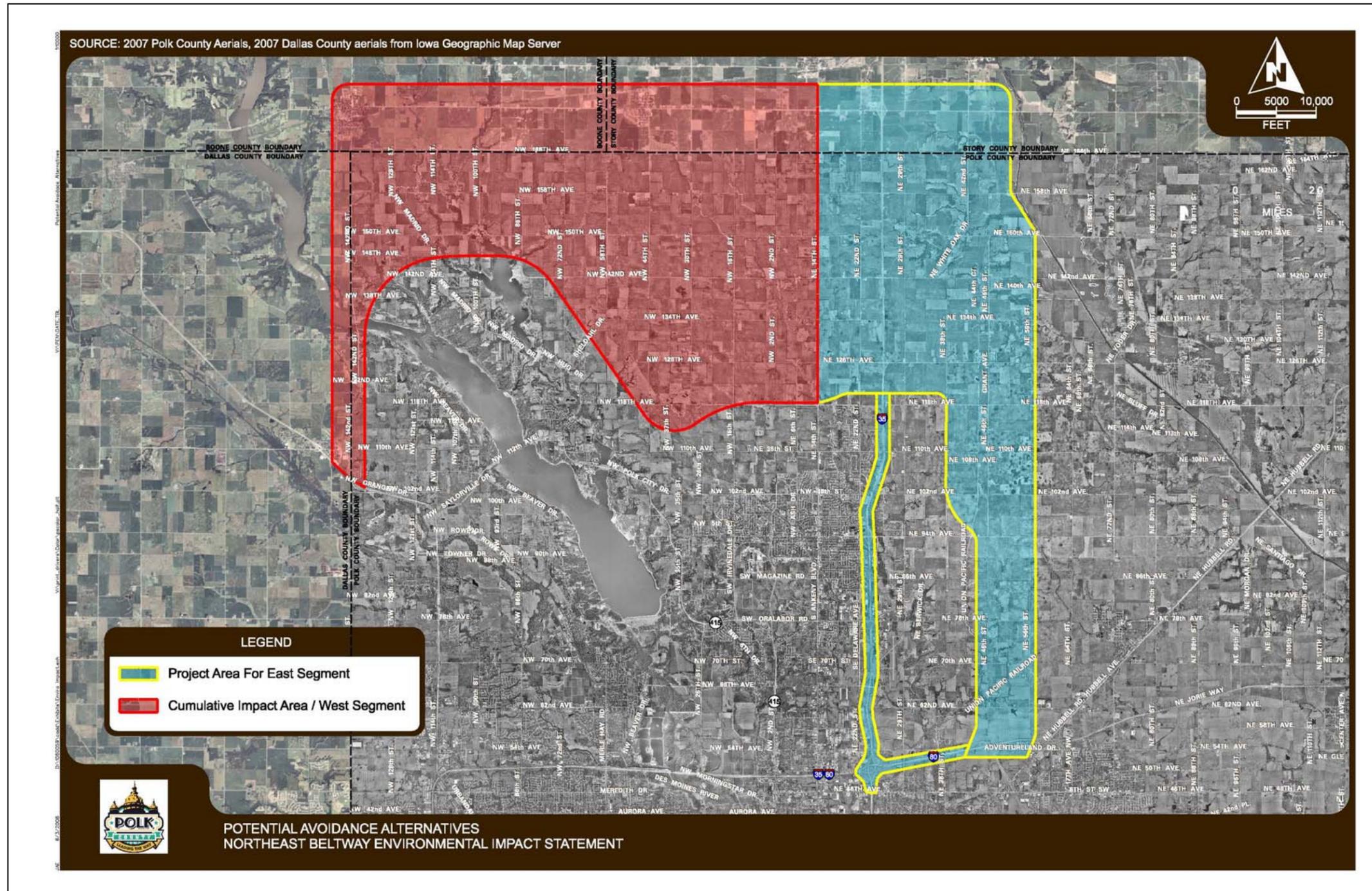


Northeast Beltway



Polk County Public Works
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50313
515-286-3705



SNYDER & ASSOCIATES
Engineers and Planners

Polk County, Iowa

BACKGROUND

Polk County and the incorporated cities of Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Elkhart and Polk City entered into a 28-E Agreement for the purpose of considering the merits of identifying a transportation corridor to serve the northeast quadrant of the Des Moines Metropolitan area (Phase I Study). Snyder & Associates, Inc. was retained by the Northeast Beltway Coalition to examine the feasibility of identifying a transportation corridor.

A Steering Committee was created by the governmental entities participating in the study. Representatives from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (DMAMPO), Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), Eastern Polk Regional Development, Inc. and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) served in an advisory role to the Northeast Beltway Coalition Committee. The steering committee met six (6) times.

The corridor planning process culminated with the corridor being included in the Des Moines Area MPO Year 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. Those public entities participating in the Study have or are in the process of amending their respective Comprehensive Plans so as to provide for corridor protection.

The Iowa DOT and FHWA provided, on October 20, 2005, determination concerning logical project termini. The 22-mile corridor was divided into two parts:

- East Segment with termini located at I-80/US 65 (141) and US 69/NE 126th Avenue
- West Segment with termini located at US 69/NE 126th Avenue and IA 141/IA 415

It was concluded that the two segments satisfied the three (3) general principles set forth in FHWA regulations 23 CFR 771.111(f) which should be used to frame a highway project:

- 1) The action shall connect logical termini and be of sufficient length to address environmental matters on a broad scope.
- 2) It shall have independent utility or independent significance, i.e., be usable and be a reasonable expenditure even if no additional transportation improvements in the area are made.
- 3) Consideration of alternatives for other reasonably foreseeable transportation improvements shall not be restricted.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A 28-E agreement was entered into by the cities of Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Elkhart, and Polk City and Polk County to proceed with preparing the required NEPA documentation (Environmental Impact Statement) for the East Segment of the Northeast Beltway. The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published in the Federal Register on May 5, 2006.

In March 2006, FHWA gave Polk County authorization to proceed with Phase II of the project, beginning the NEPA process. Polk County Public Works contracted with Snyder & Associates Inc. to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

General alternatives under analysis include: (1) Taking no action, (2) Transportation Demand Management (TDM)/Transportation System Management (TSM) strategies, (3) widening existing street and highways (Interstate 35 or 80, NE 46th Street, NE 56th Street, or NE 126th Avenue); and, (4) one or more new roadway alignment alternatives.

FHWA, Iowa DOT, and Polk County are the joint lead agencies for the Northeast Beltway project. A steering Committee comprised of local government officials has also been established. Federal and State Resources Agencies have been designated as participating and/or cooperation agencies. A Citizens Advisory Committee has been formed to gather additional public comments on the proposed project.

The public will be kept informed of the project and will be able to comment on the project through the following public input or informational opportunities:

- Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings
- Media Notifications; public notices
- Written or verbal comments
- Project Newsletters
- Project Website
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet
- Public Informational Meetings
- Draft EIS (DEIS) Public Hearing
- Notice of Availability for final EIS (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD)

The next Northeast Beltway public information meeting will be held in July 2008 and will provide public viewing and comment on proposed project alternatives (see cover).

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Receive Notice to Proceed	March 8, 2006
Publish Notice of Intent	May 5, 2006
Identify/invite participating and cooperating agencies	June 2006
Public information meeting to receive input on preliminary purpose and need	June 28, 2006
Agency scoping meeting	September 2007
Public information meeting to receive input on build/no build alternatives	November 2007
Public information meeting to receive input on build alternatives	July 2008
NEPA/404 concurrence points 1 and 2 meeting	August 2008
NEPA/404 concurrence point 3 meeting (alternatives to be carried forward)	December 2008
Public information meeting to receive input on alternatives to be carried forward	February 2009
DEIS signed by FHWA	August 2009
Circulate DEIS for public and agency comment (45-day comment period)	August 2009
Public Hearing (15 days following distribution of DEIS)	September 2009
NEPA/404 concurrence point 4 (preferred alternative) meeting	December 2009
FEIS signed by FHWA	August 2010
Distribute signed FEIS (EPA publishes NOA in Federal Register)	August 2010
Circulate FEIS for comment	August 2010
ROD signed by FHWA	December 2010

PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

The purpose of the project is to provide a high-speed connection between Interstate-80 and US Highway 69 that will reduce congestion on key corridors and promote economic development opportunities in northeast Polk County. The proposed project is outlined in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005 (SAFETEA-LU).

The proposed project is needed to:

- Reduce traffic volumes and congestion on key corridors in the Northeast metro area
- Add linkage to the US 65/IA 5 circumferential route
- Provide incident management alternatives for the Northeast metro area
- Balance growth and land development patterns by promoting economic development in the Northeast metro area

A facility should provide traffic congestion relief for regional transportation facilities in the northeast metropolitan area by adding a linkage to the US 65/IA 5 circumferential route, reducing traffic volumes on key corridors within the study area, and providing incident management options for the Des Moines metropolitan area.

EIS PROJECT FUNDING

FY 2008/2009: (EAST SEGMENT)	
Federal SAFETEA-LU (80% of total)	\$510,000
Polk County Economic Dev. Funds	\$ 50,000
Polk County FM Funds	\$ 41,600
City of Des Moines	\$ 12,400
City of Ankeny	\$ 12,400
City of Altoona	\$ 4,400
City of Polk City	\$ 4,400
City of Bondurant	\$ 1,300
City of Alleman	\$ 500
City of Elkhart	\$ 500
Total Estimated Cost	\$637,500

FY 2008/09 (WEST SEGMENT)	
Federal SAFETEA-LU	\$600,000
Local Governments	<u>\$150,000</u>
Total Estimated Cost	\$750,000

