

PROJECT INFORMATION HANDOUT

REGARDING

**Environmental Assessment of the NW
66th Avenue Reconstruction and
Kempton Bridge Replacement Project**



prepared by:



SNYDER & ASSOCIATES
Engineers and Planners

**FROM NW BEAVER DRIVE to NW 26th STREET
IN JOHNSTON AND POLK COUNTY, IOWA**

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed project is to safely accommodate existing and projected traffic volumes between NW Beaver Drive and NW 26th Street.

The need for the proposed action is based on a combination of factors in relation to improving traffic operations through the corridor. Specifically the proposed action will address the following issues:

- Level of Service “F” along this segment of NW 66th Avenue
- Low sufficiency rating of Kempton Bridge



PROJECT DATA

Location:

NW 66 Ave. from NW Beaver Drive to NW 23 St. Total Project Length = 1.60 Miles.

Roadway History:

NW 66 Ave. is a Minor Arterial roadway last reconstructed in 1970 to its current cross-section. No significant improvements have been made since then other than HMA overlays, and improvements at the intersections of NW Beaver Dr. and NW 26th Street.

NW 66th Avenue provides east/west continuity for the Des Moines Metropolitan Community north of Interstate 80. It serves as an incident management detour when Interstate 80 is closed and provides an arterial for mutual aid and response for the communities and portion of unincorporated Polk County located north of the interstate.

Bridge History:

The NW 66 Avenue bridge, known as the Kempton Bridge, is 53 years old. It was built in 1959 after the previous bridge was damaged during a major flood. The substructure of this bridge had to be repaired in 1994 after the 1993 floods caused a severe scour hole under some of the piers. This repair included encasement of the piling under the pier footings in sheet piling filled with concrete.

After the 2008 uncontrolled release from the Saylorville reservoir, these repairs were inspected and found to be exposed due to the high flows that created another scour hole. While this does not impact the structural integrity of the bridge, it does expose the structure to significant damage should another extreme flood event occur, that is why we are proposing to move forward with Phase 1 as soon as funding allows.

Traffic Volumes:

Existing (2010): Approximately 15,000 vehicles per day (vpd) with 9% trucks.

Future (2030): Estimated to reach 30,000 vehicles per day (vpd) according to the Des Moines Area MPO Traffic Model.

Speed Limits:

Existing: 35 mph west of Soccer Complex, 55 mph east of bridge

Proposed: Maintain 35 mph west of Soccer Complex. 45 mph throughout the rest of the project.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed improvement is to replace the existing 2-lane bridge with a 4-lane bridge and include a multi-purpose trail on the bridge to connect the trail systems on the east and west sides of the Des Moines River. The project will also construct a 4-lane roadway with a continuous left-turn lane between NW 26th Street and NW Beaver Drive. The project also includes reconstruction of the NW Beaver Drive and NW 26th Street intersections.

CONSTRUCTION STAGING & COST

Due to funding constraints, the Project will be constructed in three Phases.

Phase 1- Bridge reconstruction and Approaches \$9.367 Million

Phase 2- Roadway Reconstruction West of Bridge \$5.078 Million

Phase 3- Roadway Reconstruction East of Bridge \$7.703 Million

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$22.148 Million

Construction is scheduled to be completed over five (5) construction seasons, depending on funding availability. Funding sources include Federal STP funds awarded through the Des Moines Area MPO, Johnston local funds, and Polk County local and Farm-To-Market funds. Access to adjacent properties will be maintained at all times.

NOTE: NO SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO PROPERTY OWNERS WILL BE USED TO FUND THIS PROJECT.

SCHEDULE

Construction of Phase 1 of this project is scheduled to begin in 2014. This first phase will be completed over two construction seasons to allow the roadway to remain open to traffic throughout the project by constructing the new bridge ½ at a time.

If you have additional questions or comments regarding the proposed improvements project following the meeting, please contact:

Polk County Public Works
Engineering Division
5885 N.E. 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50313
(515) 286-3705