

# NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**Thursday, November 18, 2021; 5:00 – 7:00 PM**

*Public Information Open House Meeting*

**Central City High School – Common Space**

**1510 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Central City, NE**

### **RRZ-TMT-14-2(123) CENTRAL CITY VIADUCT; C.N. 42013**

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) will hold a public information open house meeting regarding the proposed construction of a new roadway alignment and bridge over the railroad tracks (viaduct) in Central City, located in Merrick County. The meeting will be held in the Central City High School Common Space at 1510 28<sup>th</sup> Street in Central City, on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 7:00 P.M. A pre-recorded video presentation will be available for viewing at the public meeting. For those who cannot attend in person, the same video will be made available on the NDOT website the day of the meeting. No formal presentations are planned for this meeting.

Identified as **Central City Viaduct**, the proposed project would construct a highway viaduct over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) mainline within Central City. Proposed improvements would also include a shared use transportation pathway that would accommodate pedestrians and bicycle traffic along the new roadway and viaduct, and a potential for a separate pedestrian overpass. The proposed project would close the at-grade highway/railroad crossings on Nebraska Highway 14 (N-14) and 13<sup>th</sup> Street, while additional closures are being considered at C or F Avenue.

The purpose of this project is to improve local and regional mobility by enhancing the vehicular transportation system and improving connectivity, reducing driver delays, and improving safety along the N-14 corridor in Central City. Additionally, the project is intended to provide opportunities for improved pedestrian access across the railroad tracks. This project is needed due to conflicts between trains and vehicles, unacceptable traffic delays and inadequate pedestrian facilities at the highway-rail crossing of N-14 and the UPRR mainline.

In 2016, a public information open house meeting was held to present information on four roadway and viaduct alignments that were being considered at that time. These alternatives included building on the current alignment with construction of a viaduct over UPRR, building to the east on the Nebraska Central Railroad Company (NCRC) rail corridor (between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue) with construction of a new roadway north of the proposed

viaduct to reconnect with N-14 at approximately 10<sup>th</sup> Street, building to the east on the NCRC rail corridor with construction of the viaduct over UPRR that would connect to 13<sup>th</sup> Street north of the UPRR, and building to the west with reconstruction of C Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street including construction of the viaduct over UPRR. The no-build alternative was also presented. After consideration of input and additional analysis, the two east alternatives and the no-build are being carried forward for further consideration.

Also in 2016, it was stated that improvements may be needed at the intersection of U.S. Highway 30 (US-30) and N-14 to accommodate anticipated changes in the travel pattern at the intersection with the possible realignment of N-14. Six alternatives were developed to address this component of the project. These included building a small diameter roundabout at the intersection of US-30 and N-14, building a larger diameter roundabout at the same location, reconstructing the existing N-14/US-30 intersection with a new “T” configuration and signals, utilizing C Avenue to construct a “T” intersection at US-30 with signals, reconstructing the existing N-14/US-30 intersection with one-way pairs (i.e. northbound would use N-14 and southbound would use C Avenue), and building a larger diameter roundabout shifted to the west of the existing N-14/US-30 intersection.

After consideration of the traffic operations and impacts to local businesses, three of these alternatives have been eliminated and three have been carried forward for further consideration. Those carried forward include the slightly larger diameter roundabout at the existing location of N-14 and US-30, the one-way pairs, and the “T” intersection using C Avenue.

Because federal funding would be provided by the Federal Highway Administration, an environmental assessment is being prepared to investigate the social, environmental, and economic effects of the proposed project. Environmental Resources to be evaluated include wetlands, threatened and endangered species, historic properties and cultural resources, parks and recreation areas, social and economic

impacts, minority and low-income populations, noise impacts, aesthetics and any required property acquisitions.

The proposed project may require the acquisition of additional property rights which could include new right-of-way (ROW), control of access (CA), permanent easements (PE) and/or temporary easements (TE) for construction throughout the project area. Relocations may be required depending on the alternative selected. If your property would be impacted by this project, you would be contacted by a representative in the future once the design footprint could be established.

As of this date, construction has not been scheduled. A construction letting date would be scheduled based on the results of the environmental assessment, funding availability and priority.

This public information open house meeting is being held to provide information regarding the project, currently in the preliminary design phase, and to receive the public's input on proposed alternatives. All interested persons are invited to attend and present relevant comments and questions. Design information will be displayed and personnel from NDOT will be present to answer questions and receive comments. The information "open house" format allows the public to come at any time during the advertised hours, gather pertinent information about the

project, speak one-on-one with project personnel, and leave as they wish. A formal presentation will not be included as part of this public information open house meeting.

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NDOT will make every reasonable accommodation to provide an accessible meeting facility for all persons. Appropriate provisions for the hearing and visually challenged or persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) will be made if the Department is notified by November 8, 2021. The public is being encouraged to make suggestions or express concerns regarding this proposed project. Comments will be collected through December 18, 2021. Written comments or requests should be submitted to: Sarah Fisher, Public Involvement Specialist, Nebraska Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759; [sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov](mailto:sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov); voice telephone 402-479-3832, Fax 402-479-3989.

Additional information regarding the proposed project will be made available on the NDOT website, the day after the meeting, at [ndot.info/42013](http://ndot.info/42013). For those without internet access, information may be obtained through the contact above or at NDOT Headquarters, 1500 Hwy 2, Lincoln, NE. For further information, contact Wes Wahlgren, NDOT District 4 Engineer, 308-385-6265, [wes.wahlgren@nebraska.gov](mailto:wes.wahlgren@nebraska.gov).