

## Public Hearing

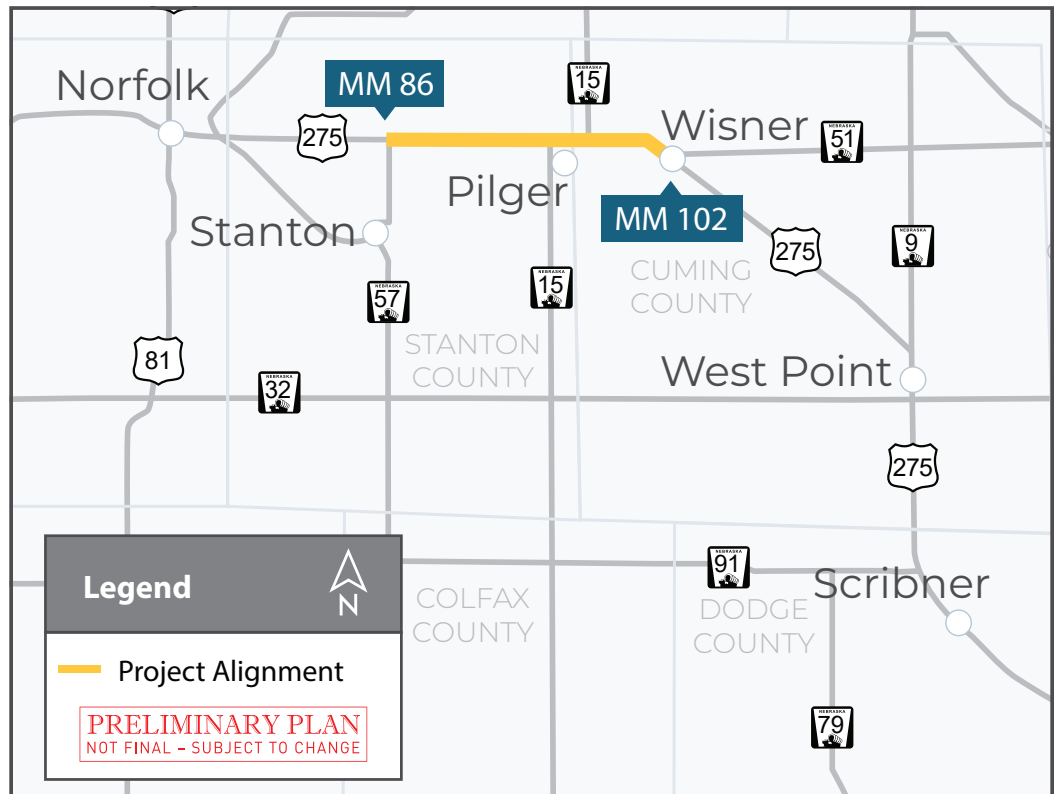
S-275-6(1052) Norfolk – Wisner; C.N. 32319

Wisner-Pilger Public Schools, Fine Arts Auditorium, 801 18th St N, Wisner, NE 68791

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have developed a Draft Environmental Assessment per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and are seeking input on proposed improvements to approximately 16 miles of US Highway 275 (US-275) in Stanton and Cuming Counties, Nebraska.

### PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project would expand the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane expressway. The project would begin east of Norfolk, approximately 0.30 mile east of the intersection of US-275 and Nebraska Highway 57 (N-57) at approximately mile marker (MM) 86. It would extend east and south to approximately 17th Street in Wisner near MM 102, where it would tie into the existing US-275 four-lane roadway. Project grading and construction would begin east of N-57, but the environmental study area extends west of N-57 to capture potential construction transition elements such as lighting, signage, and construction traffic control, as depicted on associated figures and maps.



### PROJECT PURPOSE

- **Fulfill legislative intent** to continue development of the expressway system identified in the 1988 *Nebraska Highway Needs Study*.
- **Improve regional connectivity** for vehicles in northeast Nebraska, including commercial vehicles, by providing important expressway connections with N-57, Nebraska Highway 15 (N-15), and Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51), while maintaining convenient highway access for communities in the area.
- **Maximize use** of existing transportation infrastructure, including connecting highways and existing right-of-way (ROW), **improve the condition** of the existing infrastructure, and **maximize the cost-effectiveness** of the project.

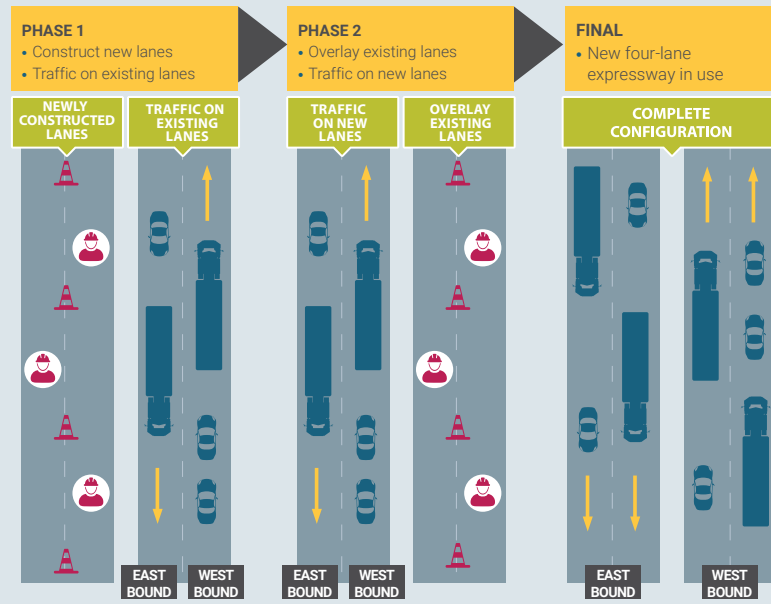
## SCOPE OF WORK

The improvements would expand the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane expressway by constructing a new, parallel two-lane roadway, including drainage structures, adjacent to the existing US-275. The existing two lanes of US-275 would be resurfaced and bridges and drainage structures would be repaired or replaced as needed. In addition to mainline US-275 construction, the project may include improvements at the US-275 intersections with N-57, N-15, and N-51, as well as various county roads.

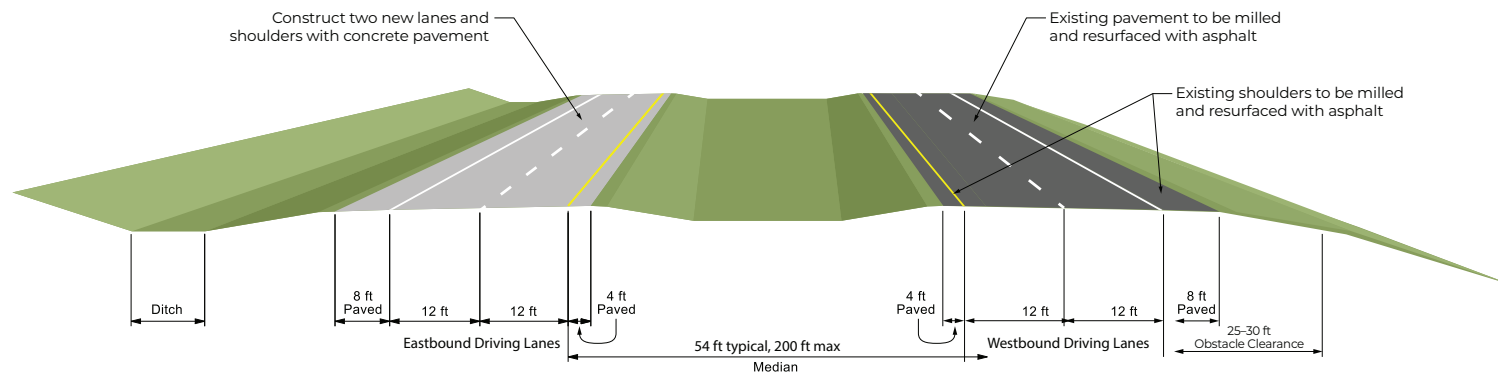
## 2+2 APPROACH

The 2+2 construction concept would construct two new lanes adjacent to the existing two-lanes of US-275 to create a four-lane corridor. This approach would:

- Minimize traffic disruption
- Maximize the use of existing roadway
- Minimize environmental and community impacts



## PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TYPICAL SECTION



Expressway Section

PRELIMINARY PLAN  
NOT FINAL - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Wetland impacts are anticipated and would be mitigated at appropriate sites. The project would have an adverse effect upon the historic Sharpe Homestead archeological site, located along US-275 in Stanton County. Adverse effects to this site would be handled by archeological data recovery in accordance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. The project would impact the Wisner-Pilger Public Schools track and practice fields. Temporary easements and a small amount of ROW would be needed from the school property at 18th and 21st streets to accommodate intersection improvements. Access and/or use of this property would be maintained. The project may affect existing center pivot irrigation systems. Owners would be compensated for impacts during right-of-way acquisition. The project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the endangered northern long-eared bat. A noise study has been prepared for the project and is available at this hearing. It identified impacts on some properties but did not warrant any mitigation.

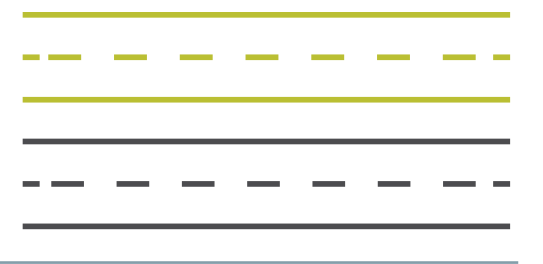
## ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Five alternatives were developed and considered based on input from the public as well as federal and state resource agencies:



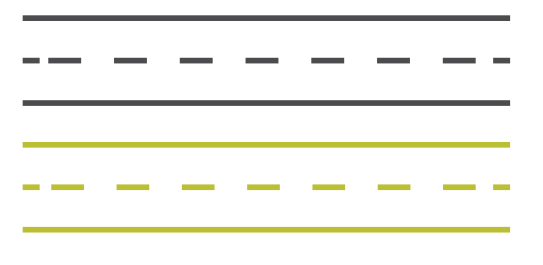
### 1. Widen North

- This alternative would construct a new, parallel, two-lane roadway north of existing US-275.



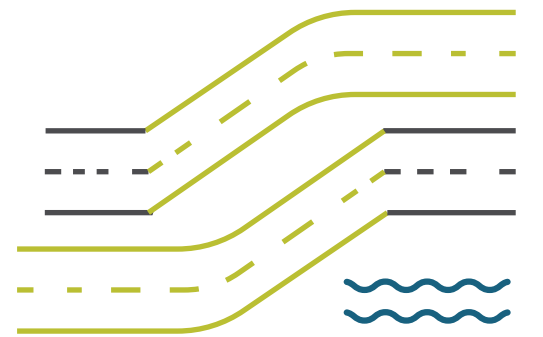
### 2. Widen South

- All aspects of this alternative would be the same as the Widen North alternative, except the new roadway would be to the south.



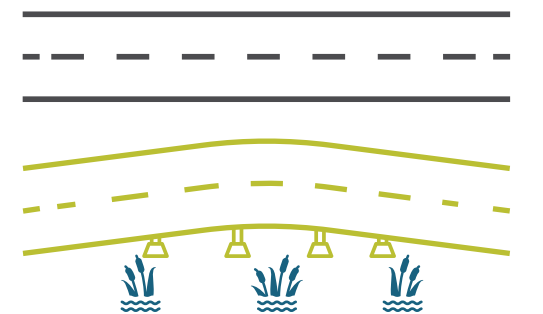
### 3. Combined

- This alternative would be a combination of the Widen North and Widen South alternatives.
- It was developed to avoid an intermittent channel feature in the south ditch of the existing roadway.
- It would involve the new lanes being placed south of US-275 for a majority of the corridor but would flip to the north side between 575th Avenue in Stanton County and 4th Road in Cuming County.



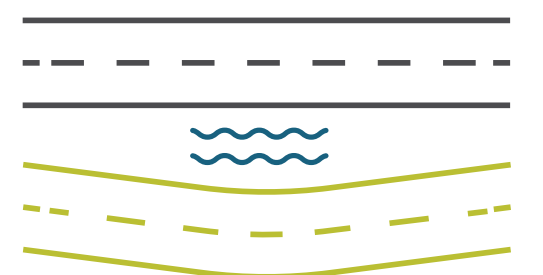
### 4. On-Structure

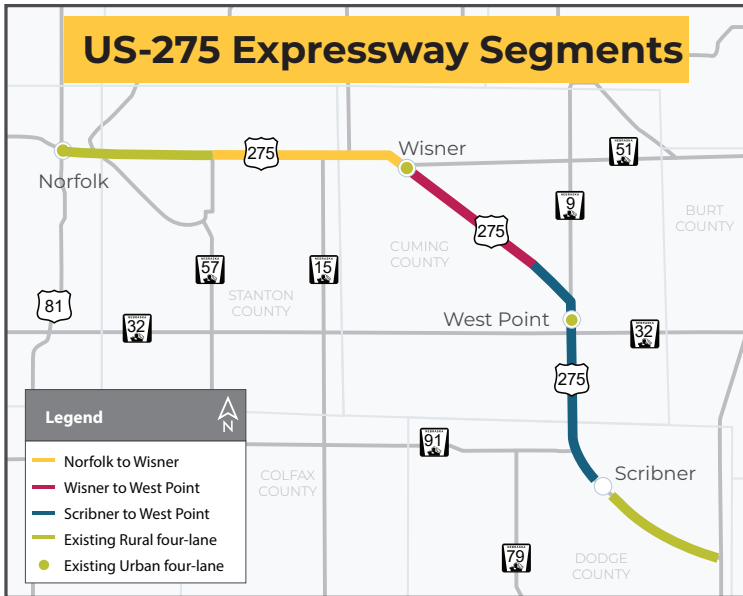
- This alternative would use bridges to avoid and minimize wetland impacts.
- It could be built with construction of new lanes on either side of the existing lanes.
- A preliminary review indicates that approximately 12 new bridges (2.5 miles total length) would be required.



### 5. Widen South + Shift Preferred Alternative

- This alternative follows the same alignment as the Widen South alternative, except between 575th Avenue in Stanton County and 2nd Road in Cuming County.
- In that section, the eastbound lanes would shift approximately 150 feet to the south to avoid an intermittent channel feature in the south ditch of the existing roadway.





### Norfolk to Wisner

- Cost: \$104 million
- Phase: In design
- Funding Source: Federal and State
- Anticipated Construction Timeframe: 2025-2028

### Wisner to West Point

- Cost: \$90 million
- Phase: In design
- Funding Source: State (not federal aid eligible)
- Anticipated Construction Timeframe: 2026-2029

### Scribner to West Point

- Cost: \$90 million
- Phase: In construction
- Funding Source: State
- Anticipated Construction Timeframe: 2021-2024

## RIGHT-OF-WAY

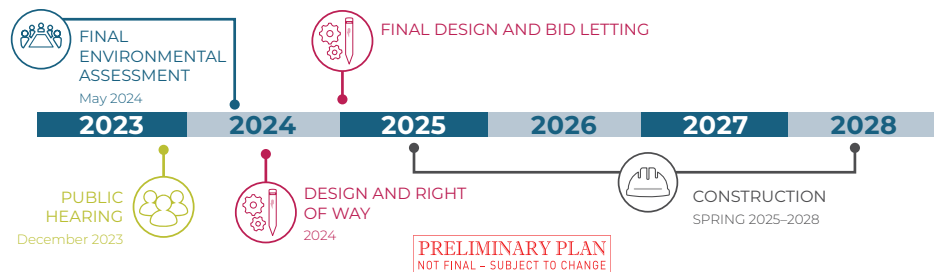
If the proposed project is constructed, the acquisition of additional property rights would be required, which could include new ROW, control of access (CA), permanent easements (PE), and/or temporary easements (TE). If your property is impacted by this project, you would be contacted by a representative once the design footprint has been established.

## TRAFFIC ACCOMMODATIONS

The project would be constructed in two segments along US-275: from N-57 to the N-15 east junction and from the N-15 east junction to Wisner. The project would be constructed under traffic, with lane closures controlled by appropriate traffic control devices and practices. Temporary surfacing may be required to accommodate phased construction. Short detours for county roads may be needed to construct intersections but adjacent county roads would not be closed at the same time. Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction but may be limited at times due to traffic phasing requirements.

## SCHEDULE & COST

Project costs are estimated at \$104 million and would come from federal and state sources. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2025 with anticipated completion in 2028.



## FEEDBACK

Comments will be collected through **January 22, 2024** and should be submitted to:



**Lucas Nelsen,**  
*NDOT Public Involvement*  
 P.O. Box 94759  
 Lincoln, NE 68509-4759  
 lucas.nelsen@nebraska.gov  
 (402) 479-3890

Information regarding the proposed project, including an electronic version of the Draft Environmental Assessment, is available on the NDOT website at [ndot.info/32319](http://ndot.info/32319). For those without internet access, information may be obtained at NDOT Headquarters: 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, NE, 68502 or by contacting:

**Kevin Domogalla,**  
*NDOT District 3 Engineer*  
 kevin.domogalla@nebraska.gov  
 (402) 370-3470