

Legal Notice

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Public Information Open House Meetings

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Shelby-Rising City Public Schools, 650 N Walnut St, Shelby, NE 68662

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Osceola Auditorium, 361 Central St, Osceola, NE 68651

Thursday, March 14, 2024 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Holthus Convention Center, 3130 Holen Ave, York, NE 68467

S-81-2(1051) York - Columbus; C.N. 42967

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) will hold three public information open house meetings regarding the proposed expansion of approximately 41 miles of U.S. Highway 81 (US-81) located in York, Polk, and Butler counties. The meetings will be held in an open house format with no formal presentation. All three open house meetings will present the same information.

Identified as **York - Columbus**, the proposed project would expand the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane expressway along an approximately 41-mile segment. The expressway would change to three-lanes in urban areas then return to four-lanes through the rural segments. The proposed project would start near the north U.S. Highway 34 (US-34)/US-81 junction at the end of the existing four-lane York bypass. It would extend north to the Nebraska Highway 64 (N-64) and US-81 junction, where it would connect to the existing four-lane roadway.

The purpose of the project is to fulfill legislative intent to continue the development of the expressway system identified in the *1988 Nebraska Highway Needs Study*; improve regional connectivity for vehicles in east-central Nebraska by providing important expressway connections with Nebraska Highway 66 (N-66), N-64, and Nebraska Highway 92 (N-92), 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. The project is needed to advance the last two-lane segment between York and Columbus of the US-81 Expressway from the Kansas/Nebraska border to Norfolk, Nebraska.

The proposed project would 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). Residential relocations are anticipated. If your property is impacted by this project, you will be contacted by a representative once the design footprint has been established. Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction but may be limited at times due to traffic phasing requirements.

Proposed project costs are estimated at approximately \$400-\$450 million and would come from federal and state funding sources. Construction could begin as early as fall 2028 and is subject to funding availability.

These meetings are being held to provide information regarding the project and to receive the public's input. All interested persons are invited to attend and present relevant comments and questions. Project information will be displayed and personnel from NDOT will be present to answer questions and receive comments. A public hearing is tentatively planned to be held in a centralized public location (Osceola) in fall 2024.

NDOT will make every reasonable accommodation to provide accessible meeting facilities 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 March 5, 2024.

Information regarding the proposed project will be available at ndot.info/42967. For those without internet access, information may be obtained at NDOT Headquarters: 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, NE 68502, or by contacting: Wes Wahlgren, NDOT District 4 Engineer, at (308) 385-6265 or wes.wahlgren@nebraska.gov.

Comments will be collected through March 29, 2024, and should be submitted to:

Sierra Luhn
NDOT Public Involvement
PO Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759