

Legal Notice

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, December 21, 2023; 5:30 – 7:30 PM

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

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) will give a formal presentation starting at 6:00 PM, with an open house to follow until 7:30 PM.

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

NDOT will hold a public hearing regarding the preliminary design and Draft Environmental Assessment for roadway improvements to approximately 16 miles of U.S. Highway 275 (US-275), located in Stanton and Cuming Counties, Nebraska. The public hearing will be held at Wisner-Pilger Public Schools in the Fine Arts Auditorium, 801 18th St N in Wisner, Nebraska on Thursday, December 21, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. A formal presentation will begin at 6:00 PM, with an open house to follow.

Identified as **Norfolk – Wisner**, 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 ties 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.

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, Nebraska Highway 15 (N-15) and Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51), as well as various county roads.

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 northeast Nebraska, including commercial vehicles, by providing important expressway connections with N-57, N-15, and 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.

A Draft Environmental Assessment has been prepared for this project and is available for public review at the following locations: NDOT Headquarters, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, NE; FHWA Nebraska Division, 100 Centennial Mall N, Lincoln, NE; NDOT District 3 Headquarters, 408 N 13th St, Norfolk, NE; Wisner Public Library, 1015 Ave E, Wisner, NE; and the Pilger Public

Library, 120 N Main St, Pilger, NE. An electronic version of the Draft Environmental Assessment is available for review on the project website at: ndot.info/32319.

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

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.

Wetland impacts are anticipated and would be mitigated at appropriate sites. The project would have an adverse effect on 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. A noise study has been prepared for the project and will be available for public review at the hearing.

Project costs are estimated at \$104 million and would come from federal and state funding sources. The project would be constructed in two segments along US-275: N-57 to the N-15 east junction and the N-15 east junction to Wisner. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2025 with anticipated completion in 2028.

The public hearing is being held in compliance with the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act, to provide information regarding the project and to receive the public's input. All interested persons are invited to attend, provide comments, and ask questions. Project information will be displayed, and personnel from NDOT will be present to answer questions and receive comments. Comments can be provided verbally at the hearing, submitted in writing as a statement, or by filling out a comment form available at the hearing. Comments for the Draft Environmental Assessment can also be submitted by emailing, calling, or mailing to the contact listed below by the end of the comment period on January 22, 2024. Design plans and the Environmental Assessment document will be further developed after public input is received following the public hearing and comment period.

NDOT will make every reasonable accommodation to provide an accessible meeting facility for all persons. Alternative formats to provide effective communication, including communications in alternate languages, will be made if NDOT is notified by December 14, 2023.

Information regarding the proposed project will be available on the day of the meeting at 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, at kevin.domogalla@nebraska.gov or (402) 370-3470.

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

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