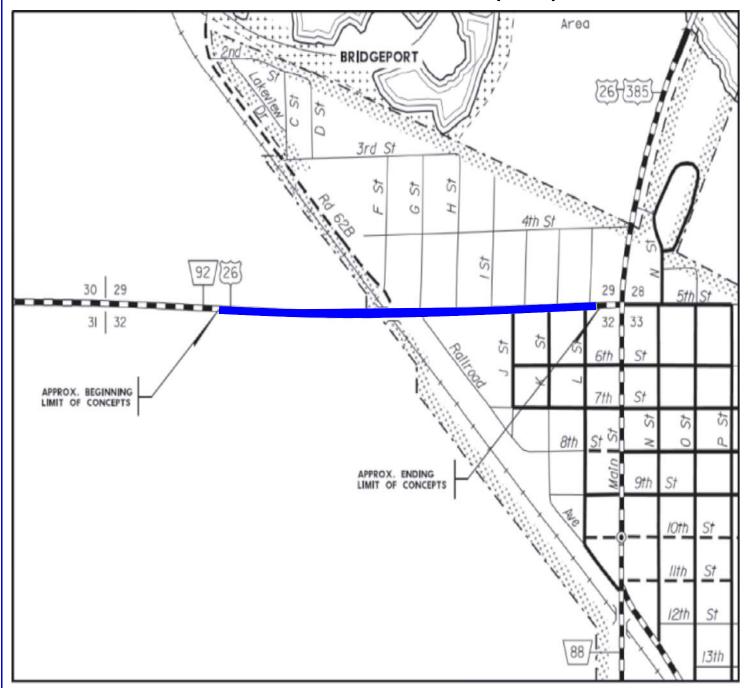
BNSF RR AT BRIDGEPORT

NH-26-1(161); CN 51299







PRELIMINARY PLAN
NOT FINAL - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Send comments to:

NDOR Public Involvement

Sarah Kugler

P.O. Box 94759; 1500 Hwy. 2 Lincoln, NE 68509-9983 **402-479-4871**

sarah.kugler@nebraska.qov

For more information:

NDOR District 5 Engineer

Craig Lind

P.O. Box 220; 140375 Rundell Rd Gering, NE 69341-0220 **308-436-6587**

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www.transportation.nebraska.gov

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS NOTICE OF HIGHWAY PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING Thur., July 10, 2014; 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Information Open House Public Meeting
Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 Main St., Bridgeport, NE

NH-26-1(161) BNSF RR AT BRIDGEPORT; C.N. 51299

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) will hold a public information open house regarding a proposed improvement of U.S. Highway 26 (US-26) and Nebraska Highway 92 (N-92) in the city of Bridgeport, Morrill County. The meeting will be held at the Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 Main St., in Bridgeport, on Thurs., July 10th, 4:00-6:00 P.M.

Identified as *BNSF*, *Bridgeport* the proposed project would close the existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway crossing on US-26 and N-92, and would include construction of an alternative crossing. The purpose of this project is to preserve the US-26 and N-92 transportation asset, improve the reliability of the transportation system and perpetuate the mobility of the traveling public. The need for this project is based on the current conflicts between trains and vehicles, vehicular delays, and the anticipated growth in the rate of trains that utilize the US-26/N-92 crossing per day.

This project was in development until late 2007 when it was shelved for lack of identified funding. The project is now being redeveloped and is back in the planning stage. Federal environmental standards require an updated alternatives analysis and the public is being asked to comment on five alternative plans.

The alternative designs being re-examined include "no build" (do nothing and continue to maintain the crossing), build on the current alignment and extend west, build to the south of the existing US-26/N-92, build far south of the existing US-26/N92 (beginning at 8th Street), and build far north of the existing US-26/N-92 (beginning at 4th Street).

This project may require the acquisition of additional property rights including new right-of-way (ROW) and temporary easements (TE) for construction throughout the project area. Relocations may be required depending on the alternative selected.

An Environmental Assessment is being prepared to determine the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. There would be wetland impacts associated with the project, which would be mitigated on-site or at a local wetlands bank. There would also be potential impacts to threatened and

endangered species, cultural resources, environmental justice, noise impacts, aesthetics, and any required property acquisitions.

As of this date, construction has not been scheduled. At the conclusion of the alternative analysis, if an alternative other than the "no-build" is preferred, the project will proceed into the final design phase. A construction letting date will be scheduled based on funding availability and priority.

This public open house meeting is being held to provide information regarding the project, currently in the study and preliminary design phase, and to receive the public's input. All interested persons are invited to attend and present relevant comments and questions. Design information will be displayed and personnel from NDOR 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.

NDOR 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 June 30th, 2014. Notification should be submitted to: Sarah Kugler, Public Involvement Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Roads, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759; sarah.kugler@nebraska.gov; voice telephone (402)479-4871, TDD telephone (402)479-3834, Fax (402)479-3989.

Information regarding the proposed project will be made available on the NDOR website at www.transportation.nebraska.gov/projects/ by clicking on the "Bridgeport" link. For further information, contact Craig Lind, NDOR District Five Engineer, (308)436-6587, craig.lind@nebraska.gov.

