

Public Information Open House Meeting

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) are seeking input on the proposed **Decatur Bridge** project, which would improve the Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51) / Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) Missouri River crossing in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

PRELIMINARY PURPOSE & NEED

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/ IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand.

The project is needed to:

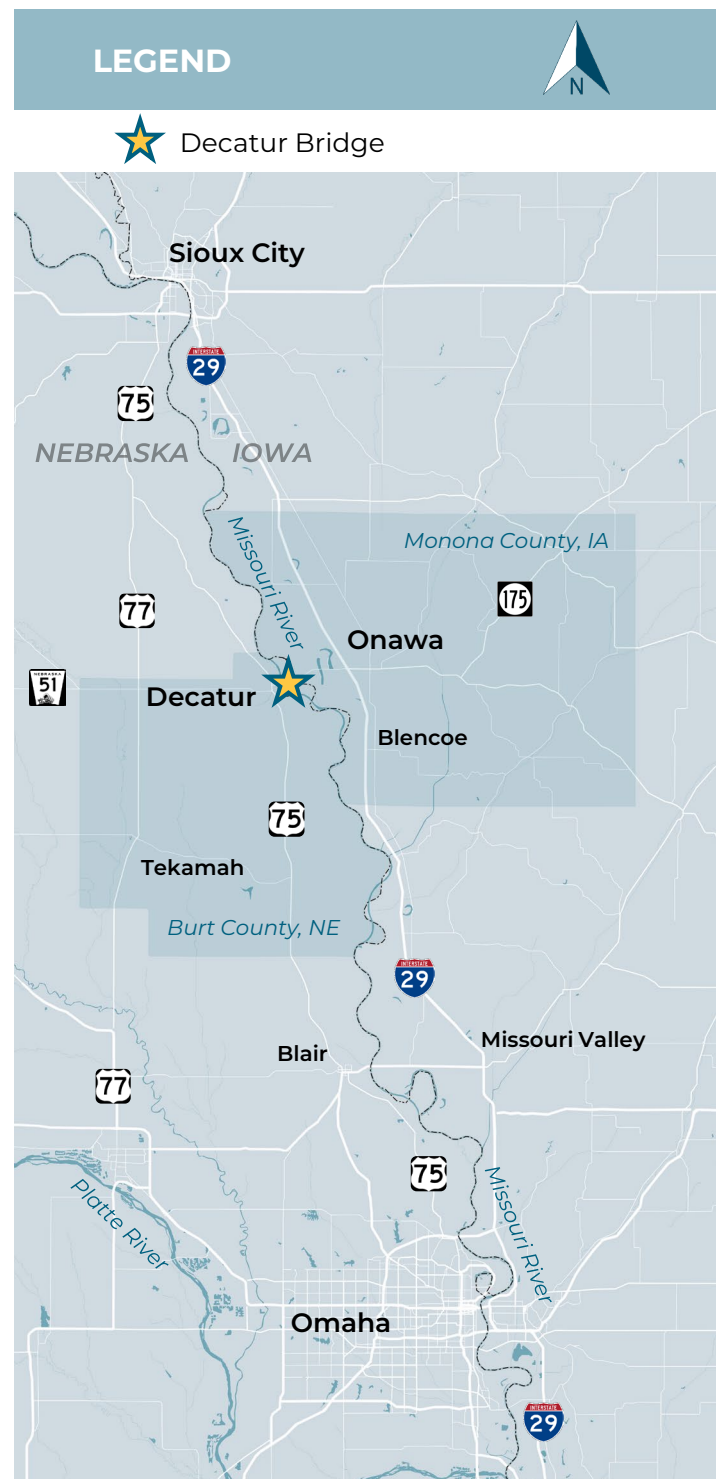
- **Maintain connectivity** for Decatur and Onawa area residents with services on both sides of the river. Past long-term crossing closures negatively affected jobs and the regional economy with crossing closures requiring more than 80 miles of adverse, out-of-direction travel.
- **Improve the infrastructure condition** to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies.
- **Improve resiliency against flooding** to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

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 has been established.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) class of action documentation will be prepared to disclose the potential social, environmental, and economic effects of the proposed project. Effects evaluated will include those to wetlands, threatened and endangered species, historic properties and cultural resources, parks and recreation areas, minority and low-income populations, aesthetics, and properties.



BRIDGE HISTORY

The existing 1,956-foot eleven-span bridge was conceived and built as a toll bridge by the Burt County Bridge Commission between 1950 - 1956.

- 1955** Built on dry land, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) diverted the Missouri River under the bridge.
- 1970** Bridge began to receive regular structural repairs.
- 2000** Steel grid deck was installed.
- 2011** Scour from the 2011 flood resulted in a five-month closure to perform bridge repairs.
- 2013** Ownership of the bridge was transferred to NDOT. Until this time the crossing was operated as a toll bridge.



Photo: Partially completed bridge & USACE excavation, 1955.



HISTORIC PROPERTY

The Decatur Bridge was previously determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

FEEDBACK

Comments will be collected through **September 16, 2024**, and should be submitted to:

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 NDOT Public Involvement
 PO Box 94759
 Lincoln, NE 68509-4759
 sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
 (402) 479-3832

For additional information contact:

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

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 Iowa DOT District 3 Engineer
 jessica.felix@iowadot.us
 (712) 274-5833

Information regarding the proposed project will be available on the project website at ndot.info/32395

The project website will be updated as the project progresses.



TIMELINE

This project schedule is based on several assumptions and is subject to change based on the timing of agency approvals, etc.

