

BRO-7054(19) *Verdigre North*; C.N. 31821

The Federal Highway Administration and the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) are seeking input on a proposed project involving Structure Number C005413205 (Gross State Aid Bridge) that crosses Verdigre Creek on County Road 885 north of Verdigre in Knox County, Nebraska. The Gross State Aid Bridge is a historic bridge and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

Identified as ***Verdigre North***, this project is located approximately 1,000 feet west of Nebraska Highway 14 (N-14). The existing crossing at this location does not meet current bridge sufficiency ratings and improvements to the crossing are required. In this location, the creek is within the boundaries of the Missouri National Recreational River and the Verdigre Creek National Recreational River. The Gross State Aid Bridge is a single span, 182-foot-long steel truss bridge that is 16 feet wide and carries approximately 80 vehicles per day. The adjacent crushed rock roadway is approximately 26 feet wide. A replacement bridge approximately 100 feet north of the existing bridge is among the project alternatives being considered. Based on an analysis of the alternatives, the preferred alternative would be to remove the bridge after construction of the new replacement bridge and connection of the new approaches to 885 Road. The adjacent roadway would be expanded to 28 feet wide with crushed rock surfacing. Existing driveways northwest and southeast of the structure would be re-graded to match the proposed roadway. The project would also realign and improve roadway approaches, approximately 525 feet west of the new bridge, and approximately 975 feet east of the new bridge. The new, three-span bridge would be 280 feet long.

The purpose of this project is to preserve the transportation asset, improve reliability of the transportation system, and perpetuate the mobility of the traveling public with a crossing of Verdigre Creek in the vicinity of the existing crossing on 885 Road. This project is needed because the existing bridge is substandard in width, has deteriorated, and is near the end of its useful life. Additionally, the current alignment of 885 Road with the bridge does not meet minimum design standards.

In addition to the potential replacement and removal of the existing bridge, this project would include removal of trees and shrubs, and site grading to prepare for construction. A temporary bridge or work platform for construction vehicles may need to be constructed in the Verdigre Creek channel. Areas disturbed during construction would be stabilized utilizing erosion control methods.

New right-of-way and temporary easements on private property would be required to build this project. Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction, but may be limited at times due to phasing requirements. Impacts to wetlands and Verdigre Creek are anticipated, and a Section 404 Clean Water Act permit would be needed; if mitigation is required, it could be done onsite or at a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-approved wetlands bank.

Construction could begin as early as spring 2019 and be complete by fall 2019. Total cost for the project is estimated at \$1.7 million and funding would come from federal and state sources.

The proposed project would be constructed under traffic with lane closures controlled with approved temporary traffic control devices and practices. However, for less than one month, a designated detour

of approximately six miles would be required to connect roadway approaches. The designated detour route would be provided utilizing 523 Avenue, North Main Street and N-14.

The public is being encouraged to make suggestions or express concerns regarding this proposed project. Materials can be provided in alternative languages or formats. Comments will be collected through February 17, 2018. Written comments or requests should be submitted to Brian Goss, Project Manager, c/o HDR, 8404 Indian Hills Dr, Omaha, NE 68114; Brian.Goss@hdrinc.com; voice telephone (402) 399-4933; fax (402) 399-1111. Information about the Verdigre North Bridge Replacement project can also be found at NDOT's website at <http://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/> by clicking on the "Verdigre North" link. For those without internet access, information may be obtained through the contact above or at NDOT Headquarters, 1500 Hwy 2, Lincoln, NE.

The proposed project is currently in the environmental stage; information and comments received from the public during this time would be considered as this project advances through the environmental process.