

LINCOLN SOUTH BELTWAY COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Purpose, Objectives and Emphasis of the Plan

The Lincoln South Beltway (LSB) project is one of the largest transportation projects for the State of Nebraska. The beltway will serve regional and interstate travelers through improved east-west connectivity, reduced conflicts between local and through traffic, and reduced heavy truck traffic through Lincoln. In an effort to transition smoothly into construction, a pre-construction public meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2020 (after the project is awarded to a contractor). The emphasis of this plan is to engage stakeholders with interests in corridor improvements. The plan is designed in compliance with NDOT's current public involvement plan and other applicable requirements. This plan is customized for the Lincoln South Beltway project.

Opportunities for Public Input

Opportunities to provide input will include:

- 1) Direct feedback during the Pre-Construction Public Meeting
- 2) Online feedback via the project website
- 3) Hardcopy feedback via formal project comment forms, letters and emails sent to the project team

Public Communications

Public communications will be developed in a collaborative and interdisciplinary process to make sure the messages are appropriate for the public and accurate from a technical perspective. Logos representing Federal Highway Administration, Nebraska Department of Transportation, City of Lincoln and Lancaster County will appear on project materials. No consultant logos will appear. NDOT will notify stakeholders and the public of the Pre-Construction Public Meeting in the Lincoln Journal Star and local media via NDOT press release.

NDOT will update the project website regularly as the project progresses through construction. Should the team find that minority and low-income persons may be affected, project information will be produced in multi-lingual formats and will be distributed directly to any affected persons in accordance with Environmental Justice principles. Chris Hassler with the NDOT Civil Rights Office will assist the team with outreach to minority populations. All tools for public communication will use common messages, text, graphics and maps to unify and streamline project communications.

Public Meeting & Logistics

NDOT will hold one Pre-Construction Public Meeting in the South Lincoln area. The primary objective of this public meeting, which will be held in an open house format, will be to display final design details, proposed construction schedule, and phasing plans so that stakeholders are able to understand approximately when they will experience temporary and/or permanent impacts associated with project construction. These temporary impacts will include occasionally closing US-77 and N-2 at night for overhead work (e.g. setting girders) which may have a temporary effect on nearby businesses. These impacts would be minor due to the short duration and timing of closures. Businesses would be made aware of these closures ahead of time through the NDOT website, the TMP, and other outreach efforts including a public meeting prior to the start of construction where final design plans will be available for review. Impacts to regional vehicular mobility (including schools, emergency service providers, and businesses) would also be minimized by communicating these changes. The public will be shown where to get updated information and who to contact with specific questions. Staff will be available to

personally address concerns and ensure each attendee understands the construction schedule, project phasing, detours, etc.

NDOT will disseminate public meeting notifications to property owners directly adjacent to the LSB alignment and the distribution list used for the 2016 LSB Public Hearing. This distribution list includes 932 citizens and businesses within and adjacent to the project area. Eight local community organizations serving minority, low-income, and non-English speaking citizens will also receive notifications in their respective languages. Interpreters will be available at the public meeting to aid non-English speakers in understanding the complex project details. Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) staff, consultant staff, and the contractor will also be in attendance. This Communications and Public Involvement plan also documents NDOT's commitment to:

1. As per commitment 5, NDOT will coordinate with Norris School District throughout construction to provide information regarding detours and traffic changes. Safe alternatives will be identified where needed (NDOT Communications, NDOT District Construction, Contractor). Commitments made to the School district to minimize impacts will be communicated to the contractor by NDOT.
2. As per commitment 91, NDOT will coordinate with emergency service providers before construction activities begin. Coordination will continue throughout construction. (NDOT District Construction, Contractor). Commitments made to emergency services to minimize impacts will be communicated to the contractor by NDOT.

As part of the above commitments, Norris School District and emergency service providers will be invited to the preconstruction meeting for the project.

NDOT will place a notice of the public meeting in the Lincoln Journal Star and a media release will be distributed to local newspapers and media outlets as well as posted on the NDOT project website. NDOT will have DMS message boards stationed in key locations prior to the meeting as an additional notice of public meeting.

Staff from the design and construction teams will be in attendance to discuss the details and answer questions. This meeting will also be an opportunity to introduce the NDOT construction project management team and contractors so that the public is able to understand the roles, responsibilities and contact information for each.

Agency Coordination:

- NDOT, the City of Lincoln, and Lancaster County will continue to coordinate local projects to reduce impacts to the travelling public and maintain access to properties at all times. If temporary traffic control or scheduling adjustments are necessary, NDOT will communicate those needs with the contractor.
- Access to the Wilderness Park parking area on Saltillo Road will be maintained, and NDOT and the contractor will provide advance notice to the City of any temporary changes to access that may be required during construction. Any temporary changes to access must first be approved by NDOT and FHWA.

NDOT Deliverables

The primary deliverables and activities of the PIP include:

- Communications and Correspondence
- Project Displays
- Project Documents
- Notice of the Pre-Construction Public Information Meeting
- One Pre-Construction Public Information Meeting and Summary
- Project Website Content

After award of the contract, but prior to start of construction, the contractor, NDOT and FHWA shall coordinate to discuss plans for the pre-construction public information meeting. In addition, the contractor shall develop a proposal for communicating detour routes and construction phasing to the public and stakeholders throughout the duration of construction. The proposal shall be provided to NDOT for review and acceptance. The proposal will be provided by NDOT to FHWA for review. The plan and its content shall comply with the TMP and special provisions of the contract; any deviations will require FHWA approval.

Tentative Schedule

- PIP plan finalized January 2020
- Website Content February 2020
- Tentative Pre-Construction Public Meeting to be held February 2020