

# N-66 Connection in Louisville

Brian Johnson, P.E.  
Roadway Design  
August 22, 2025

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Journey.  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1

## Project Purpose

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795

The purpose of this project is to:

- **Connect the discontinuous route** of N-66 through the City of Louisville by providing an at-grade crossing of the Union Pacific (UP) railroad tracks
- **Reduce traffic** using city streets that was necessary to travel to the disconnected segment of the existing N-66 route
- **Eliminate conflicts** between trains and vehicles by closing three (3) at-grade crossings of the UP tracks
- **Improve N-50/N-66 Intersection** with a northbound offset right turn and southbound left turn

N-66 currently is the only state route within the Nebraska highway system which has a discontinuous route.

3

## Agenda

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795

- Project Purpose & Need
- Project Overview and Scope of Work
- Design Features
- Public Involvement
- Cost and Schedule
- Commission Recommendation of the following:
  - Approval of **Project Location** and **Design**

2

2

## Project Need

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) identifies the need for railroad grade separation structures by considering the following:

- Potential number of conflicts between road users and trains (**Exposure Factor**)
- Traffic Delays
- Crash Costs

The highway rail crossing of N-66 and UP does not meet NDOT thresholds for considering grade separation. Thus, an at-grade crossing is needed.

4

4

## Existing N-66 Route

- N-66 is a discontinuous route
- Project will be connecting the



5

## Scope of Work

- Connect N-66 within Louisville by constructing a new alignment on 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Main Street to Walnut Street
- Construct a signalized at-grade crossing of the UP with two siding tracks removed
- Pedestrian accommodations will be provided along N-66



7

## Project Overview

- N-66 to be connected within Louisville with a signalized at-grade crossing of UP.
- Varying two-lane roadway cross sections
- Alignment Alternatives and Preliminary Design are complete
- Public Involvement held May 29, 2025
- Final Environmental Categorical Exclusion (CE) document will be submitted to FHWA later this year



6

## Scope of Work

- Improvements on 5<sup>th</sup> Street from N-50 to Main Street
  - Trench Widening
  - Curb Replacement
  - Mill/Inlay

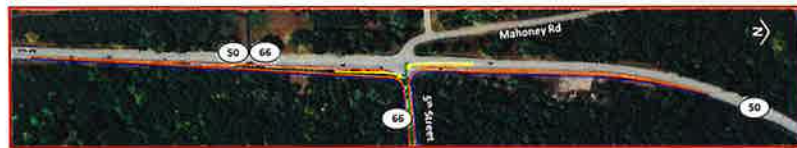


8

## Scope of Work

- At the intersection of N-50 & N-66, turn lanes will be added:
  - Northbound offset right turn lane
  - Southbound left turn

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
SHP 66-7(119) C.N. 22795



9

9

## Scope of Work

- Second existing at-grade UP crossing closed:
  - UP crossing at 6<sup>th</sup> Street closed
  - UP to remove siding tracks
  - Separate Local Project to replace 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
SHP 66-7(119) C.N. 22795



PROPOSED UP CLOSURES



11

11

## Scope of Work

- First of three existing at-grade UP crossings will be closed:
  - North Walnut Street will be shifted into a reverse curve to combine two UP crossings into a single crossing
  - Signalization added to existing UP crossing

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
SHP 66-7(119) C.N. 22795



EXISTING UP CROSSINGS  
PROPOSED UP CLOSURES

10

10

## Scope of Work

- Third existing at-grade UP crossings closed:
  - UP crossing at Mill road closed
  - Cass County to remove existing bridge

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
SHP 66-7(119) C.N. 22795



PROPOSED UP CLOSURES



12

12



## Design Features

### Typical Cross Sections - Segment A

N-66, N-50 to High School Driveway



N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP 66-7(119), C.N. 22795



13

13

## Design Features

### Typical Cross Sections - Segment C

N-66, Cherry Street to Main Street



N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP 66-7(119), C.N. 22795



15

15

## Design Features

### Typical Cross Sections - Segment B

N-66, High School Driveway to Cherry Street



N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP 66-7(119), C.N. 22795



14

14

## Design Features

### Typical Cross Sections - Segment D

N-66, Main Street to Walnut Street



N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP 66-7(119), C.N. 22795



16

16

## Design Features

### Typical Cross Sections - Segment E

North Walnut Street



N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795



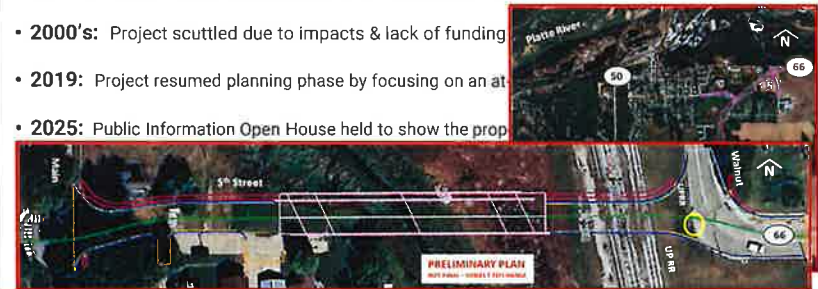
17

17

## Public Involvement

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795

- **1990's:** Project development initially began as Louisville South Bypass
- **2000's:** Project scuttled due to impacts & lack of funding
- **2019:** Project resumed planning phase by focusing on an at-grade connection
- **2025:** Public Information Open House held to show the proposed design



19

19

## Environmental Assessment & Preliminary Design

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795

- Environmental resource reviews
  - Wetlands
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Threatened and Endangered Species
  - Noise & Air
  - Historic Properties and Archeology
  - Parks and recreational facilities (4(f) and 6(f) resources)
  - Utilities
- Alternatives Analysis
- Public Involvement
- Selection of Preferred Alternative
- Final CE document will be submitted to FHWA later this year.

18

18

## Public Involvement

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795

- **May 29, 2025:** Public Hearing
  - Approximately **106** people in attendance
  - Received **26** comments  
(comment period ended June 16, 2025)
- **Public Comments**
  - Overall project support
  - Railroad crossing closures
  - Impact to residents on existing 5th Street
  - Protective devices for pedestrians after the connection is available
  - Possibility of roundabout on N-50/N-66
  - Comment responses has been completed



20

20

## Pedestrian Accommodations & Other Closures

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795

- The new at-grade railroad crossing will be **open** to pedestrian traffic
- Pedestrians will connect to city sidewalks to east
- Pedestrians will use bridge and have access to high school west of Main Street
- Pedestrian crosswalk across N-66 for Main Street sidewalk



21

21

## Pedestrian Accommodations & Other Closures

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795

- The existing 3<sup>rd</sup> Street at-grade railroad crossing will **remain open** to pedestrian traffic but the siding track removed



23

23

## Pedestrian Accommodations & Other Closures

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795

- The existing 6<sup>th</sup> Street at-grade railroad crossing will be **closed** to pedestrian traffic
- Pedestrians will be able to use the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge



22

22

## Schedule & Cost

N-66 Connection in Louisville  
STP-66-7(119), C.N. 22795



**ESTIMATED COST: \$9 MILLION\***  
\*Funding comes from Federal, State, and City of Louisville

24

24

## Requested Actions

N-66 Connection In Louisville  
STP 66 7(119); C/N 22795

NDOT requests Highway Commission Recommendation of the following:

- Approval of the **Project Location** and **Design**

25

25

## Questions?



Brian Johnson, P.E.  
Roadway Design  
Nebraska Department of Transportation  
Off-CE 402.479.3950  
Brian.Johnson@nebraska.gov

26

26