

DECATUR BRIDGE

March 2026

NDOT Project No. STP-51-7(109); CN 32395
Iowa DOT Project No. STP-175-1(106)--2C-67

Public Hearing

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) are seeking input regarding the preliminary design and Environmental Assessment for 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.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project would begin just east of Broadway Street in Decatur, Nebraska and end approximately one mile east of the state line on IA-175.

PURPOSE & NEED

The purpose of the project 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 because area residents must cross the river to access commerce, health care, education, employment, and recreation facilities; the existing bridge has structural and functional deficiencies that require frequent and costly repairs; and the existing crossing is subject to scour and flooding that close the crossing to traffic.

SCOPE OF WORK

The preferred alternative described in the Environmental Assessment would construct a new bridge over the Missouri River approximately 80 feet north of the existing bridge. Improvements would also include new paving, culvert and storm sewer work, guardrail, sidewalk replacement, pavement striping, and lighting.

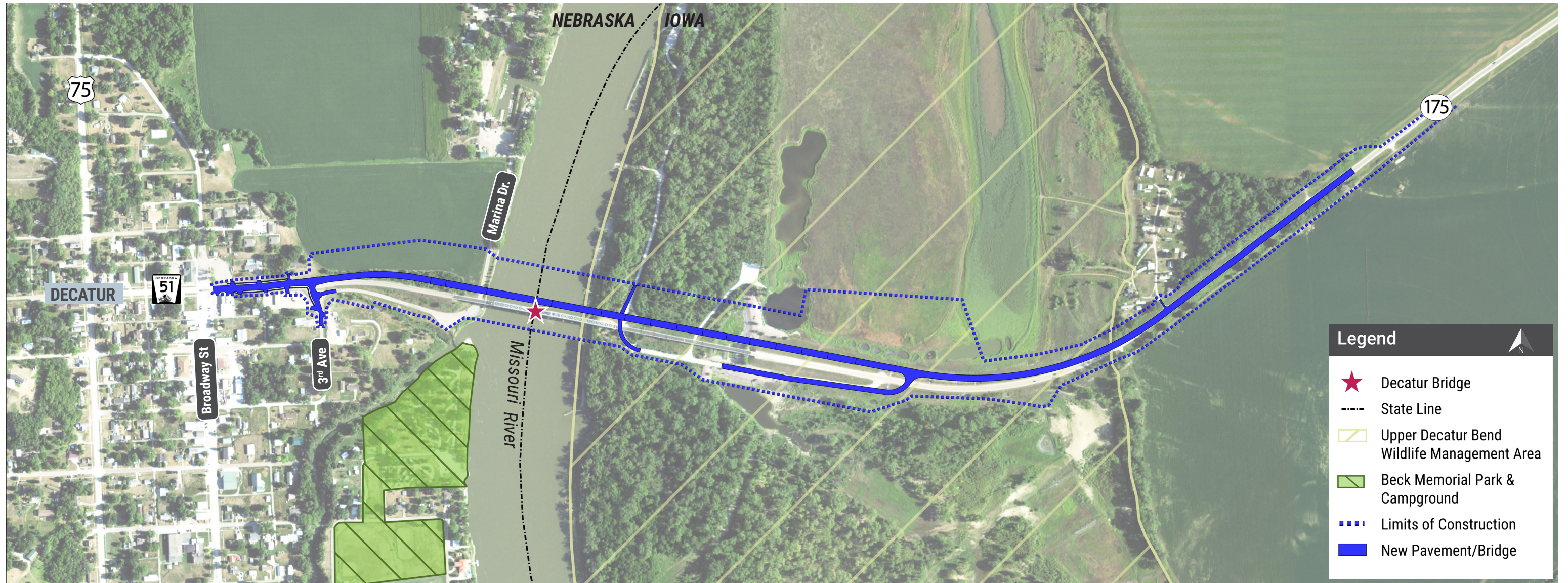
RIGHT-OF-WAY

The proposed project would require the acquisition of additional property rights, which could include new right-of-way, control of access, permanent easements, and/or temporary easements. If your property is impacted by this project, you would be contacted by a representative from your state once the design footprint has been established. Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction but may be limited at times due to traffic phasing requirements.

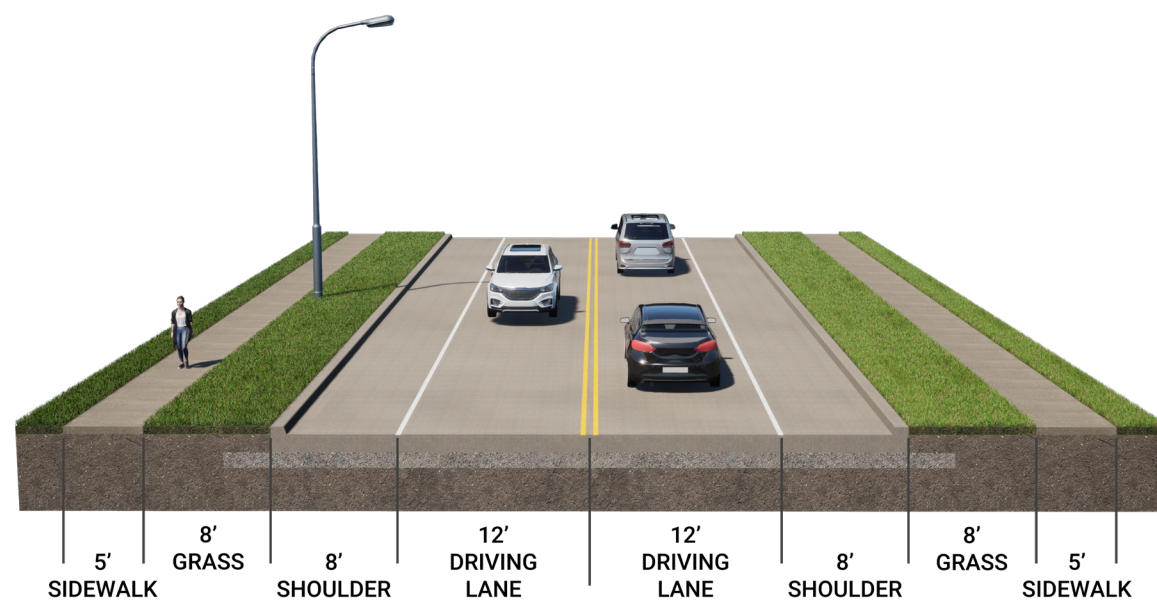


PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

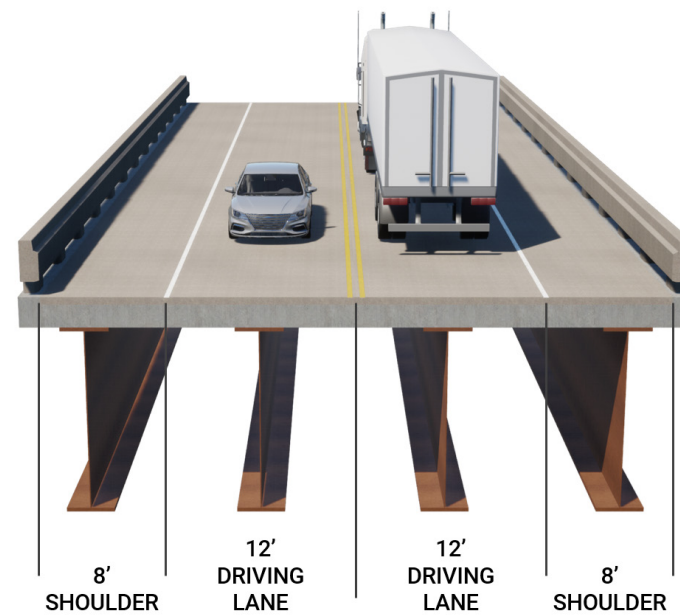
NOT TO SCALE PRELIMINARY PLAN
NOT FINAL - SUBJECT TO CHANGE



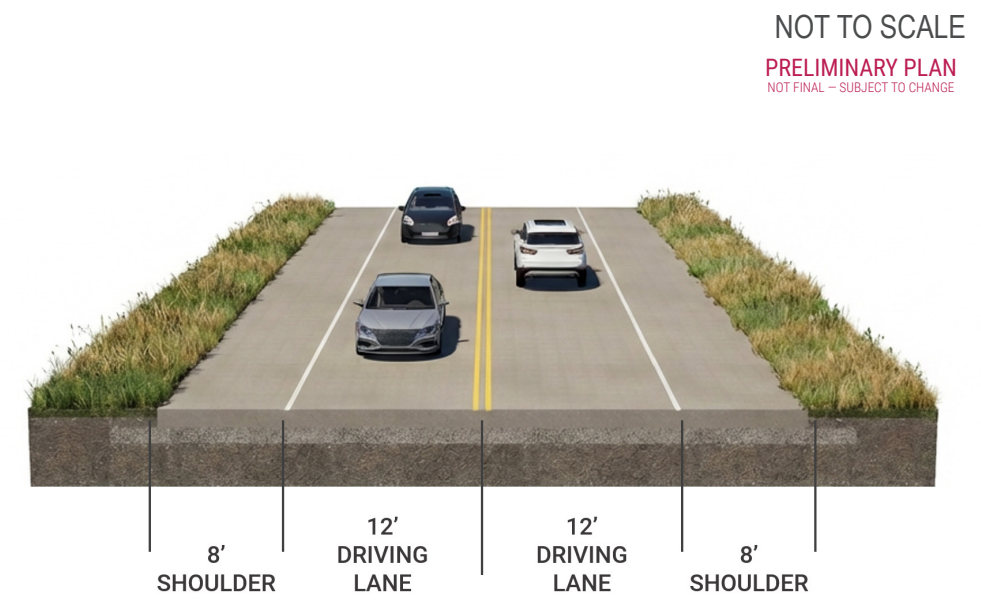
HIGHWAY N-51 TYPICAL SECTION IN DECATUR



BRIDGE SECTION



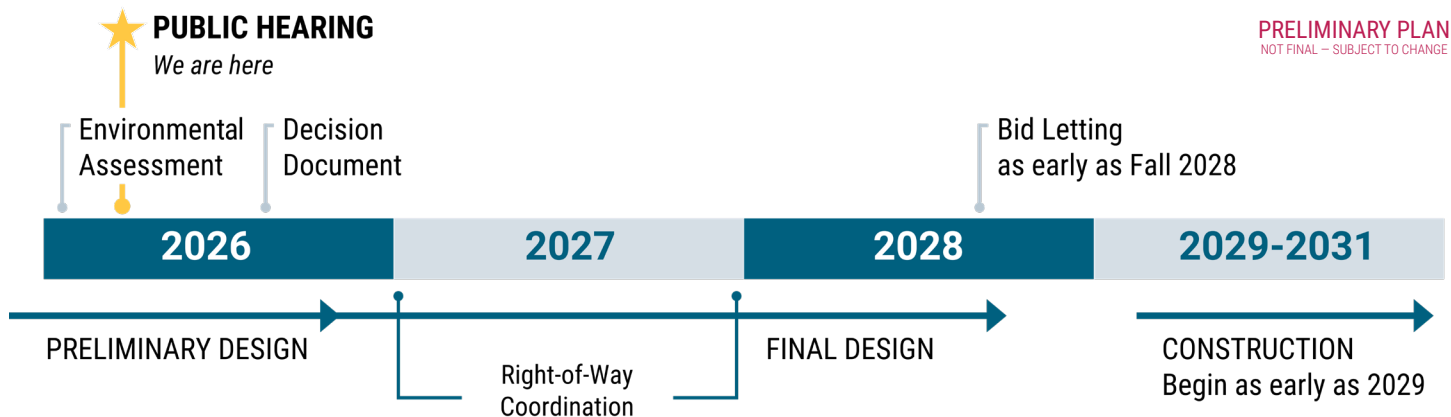
HIGHWAY IA-175 TYPICAL SECTION



NOT TO SCALE
PRELIMINARY PLAN
NOT FINAL - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SCHEDULE & COST

The proposed project schedule is based on several assumptions and is subject to change based on the availability of funds, timing of agency approvals, etc. Project costs are estimated at \$92 million and would come from federal and state sources.



POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The Decatur Bridge was previously determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Upper Decatur Bend Wildlife Management Area on the Iowa side of the river and Beck Memorial Park and Campground in Decatur as well as the Missouri River Paddling Route are in the vicinity of the project. Impacts are being considered, and comments related to the historic bridge and publicly owned recreation properties (Section 4(f)) will be taken at this hearing. No impacts to Beck Memorial Park and Campground are anticipated. Impacts to wetlands and streams are anticipated and would be mitigated as necessary.

TRAFFIC ACCOMMODATIONS

The new bridge would be constructed north of the existing Decatur Bridge. The existing bridge would remain open to highway traffic during construction, dependent on future bridge inspections. Short-term, temporary road closures and detours may be required. Access to community resources, area schools, police and fire services would not be affected. Within Decatur, the existing sidewalk would be temporarily closed. The design team is exploring options to maintain pedestrian access during construction.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LOCATIONS

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review at the following locations:

- Decatur City Hall (913 S Broadway Street, Decatur, NE 68020)
- Onawa City Hall (914 Diamond Street, Onawa, IA 51040)
- NDOT District 3 Headquarters (408 N 13th Street, Norfolk, NE 68701)
- Iowa DOT District 3 Headquarters (6409 Gordon Drive, Sioux City, IA 51106)
- NDOT Headquarters (1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, NE 68502)
- Iowa DOT Headquarters (800 Lincoln Way, Ames IA 50010)
- FHWA Nebraska Division (100 Centennial Mall N, Suite 220, Lincoln, NE 68508)
- FHWA Iowa Division (105 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010)

FEEDBACK

Comments will be collected through **April 17, 2026** and should be submitted to:

AJ Raaska

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For additional information contact:

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(712) 274-5833

Information regarding the proposed project, including the Environmental Assessment is available on the NDOT website: **ndot.info/32395**

SCAN ME!



ndot.info/32395