

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Public Information Open House

Tuesday, November 9, 2021; 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

River's Edge Convention Center, 265 33rd Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601

NH-30-5(131) Columbus South Bridges; C.N. 31983

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) will hold a public information open house meeting to present the preliminary preferred alternative of the proposed improvements to U.S. Highway 30 (US-30) bridges over the Loup River in Platte County. The meeting will be held at the River's Edge Convention Center, 265 33rd Avenue, in Columbus, on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Identified as *Columbus South Bridges*, the proposed project would improve the Columbus Loup River Bridges at mile marker (MM) 377.73 and the underpass at MM 377.87 at the southern edge of Columbus in Platte County. Construction may begin and/or end ahead of or beyond the actual project limits to accommodate transitioning the pavement and roadway lighting.

The purpose of the proposed project is to preserve the transportation asset, improve the reliability of the transportation system, and perpetuate the mobility of the traveling public. The need for this project is based on the condition of the existing bridges.

The planned construction would consist of removing and replacing the existing southbound truss bridge (S030 37773L) over the Loup River. The northbound bridge (S030 37773R) over the Loup River would receive deck repairs. Additional work would include improvements to the underpass (S030 37787) located north of the north abutment of the Loup River Bridges, replacing roadway lighting, reconstruction of pavement and driveways on US-30, and grading. Existing utilities would be reconstructed or relocated as needed.

The proposed project would 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). If your property is impacted by this project, you will be contacted by a representative once the design footprint has been established. Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction but may be limited at times due to phasing requirements.

The Columbus Loup River Bridge (S030 37773L) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Pawnee Park, Pawnee Park Trail, and Loup River 'Valley Trail' are located 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 meeting. Impacts to wetlands are anticipated and would be mitigated, as necessary.

Construction could begin as early as fall of 2024 and be completed by winter of 2026. The proposed project would be completed under traffic with lane closures controlled with appropriate traffic control devices and practices.

This public information open house meeting is being held to provide information regarding the project status and preliminary preferred alternative, and to receive the public's input. All interested persons are invited to attend and present relevant comments and questions. Design information will be displayed

and personnel from NDOT will be present to answer questions and receive comments. The information “open house” format allows the public to come at any time during the advertised hours, gather pertinent information about the project, speak one-on-one with project personnel, and leave as they wish. No formal presentations are planned for this meeting.

NDOT will make every reasonable accommodation to provide an accessible meeting facility for all persons. Appropriate provisions for the hearing and visually challenged or persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) will be made if the Department is notified by November 1, 2021. The public is being encouraged to make suggestions or express concerns regarding this proposed project. Comments will be collected through November 24, 2021. Written comments or requests should be submitted to: Tony Bui, NDOT Public Involvement, Nebraska Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759; tony.bui@nebraska.gov; voice telephone 402-479-4994; fax 402-479-3989

Information regarding the proposed project will be made available on the NDOT website at ndot.info/31983.

For those without internet access, information may be obtained through the contact above or at NDOT Headquarters, 1500 Hwy. 2, Lincoln, NE, 68509. For further information, contact Kevin Domogalla, NDOT District 3 Engineer in Norfolk, 402-370-3470, kevin.domogalla@nebraska.gov.