Wahoo to Fremont South

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Roadway Design
August 14, 2026

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Journey.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Agenda

- Project Purpose
- Project Need
- Project Overview
- Scope of Work
- Design Features
- Intersection Improvements
- Environmental Considerations
- Public Involvement
- Access Control
- Relinquishment
- Schedule and Cost
- Commission Recommendation of the following:
  - Approval of **Project Location** and **Design**
  - Approval of **Access Control** on the project
  - Approval of **Relinquishment**

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to:

- **Fulfill** legislative intent to continue the development of the expressway system identified in the 1988 Nebraska Highway Needs Study.

- **Improve** reginal connectivity for vehicles in this area by providing important expressway connections with N-92, N-64, and N-109, while maintaining convenient highway access for communities in the area.

- **Improve** the conditions of the existing pavement and infrastructure improve the safety and reliability of US-77 for the traveling public and maximize the cost-effectiveness of the project.

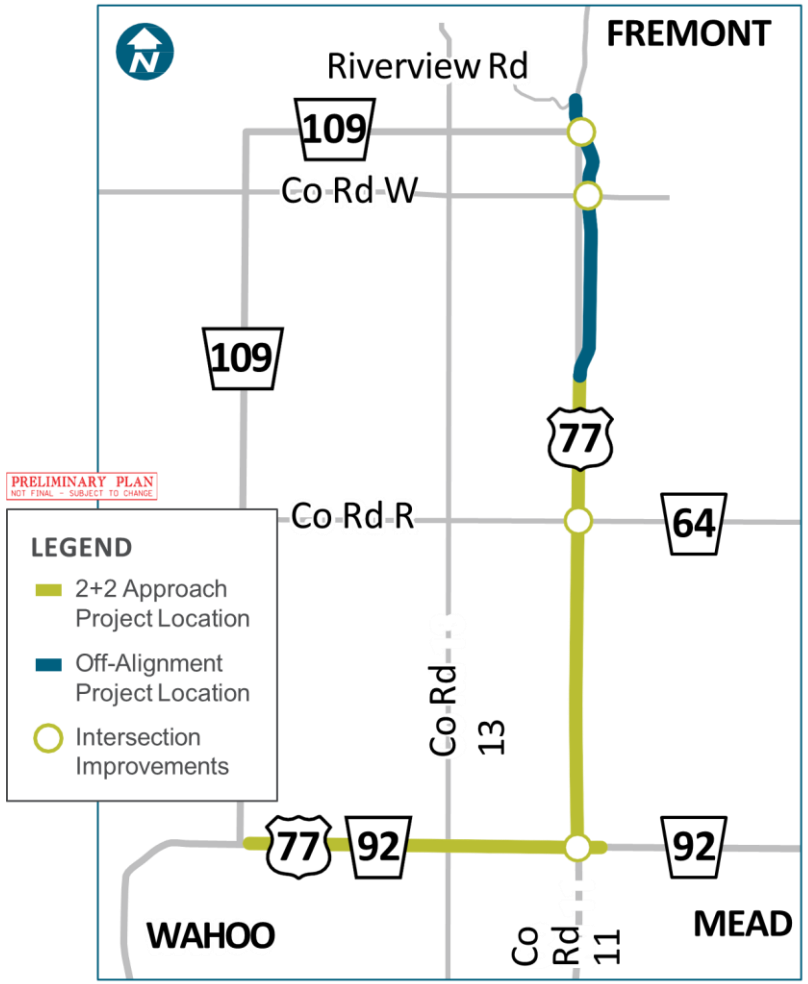
Project Need

The **need** for this project is to:

- **Advance** the expressway system from Lincoln to Fremont.
- Traffic Engineering Division and District 1 have determined the increased traffic counts on this segment of US-77 warrant increasing the traffic capacity.

Project Overview

This project would widen approximately 16.30 miles of US-77 beginning approximately 0.40 miles east of the US-77/Nebraska Highway 109 (N-109) west junction, the east end of the existing four-lane Wahoo Expressway, and extending east and north to join the existing four-lanes approximately 0.50 miles north of the north junction of US-77 and N-109. The last approximate 4 miles would be a new four-lane divided highway constructed off-alignment utilizing ROW purchased in 2004.

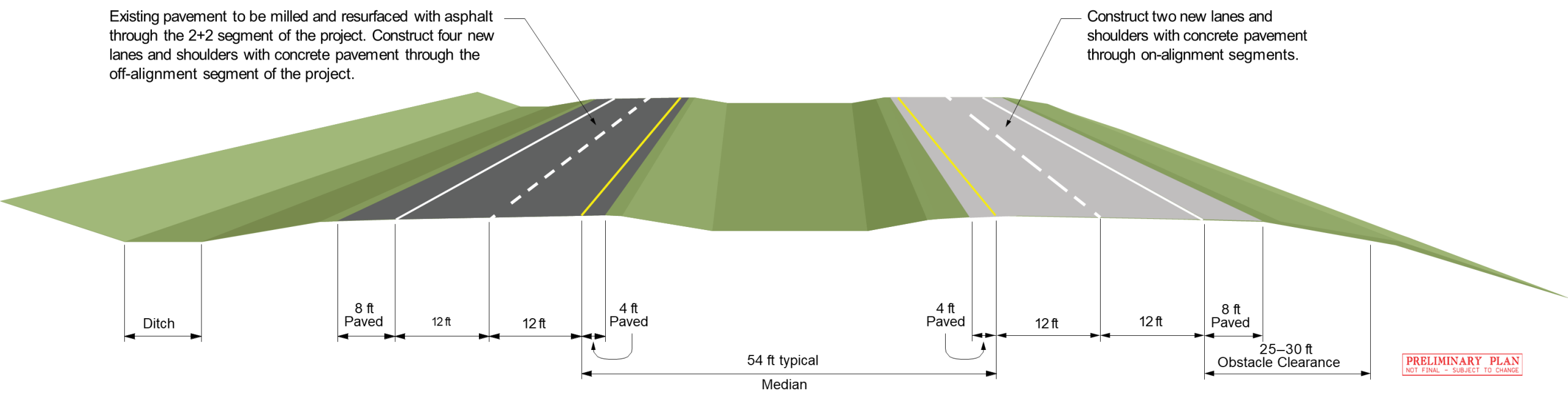


Scope of Work

- New pavement
- Milling/resurfacing of existing pavement
- Concrete repair
- Culvert work
- Guardrail
- New bridges
- Repaired bridges
- Lighting
- Access relocations
- Side road modifications
- Improved intersections/safety

Design Features

Typical Cross Section-Rural 4-Lane

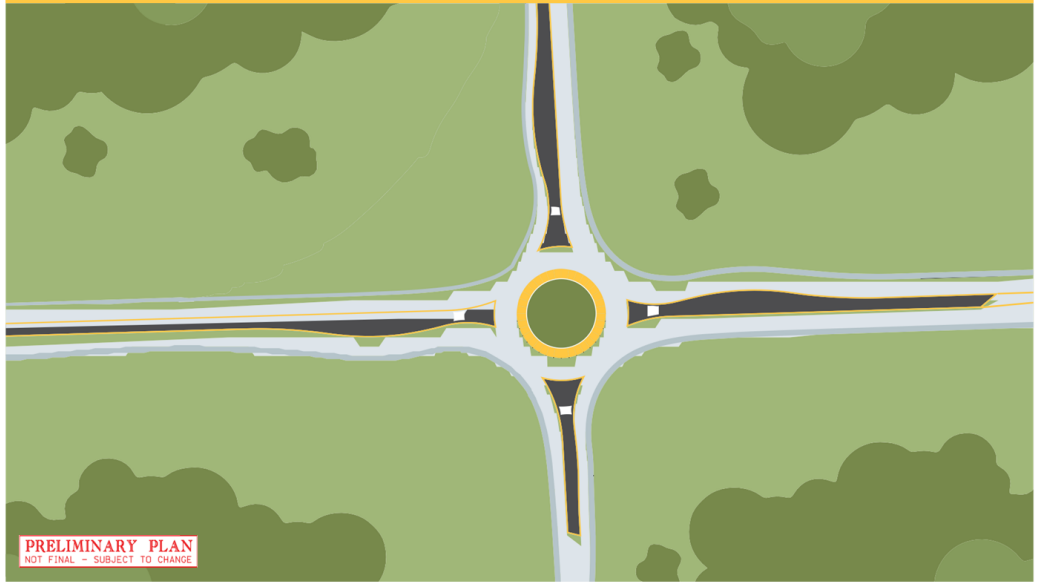


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Intersection Improvements

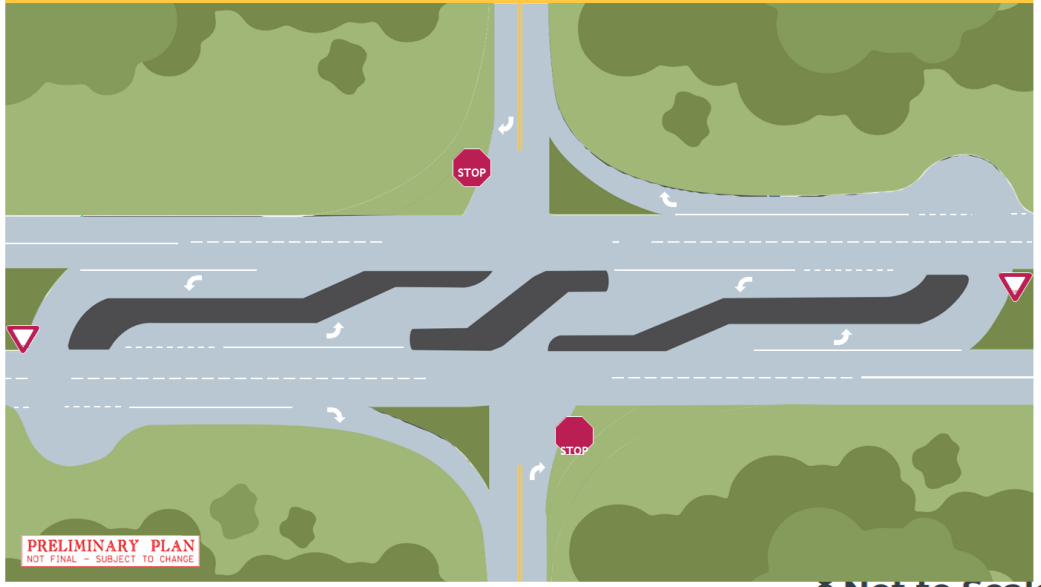
The intersection improvements were based on an alternatives evaluation. Potential alternatives considered for each intersection location included a two-way stop controlled signalization, roundabout, and a restricted crossing U-turn (R-CUT).

Roundabout



- N-92 (east)
- N-109 (north)

Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT)



* Not to Scale

- N-64
- County Road W

Environmental Considerations

- Environmental resource reviews
  - Wetlands and Aquatic Resources
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Threatened and Endangered Species
  - Traffic Noise
  - Farmland
  - Floodplains
  - Historic Properties
- Alternatives Analysis
- Public Involvement
- Selection of Preferred Alternative

Public Involvement

- **June 12/13, 2024:** Public Information Meetings
  - Approximately **160** people in attendance
  - Comment Period – 66 comments received
  - Public was presented potential impacts for 2+2 construction of new lanes on both the left and right side of US-77. The off-alignment section was not proposed at the time of these meetings.
- **Public Comments**
  - Overall project support
  - Concerns of property impacts, particularly:
    - Pohocco Lutheran Church/Cemetery
    - ESU 2 Independent School
  - Support to utilize previously purchased ROW for off-alignment section
  - RCUT questions



Public Involvement

- **November 4, 2025:** Public Notification Update
  - Indicated NDOT is evaluating an off-alignment alternative for the northernmost 4 miles of the project.
  - Planning to present to the public in summer of 2026
- **July 28/30, 2026:** Stakeholder meetings and Public Information Meetings
  - Approximately **225** people in attendance
  - Comment period July 14-August 14

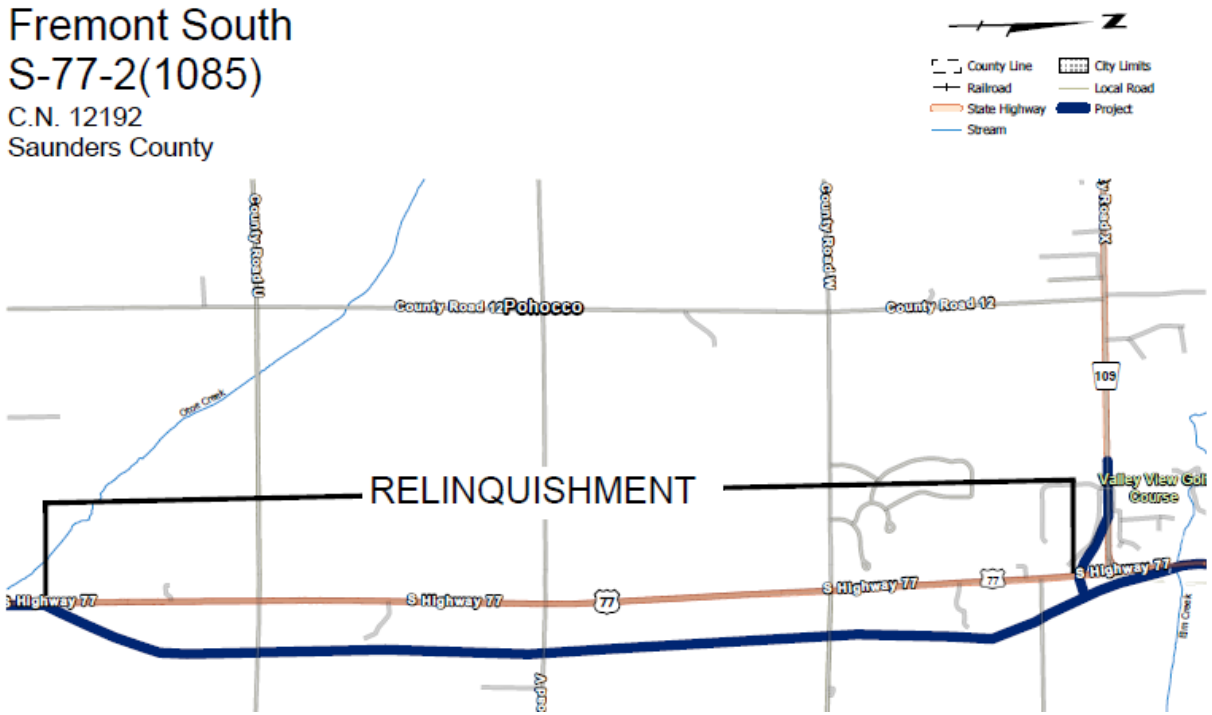


Access Control

- Access control is the regulation of public access locations abutting the highway facility
- This concept provides:
  - Enhanced safety
  - Improved efficiency of traffic movements
  - Crash reduction by minimizing conflict points
- NDOT intends to purchase new access control throughout the corridor.

Relinquishment

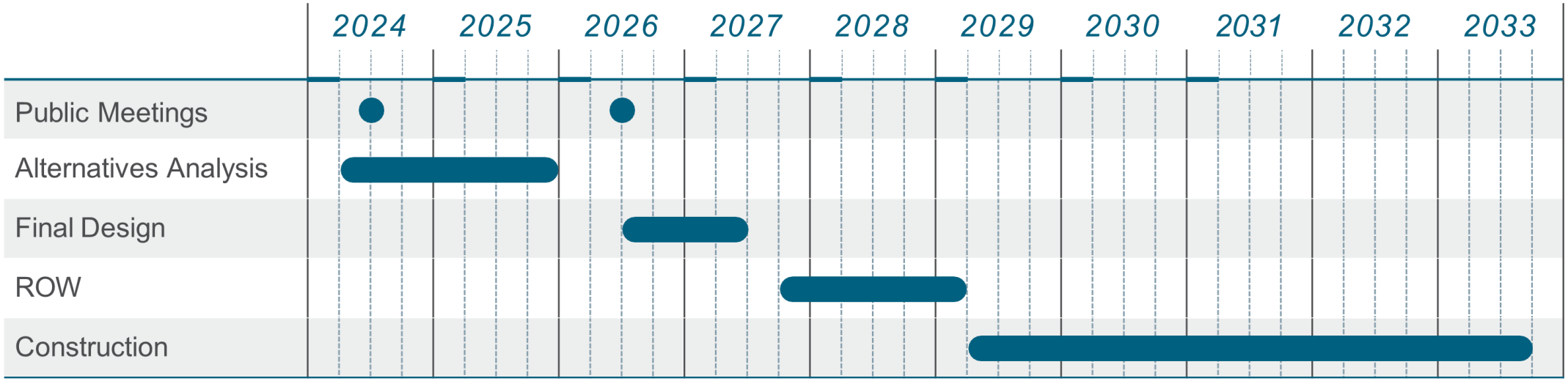
- Existing US-77 may be repaired prior to relinquishment to Saunders County
- Formal relinquishment agreement will be executed at a later date
- Early coordination with Saunders County has begun



Schedule & Cost

The estimated cost of constructing the proposed project is $135 million and would derive from state funding sources. Construction would be completed in segments and could begin as early as spring of 2029 with completion as early as fall of 2033.

Timeline



*Actual construction schedule will be determined based on availability of funds.

PRELIMINARY PLAN
NOT FINAL – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ESTIMATED COST: $135 MILLION *

*Funding comes from state funding sources

Commission Recommendations

NDOT requests Highway Commission Recommendation of the following:

- Approval of the **Project Location** and **Design**
- Use of **Access Control**
- Approval of the **Relinquishment** of existing US-77 that will not be included in the new alignment upon completion of the project and execution of a formal Relinquishment Agreement

Questions?



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