NEBRASKA
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Jim Pillen, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nebraska DOT and Iowa DOT to Host Public Hearing March 31 for Decatur Bridge

March 12, 2026 (Lincoln, Neb.) – The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) will hold a public hearing regarding the preliminary design and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Decatur Bridge project in Burt County, Nebraska.

DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 2026
TIME: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. (CDT)
LOCATION: Decatur City Hall, 913 S Broadway Street in Decatur, NE 68020

NDOT will give a formal presentation at 5:30 PM, with a public forum and open house to follow until 7:00 PM.

Identified as ***Decatur Bridge,*** the proposed project would improve the Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51) / Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) Missouri River crossing in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa. 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. Construction may begin just east of Broadway Street in Decatur, Nebraska and end approximately one mile east of the state line on IA-175 to accommodate the replacement of the structure.

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.
- Maintain accessibility to and by emergency services.
- Provide 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.
- The existing crossing is subject to scour and flooding that close the crossing to traffic.

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Construction would be dependent on available funding but could begin as early as 2029.

An EA has been prepared for this project and is available for public 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)

An electronic version of the EA is available for review on the project website at: ndot.info/32395.

The public hearing is being held in compliance with the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to provide information regarding the project and to receive the public's input. All interested persons are invited to attend, provide comments, and ask questions. Project information will be displayed, and personnel from NDOT and Iowa DOT will be present to answer questions and receive comments. Comments can be provided verbally at the hearing, submitted in writing as a statement, or by filling out a comment form available at the hearing. Comments for the EA can also be submitted by emailing, calling, or mailing to the contact listed below by the end of the comment period on **April 17, 2026**. Design plans and the Environmental Assessment document will be further developed after public input is received following the public hearing and comment period.

NDOT will make every reasonable accommodation to provide accessible meeting facilities for all persons. Appropriate provisions for the hearing and visually challenged or persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) will be made if NDOT is notified by March 23, 2026.

Information regarding the proposed project will be available on the day of the hearing at: ndot.info/32395. For those without internet access, information may be obtained at NDOT Headquarters, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, NE 68502 or by contacting: Kevin Domogalla, P.E. NDOT District 3 Engineer, at (402) 370-3470 or kevin.domogalla@nebraska.gov.

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

AJ Raaska
NDOT Public Involvement
PO Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759
aj.raaska@nebraska.gov
(402) 479-4303

#NDOT#

Contact:
Kevin Domogalla, NDOT District 3 Engineer, (402) 370-3470

20260312-D3-32395

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

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