

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public Information Open House Meetings

Wednesday, June 12, 2024; 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Mead Fire Hall, 220 E. 4th Street, Mead, NE 68041

Thursday, June 13, 2024; 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Pohocco Lutheran Church, 2363 County Road 11, Fremont, NE 68025

S-77-2(1083) Wahoo-Fremont South; C.N. 13519

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) will hold two public information open house meetings to present proposed improvements to portions of U.S. Highway 77 (US-77) in Saunders and Dodge counties. One public meeting is planned at the Mead Fire Hall, 220 E. 4th Street, Mead, NE 68041 on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and one is planned at the Pohocco Lutheran Church, 2363 County Road 11, Fremont, NE 68025 pm Thursday, June 13, 2024, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Both meetings will present the same information.

Identified as **Wahoo – Fremont South**, the proposed project would expand the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane expressway. The proposed project would begin at 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 would extend east and north for approximately 16.30 miles to join the existing four-lanes at approximately 0.50 miles north of the north junction of US-77 and N-109.

The purpose of the project is to fulfill legislative intent to continue the development of the expressway system identified in the *1988 Nebraska Highway Needs Study*; The completion of the expressway system will improve regional connectivity for vehicles in this area of Nebraska, including commercial vehicles, by providing important expressway connections with Nebraska Highway 92 (N-92), Nebraska Highway 64 (N-64), and N-109; maintain convenient highway access for communities in the area; improve the conditions of the existing pavement and infrastructure; and maximize the cost-effectiveness of the project. The need for the project is to advance the Lincoln to Fremont expressway.

The proposed improvements on this project would consist of widening US-77 from a two-lane highway to a four-lane expressway using the 2+2 strategy of constructing new lanes on the left or right side of the existing highway and rehabilitating the existing lanes. Additional improvements would include replacing, rehabilitating, or repairing two existing bridge structures, constructing new structures adjacent to the existing structures to accommodate the additional lanes, and milling and resurfacing existing lanes.

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.

Potential impacts to environmental resources are being evaluated for this project. Resources being reviewed include, but are not limited to cultural resources, wetlands and water resources, hazardous materials, farmland,

threatened and endangered species, parks, and more. Impacts to these resources are to be determined.

Construction would be completed in segments and could begin as early as spring of 2027 with completion as early as fall of 2031. This project would be constructed under traffic with lane closures controlled by appropriate traffic control devices and practices. Some county roads would not be constructed under traffic and would require local detours utilizing adjacent county roads or State highways. Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction but may be limited at times due to phasing requirements.

These meetings are being held to provide information regarding the project 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 presentation is planned for these meetings.

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 June 3, 2024.

The public is being encouraged to make suggestions or express concerns regarding this proposed project. Comments will be collected through July 1, 2024.

Written comments or requests should be submitted to: Sierra Luhn, NDOT Public Involvement, Nebraska Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759; sierra.luhn@nebraska.gov; voice telephone 402-479-3103; fax 402-479-3989.

Information regarding the proposed project will be made available on the NDOT website at ndot.info/13519. For those without internet access, information may be obtained through the contact above or at NDOT Headquarters, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, NE 68502.

For further information, contact Brandon Varilek, NDOT District 1 Engineer in Lincoln at: brandon.varilek@nebraska.gov or voice telephone 402-471-0850.