

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HIGHWAY PROJECT INFORMATION

NDOT PROJECT:

NH-80-4(155) Cozad – Darr, I-80; C.N. 61670

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) is currently soliciting public input on the proposed improvements of Interstate 80 (I-80) and Nebraska Highway 21 (N-21) in Dawson County.

Identified as *Cozad – Darr, I-80*, the proposed project would improve approximately 9.30 miles of Interstate 80 (I-80) and approximately 0.42 miles of Nebraska Highway 21 (N-21) in Dawson County. The I-80 portion begins at mile marker (MM) 221.46, approximately 1.0 miles west of the grade separation of I-80 under N-21, and extends east to MM 230.54, approximately 0.58 miles west of the grade separation of I-80 under Nebraska Link 24A (L-24A). The work on N-21 begins at MM 12.67 and extends north to MM 13.09. Construction may begin and/or end approximately 500 feet ahead of or beyond the actual project limits to accommodate transitioning the pavement.

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 roadway and bridges.

The proposed work on I-80 would reconstruct the mainline roadway as well as the ramps at the Cozad Interchange. The bridges over the Farmers and Merchants Canal (Structure Numbers S080 22225 Lt. & Rt.) would be rehabilitated and the guardrail would be replaced. The bridges over an unnamed drainage ditch (Structure Numbers S080 22527 Lt. & Rt.) would be replaced with a culvert. Improvements to the Cozad eastbound and westbound rest areas would consist of concrete repairs, milling and resurfacing the ramps, and surfacing within the rest areas. The proposed work on N-21 consists of concrete repairs, joint and crack sealing, and remodeling buttresses. The N-21 bridge over I-80 (Structure Number S080 22249) would be repaired. Crossovers with temporary lighting and temporary pavement to construct slip ramps at the Cozad Interchange would also be included with this project.

Construction could begin as early as spring of 2025 and be completed by fall of 2027.

The proposed project would be constructed under traffic with lane closures controlled by appropriate traffic control devices and practices; however, the proposed project would require closure of the westbound on-ramp at the Darr Interchange with L-24A. Traffic would be detoured eastbound on I-80 to the Lexington Interchange with U.S. Highway 283 (US-283) then westbound on I-80. The eastbound and westbound rest areas would be temporarily closed during mainline I-80 construction.

The proposed project would not require the acquisition of additional property rights. Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction but may be limited at times due to traffic phasing requirements.

Work would be required in the waterway at the unnamed drainage ditch. Wetland and/or other water resource impacts are anticipated and would be mitigated as necessary. Cozad State Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Darr State WMA, West Cozad WMA, East Cozad WMA, and Darr Strip WMA are in the project area; no impacts are anticipated.

The public is encouraged to make suggestions or express concerns regarding this proposed project. Comments will be collected through May 5, 2024. Written comments or requests should be submitted to: Sarah Fisher, Public Involvement Specialist, Nebraska Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759; sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov; voice telephone 402-479-3832, Fax 402-479-3989.

Information regarding the proposed project will be made available on the NDOT website at ndot.info/61670. For those without internet access, information may be obtained through the contact above or at NDOT Headquarters, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, NE. For further information, contact Gary Thayer, NDOT District 6 Engineer, 308-535-8031, gary.thayer@nebraska.gov.