



RC REFRESHER TRAINING 2022


NDOT Public Involvement



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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Public Involvement Refresher 2022

- What Public Involvement is and Importance
 - How to Evaluate for Public Involvement
 - Examples of Tools for Public Involvement
- 



What is Public Involvement?

Public Involvement

Can also be known as:

- Public Participation
- Public Outreach
- Public Engagement
- Citizen Participation

**Virtually interchangeable terms*

“...is the inclusion of the public in the activities of any organization or project.”

“...seeks and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.”

Public Involvement

Importance of public involvement:

- Source of ideas
- Community and individual knowledge
 - Invested in short-term and long-term improvements
- Full representation
- Federal law

Public involvement is a tool that allows the public to become active participants in the transportation planning process – creating more meaningful involvement.

- *Higher quality planning and project development*
 - *Provides a voice for the public*
 - *Trust and rapport*
 - *Meets the needs and wants of the public*
 - *Better decisions*

How to Evaluate for Public Involvement

How to Evaluate for Public Involvement

Public Involvement Needs for Federal-aid Funded Projects

- » Evaluated early on during the planning stage of a proposed project (typically through the NDOT-53 form) and when NEPA begins
 - NDOT/FHWA assesses the need for public involvement and creates or assist in an initial plan and determination for the best outreach for a specific project.
- » Project information and scope of work is evaluated, and project specific conditions are analyzed to make sure the public involvement approach is appropriate and right-sized for the project.
 - Not every project will need public involvement
 - Even if it is not required or needed during NEPA does not mean you cannot do public involvement; recommend to follow standard process and procedures
 - Project scope and information may change, and the original approach should be re-evaluated with each change

Public Involvement

Public Involvement Unit completes the following:

Based on the information contained within and attached to this Form, and the characteristics of the project scope, location and/or community, is a project-specific Public Involvement Plan required? If not, please provide discussion below.

Yes No

Tony Bui

Tony Bui

Digitally signed by Tony Bui
Date: 2021.07.15 16:05:23
-05'00'

Pub. Inv.

7/15/21

(Print Name)

(Signature and Title)

(Date)

* Public Involvement Comments. (Early Guidance for the Project Proponent)

Based on the project scope known at this time; no additional public involvement outreach is recommended. No major impacts were identified (access/detour concerns, no ROW needed, Section 4 (f), Section 106, etc.).

NDOT-53, April 2021

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Common Potential Impacts or Project Conditions Used for PI Evaluation:


- Type of project and work to be done
- The area that would be potentially affected
- Annual daily traffic
- ROW requirements of project
- Wetland mitigation
- Potential changes or impacts to access
- Historic Resources
- Potential Section 4(f) properties
- Construction impacts and schedule
- Potential detour requirements
- Environmental Justice and Limited English Proficiency populations
- Proposed Environmental Class of Action

*EA/EIS will almost always require some type of public involvement and an opportunity for a public hearing at a minimum.

Public Involvement Tools



Public Involvement Tools

- Public Involvement Plan (PIP)
 - The project-specific PIP must do the following:
 - » Briefly describe the project
 - » Address public involvement requirements
 - » Describe the audiences for the project
 - » Identify public involvement tools and strategies to be used and the rationale for using them
 - » Identify potential issues and any additional outreach targeted to these issues
 - » Assign responsibility for implementation of each element of the project-specific PIP
 - » Outline the schedule for implementation of the project-specific PIP
- 

Public Information Open House Meeting

- **Set time and place**
 - No agenda, formal discussion/presentations
 - View exhibits and materials
 - Come and go
 - Open dialogue
 - Gather input via one-on-one or comment forms
- **Provides informal, casual, friendly atmosphere**
- **Focus on issues/concerns**
- **Can be a hybrid event**
 - Scheduled presentations for more complex projects
 - Everyone receives same message at once
 - Different strategies for different communities



Project Information Packets

- **Formally solicit comments**
 - *Input on constraints in project vicinity that may not be known*
 - *Input on elements of the project design*
- **Commonly used when a public information meeting not planned**
 - *Concern that attendance may be low at a public meeting*
- **Packet generally includes:**
 - *Cover letter*
 - *Project fact sheet*
 - *Comment form*
 - *Project contact(s)*
 - *Other information about the project*
- **30-day comment period included**
- **Official legal notice published**

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY PROJECT INFORMATION

NOOT PROJECT
 NH-75-2(181) Parker St - Fort St., Omaha, C.N. 22647

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) is currently soliciting public input on the proposed improvements of U.S. Highway 75 (US-75) in Douglas County.

Identified as Parker St - Fort St., Omaha, the proposed project would improve approximately 2.47 miles of US-75, as well as repair and paint several structures, located along US-75, within the corporate limits of Omaha.

The proposed project would begin under the existing Street cross-section at mile marker 585.31.37 and extend north to MM 53.54, just south of the Fort Street and US-75 intersection. The project would include the structures, including both overpasses and underpasses. Construction may begin earlier and approximately 500 feet ahead of it beyond the actual project limits to accommodate maintaining 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 proposed project is based on the current condition of the roadway and bridges, and to ensure sidewalks and curb ramps are ADA compliant.

The proposed project would include structure numbers:

- SOT5 08137 - Healdston St. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08138 - Parker St. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08222 - Lewis St. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08233 - Sweeney St. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08262 - Sweeney St. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08262 - Mainstream Park Freeway Bridge
- SOT5 08262 - Sweeney St. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08267 - James Ave. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08264 - VGB Street to 5th US-75 ramp
- SOT5 08264A - VGB Street to 5th US-75 ramp

Proposed improvements would include of milling, grading, resurfacing, concrete repairs, curb ramp work, bridge repairs, bridge painting of superstructures and replacement of overhead signs. Structure SOT5 08137 would be rehabilitated with deck replacement. Structures SOT5 08138, SOT5 08222, SOT5 08233, SOT5 08262, SOT5 08267, and SOT5 08267 would be repaired, and approximately replaced with new work included. Structure SOT5 08262 would have the new work required to secure the frame. Structure SOT5 08264 and SOT5 08264A would have expansion joints replaced. The proposed project would also include the addition of lighting on the northbound side of the highway, and south of Parker Street.

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

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November 2, 2021

NOOT PROJECT: NH-75-2(181) Parker St - Fort St., Omaha, C.N. 22647

Dear Citizen:

Enclosed is information concerning the proposed Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) project. A comment period with pre-issued bridge # is included. The comment period will run through December 6, 2021. A fact sheet and map are included with this letter. Additional information regarding the project may also be found on the NOOT website at dot.nd.gov/ndoot.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) is planning to improve approximately 2.47 miles of U.S. Highway 75 (US-75), including two structures, in Omaha. Portions of the project would be constructed under NDOT Assistant Secretary's authority and would be subject to public review as well as certain structures. Designated detours would be provided.

Construction could begin as early as spring 2023 and be completed by winter 2024.

NDOT is currently seeking public input on the proposed project. A comment period with pre-issued bridge # is included. The comment period will run through December 6, 2021. A fact sheet and map are included with this letter. Additional information regarding the project may also be found on the NOOT website at dot.nd.gov/ndoot by contacting the NOOT District 2 office at (402) 559-2534.

NDOT has worked to develop this project to minimize inconvenience and hardship. We are dedicated to improving Nebraska's highway system and with your help we can achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

 Sarah Fisher
 Public Information Specialist
 Nebraska Department of Transportation
 (402) 479-3832
Sarah.Fisher@ndot.gov

PROJECT FACT SHEET
Parker St - Fort St., Omaha
 NH-75-2(181), C.N. 22647

LOCATION

Identified as Parker St - Fort St., Omaha, the proposed project would improve approximately 2.47 miles of U.S. Highway 75 (US-75) in Douglas County, as well as repair and paint several structures located along US-75.

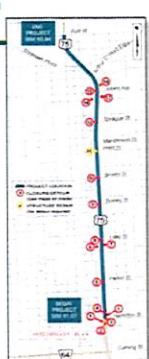
The proposed project would begin at mile marker 585.31.37 under the existing Street cross-section and extend north to MM 53.54, just south of the intersection of Fort Street and US-75. Construction may begin earlier and approximately 500 feet ahead of it beyond the actual project limits to accommodate maintaining the pavement.

The proposed project would include structure numbers:

- SOT5 08137 - Healdston St. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08138 - Parker St. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08222 - Lewis St. Bridge over US-75
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- SOT5 08262 - Mainstream Park Freeway Bridge
- SOT5 08262 - Sweeney St. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08267 - James Ave. Bridge over US-75
- SOT5 08264 - VGB Street to 5th US-75 ramp
- SOT5 08264A - VGB Street to 5th US-75 ramp

PURPOSE AND NEED

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 the proposed project is based on the current condition of the existing roadway and bridges, and to ensure sidewalks and curb ramps are ADA compliant.



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PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

NH-75-2(181) Parker St - Fort St., Omaha, C.N. 22647

Please submit your written comments by **December 6, 2021**

Return to: Sarah Fisher, NOOT Public Information Specialist
 PO Box 58738
 Lincoln, NE 68558-0738
 Phone: (402) 479-3832
 Fax: (402) 479-3832

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Thank you for your comments!

Public Notifications

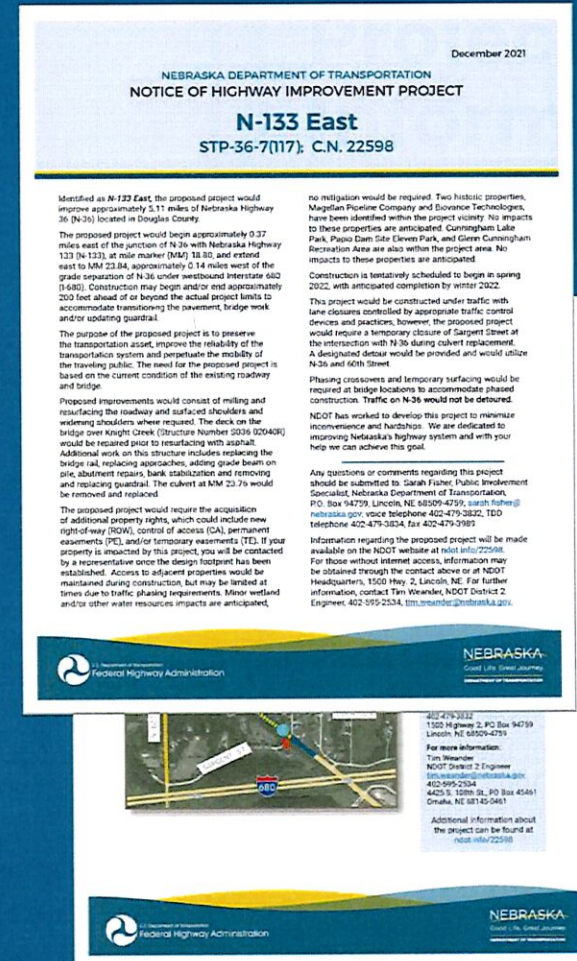
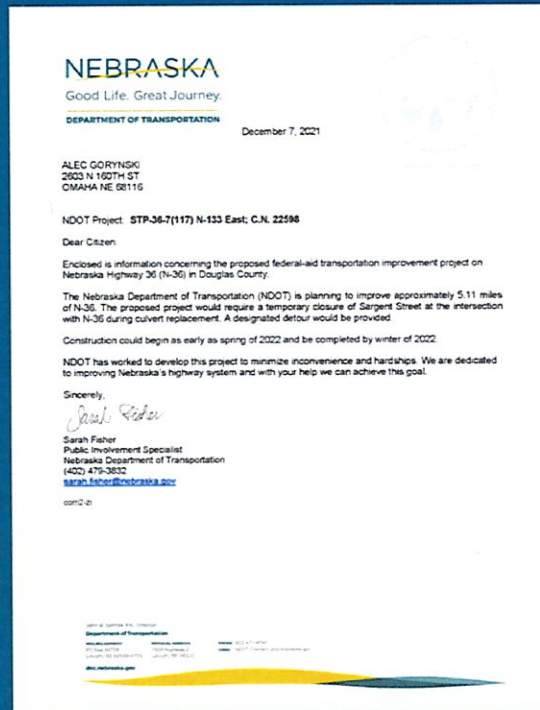
- Typically used for simple projects

- Maintenance projects
- Temporary impacts to commute or access
- Detour in a rural area
- Short-term closure
- Multiple projects occurring in the area sequentially
- Project updates

- Materials include information about:

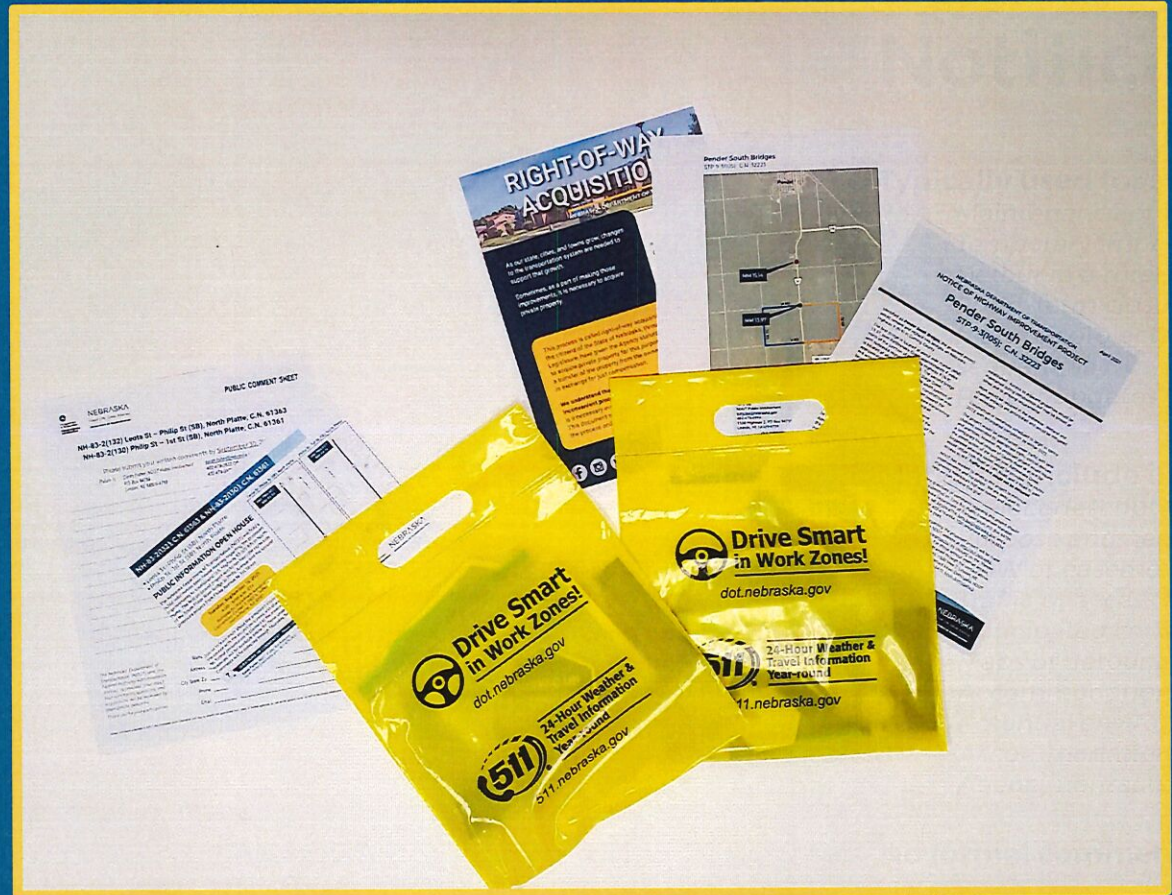
- Project description
- Purpose and need
- ROW or easements
- Traffic or access disruptions
- Anticipated construction schedule
- Maps of detour and location
- Accommodation of Traffic
- Potential environmental impacts
- Accommodation for EJ/LEP/ADA populations
- Agency contacts

- No formal comment period



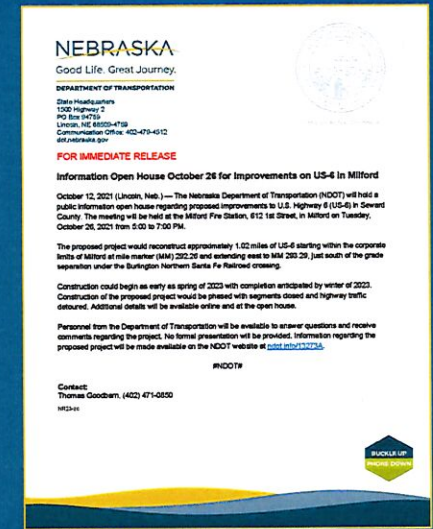
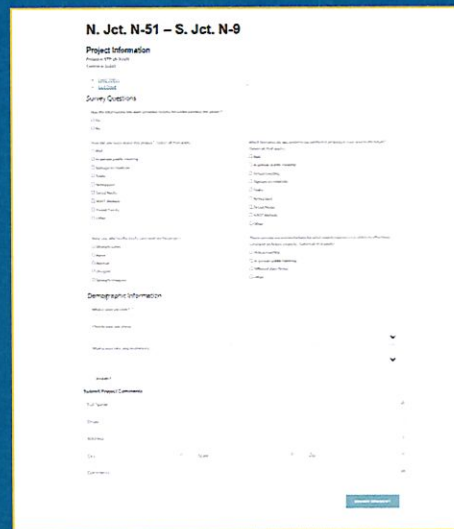
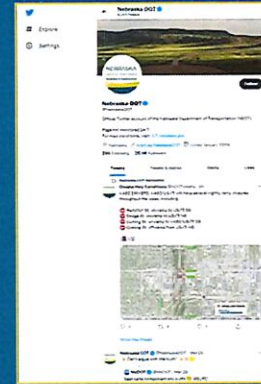
Canvassing

- **Build project awareness**
 - Used to contact residences and businesses within the project area
- **Information includes brief project description and notification of any upcoming public meeting(s) or hearing(s)**
- **Information exchange or providing materials**
 - Project flyers
 - Door hangers
 - Project information packets



Supplemental Tools

- **Social media (Twitter and Facebook)**
 - Share program and project-specific information
 - Promote upcoming events
 - Not to be used in lieu of legal notices
- **Agency or individual website(s)**
 - Timely access to information
 - Share project information and receive feedback
 - Host virtual/online public meetings - allowing convenience for feedback
 - Includes materials such as fact sheets, maps, videos/presentations, displays, comment forms
 - Subscription for updates
- **News Releases**
 - Provide notice for events
 - Distribute project information and details to local, regional, and other press or media services





Questions?

NDOT Public Involvement

Tony Bui, Public Involvement Manager

p: 402-479-4994

e: tony.bui@nebraska.gov

