**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

*Public Information Open House*

*Thursday, April 14, 2022; 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM*

*Ainsworth Conference Center, 606 East 4th Street, Ainsworth, NE 69210*

STP-7-4(112) Hwy 7 In Ainsworth; C.N. 80804

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) will hold a public information open house meeting regarding proposed improvements to Nebraska Highway 7 (N-7) in Brown County. The meeting will be held at the Ainsworth Conference Center, 606 East 4th Street, in Ainsworth on Thursday, April 14, 2022, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Identified as ***Hwy 7 in Ainsworth***, the proposed project would reconstruct approximately 0.5 miles of N-7 beginning near the southern corporate limits of Ainsworth, at about mile marker (MM) 43.10, and extending north to the west junction of N-7 and U.S. Highway 20 (US-20) in Ainsworth, at about MM 43.60. 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.

The planned construction would consist of removing the existing pavement and replacing it with doweled concrete pavement with integral curb, reconstructing curb inlets and storm sewer, reconstructing pedestrian facilities, and replacing roadway lighting. Sanitary sewer and water utilities would be reconstructed or relocated. Additional work would include reconstruction of driveways and intersections on N-7 and grading.

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. Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction but may be limited at times due to phasing requirements.

Impacts to the historic properties are being considered, and comments related to the historic properties will be taken at this meeting. The Cowboy Trail would be reconstructed across N-7. Temporary surfacing would be required to maintain access to the Cowboy Trail. No wetland impacts are anticipated on the proposed project.

Construction could begin as early as spring of 2024 with completion anticipated by winter of 2024. The proposed project would be constructed using segmented construction with a detour controlled by appropriate traffic control devices and practices. Local Traffic would be able to utilize segments of the project that are not under construction. The designated detour preferred by NDOT would be provided utilizing South Street, Oak Street and US-20 for segments that are under construction.

Comments related to the preferred detour will be taken at this meeting. Pedestrian access to adjacent businesses would be maintained.

This public information open house meeting is being held to provide information regarding the project, currently in the design phase, 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 presentations are planned for this meeting.
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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 Language Proficiency (LEP) will be made if the Department is notified by April 4, 2022.

The public is being encouraged to make suggestions or express concerns regarding this proposed project. Comments will be collected through April 29, 2022. Written comments or requests should be submitted to: Sierra Luhn, Public Involvement Specialist, 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/80804.](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ctony.bui%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CMYRFS49L%5Cndot.info%5C80804) For those without internet access, information may be obtained through the contact above or at NDOT Headquarters: 1500 Hwy. 2, Lincoln, NE, 68509. For further information, contact Mark Kovar, NDOT District 8 Engineer, 402-387-2471, mark.kovar@nebraska.gov.