

MODES

SCOPE OF WORK – EA STUDY

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes locating new corridors for a southeast and northeast bypass around the community of Oskaloosa and rural Mahaska County. The project is in portions of the City of Oskaloosa and mainly unincorporated Mahaska County. The bypasses will mitigate heavy vehicle traffic through the heart of Oskaloosa associated with the industrious and agricultural nature of the area. The overall study area for this project is rectangular in nature and includes the area of US Highway 63 from Mile Post 60 to Mile Post 68, Iowa Highway 92 from junction 163 to Queens Avenue. The project could allow for the transfer of jurisdiction of the current alignment of US Highway 63 and Iowa Highway 92 to the City of Oskaloosa. The project is expected to create economic growth to the existing industries as well as promote new growth for the area.

The Scope of Service will be divided into five phases including Project Management and Administration, Environmental Data Gathering, Environmental Impact Analysis, Environmental Documents, and Agency and Public Involvement.

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Introduction

The project generally consists of studying the above described area to determine and document issues related to the construction of new US 63 bypasses, including grading and floodplain/floodway impacts. The majority of the project is proposed to be accomplished on existing right-of-way owned by the City of Oskaloosa, Mahaska County and Iowa Department of Transportation; however, the purchase of floodway easements and additional right-of-way may be required as the planning study progresses and the project may also have cumulative effects on other natural and human environment resources.

This Scope of Services is based on the following assumptions:

- The project will require a Class III NEPA document, prepared as a Streamlined Environmental Assessment.
- The alignments currently under study by the Iowa DOT and additional potential routes developed as a result of the planning study will be documented in the EA.
- The project will require coordination and cooperation from all partners including the City, Mahaska County and District and Bureaus of the Iowa Department of Transportation. .
- The study limits are as presented in Figure _____.

The scope of services shall be completed in accordance with generally accepted standards of practice and shall include the services to complete the following tasks:

Task 1 – Project Management and Administration

1.1 Development of Work Plan

Prepare instructions for project staff, providing background, responsibilities, schedule, and budget information and other important elements for the project. Establish a graphic project schedule indicating critical dates, milestones, and deliverables. Prepare a detailed work plan with specific staff assignments, by task, corresponding to the schedule.

1.2 Project Coordination

Maintain communications with project stakeholders. On a bimonthly basis, or as necessary, meet with stakeholders/steering committee to review progress or to discuss specific elements of the project. Prepare minutes of meetings and maintain documentation of related communications.

1.3 Project Monitoring and Progress Reports

Maintain the system for monitoring progress and expenditures to allow monthly tracking by task. Prepare and submit monthly progress reports outlining the following:

- Activities during the reporting period and activities planned for the following month;
- Problems encountered and recommended solutions; and
- Overall status.

1.4 Quality Control Plan

Establish review and checking procedures for project deliverables. Designate responsibility for implementation of the Plan.

Task 2 - Environmental Data Gathering

While it is anticipated that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be the final work product for this Scope of Services, no guarantee can be made that another level of NEPA analysis (i.e., Environmental Impact Statement) will be required.

2.1 Develop Land Use Inventory

Conduct a field review of the project area to update land use information. Information will be incorporated into the project GIS database.

2.2 Review Recent Local and Regional Reports, Plans, and Documents

Collect material that supports the EA and discussion of the affected environment. Example material could include information on socioeconomics, community services, emergency services, commercial/industrial development plans, groundwater and drinking water supply information, and water resource plans and standards. In addition, documents will provide background information regarding previous commitments and plans including activities that need to be considered in the evaluation of cumulative impacts on the study area.

2.3 Public/Special Use Lands

Update the information used to identify and locate existing (and planned) public use recreational areas, bike trails, hiking trails, or other land uses that may be subject to Section 4(f) or Section 6(f) requirements. Evaluate if Section 4(f) statement is needed. If the Section 4(f) Evaluation is required, the utilize the Iowa DOT's Section 4(f) Five Step Process to identify and document public/special use lands. Technical memorandums will be used to document each of the five steps in the process.

2.4 Waters of the U.S. Inventory

Wetland delineations will be completed for the project corridor by Iowa DOT staff and used in the analysis of potential impacts by the project alternatives. Include the wetland information as a data layer into the project GIS database and coordinate with the Iowa DOT to provide working drawings of wetland mapping and EA exhibits for the project.

2.5 Historic and Archeological Resources

Assess historic and archaeological resources in coordination with the Office of the State Archaeologist, State Historic Preservation Officer, and Cultural Resources staff of the Iowa DOT.

2.6 Contaminated Sites

Conduct a preliminary review (records review and windshield survey) of potential contaminated sites in the corridor. Perform a Phase I ESA if needed. The results of the investigation will be incorporated into the project GIS database and included in the NEPA document.

2.7 Cemeteries

Verify existing information on known cemeteries within the area of potential effect.

Task 3 - Environmental Impact Analysis

Following concept development, analysis of the probable environmental impacts associated with this project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) may also be required. This analysis includes updating and advancing the engineering concept plans to the level

necessary to prepare and submit the appropriate level of NEPA documentation in accordance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) guidelines. In addition, a Section 4(f) Statement may be required if the proposed action and alternatives that may evolve following concept development have the potential to impact Section 4(f) resource(s).

3.1 Land Use and Related Impacts

The impact of the project upon land use will be evaluated. This will assess the impact of the project on potential historic properties, commercial uses, residential uses, industrial uses, park and recreational uses, community buildings, parking, and special uses.

3.2 Socioeconomic Impact

Identify impacts on community services, community cohesion, potential impacts on businesses caused by access changes, changes in traffic flow, and impacts on tax base. Analyze secondary effects of roadway improvements on businesses and effects on future land use and development potential. Assess the proposed action impact on the local and regional economy both during and after construction.

3.3 Commercial and Industrial Impacts

Assess existing commercial and industrial activity in the project area. Each alternative's impact on commercial and industrial activity will be evaluated in terms of access changes and ease of goods movement both during and after construction will be evaluated. The analysis will consider the features of the project that might affect the values of adjacent properties (e.g., proximity, noise, capacity).

3.4 Community and Residential Impacts

Assess existing residential areas and community setting in the project area. Evaluate each alternative's impact on residences, community services, community facilities, and neighborhoods both during and after construction. The environmental impact analysis will address potential impacts to other groups that may require special consideration with respect to travel patterns and access to jobs, schools, churches, parks, hospitals, shopping, and community services. These other groups may include school-age children, elderly, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

3.5 Environmental Justice

Assess the project's impact on low-income and minority populations as required by the Executive Order (EO) on Environmental Justice (EO 12898). The environmental justice assessment will be based on income and race information from the most recent U.S. Census. Additional information on race will be obtained from project team coordination with local residents and officials. The

discussion will indicate if low-income or minority communities will be affected by the action and whether the impacts to these communities will be disproportionately adverse. Potential mitigation will be presented as appropriate. Document any needs of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) with the local government agencies and the Area 15 Planning Organization.

3.6 Waters of the U.S. Impacts

Conduct impact analysis on waters of the U.S (WOTUS) for incorporation into the EA. Prepare working graphics to assist in the evaluation of impacts to wetlands and WOTUS and NEPA document exhibits (from wetland delineations prepared by the Iowa DOT).

3.7 Storm Water Runoff Impacts

Evaluate impacts to the receiving waters from storm water run-off and evaluate measures to control storm-water runoff.

3.8 Endangered or Threatened Species Impacts

Conduct a preliminary field review for species of special concern that could exist in the area of potential affect and provide written consultation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) and Iowa DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources to determine if threatened or endangered species or distinct habitats are present in the project area.

3.9 Noise Analysis

Utilize FHWA's Traffic Noise Model (TNM) to conduct a noise study for the project study area. Noise sensitive receptor locations will be identified and modeled for existing, no build, and build alternative conditions. Noise monitoring will be conducted to verify the models results.

3.10 Air Quality

A qualitative air quality analysis will be prepared for the EA using the most up to date FHWA guidance on Air Toxic Analysis. This qualitative assessment will compare, in narrative form, the expected effect of the project on traffic volumes, vehicle mix, or routing of traffic, and the associated changes in Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSATs) for the project alternatives, based on VMT, vehicle mix, and speed. It will also include a discussion describing national trend data projecting substantial overall reductions in emissions due to stricter engine and fuel regulations issued by EPA.

3.11 Contaminated Sites

Evaluate facility improvements against data collected regarding potential contaminated sites. Provide recommendations for subsequent and future investigations to determine the extent and nature of potential contamination for potentially affected sites of concern.

3.12 Indirect Impacts

Evaluate secondary impacts of the project. The impact evaluation includes defining the secondary impact area, analyzing existing and future land use trends and proposed development, assessing project characteristics, assessing the potential for project-induced changes to land use development, and evaluating existing tools or recommending tools to manage changes to land use development.

3.13 Cumulative Impacts

Evaluate the incremental impact of the proposed project when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

3.14 Construction Impacts

Assess the impact of construction on the project area and on construction workers, including access to facilities and services; economic impacts; noise; and vibration and develop mitigation recommendations as required.

3.15 Constraint Map

Use the project GIS database to prepare a constraint map showing the resources identified in previous tasks. The map will be used as a tool for agency coordination, public involvement, local government coordination, development, and refinement of alternatives, and impact analyses.

Task 4 - Environmental Documents

4.1 Prepare Environmental Assessment and FONSI

Prepare a streamlined EA that follows the content requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, FHWA Iowa Division office guidelines for preparation of environmental documents, and the Iowa DOT's streamlined EA template. The EA is expected to evaluate one build alternative and the no build alternative.

If applicable, prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) document following the EA public comment period, disposition of comments on the EA, and public hearing.

Task 5 - Agency and Public Involvement

5.1 Early Agency Coordination

Conduct Early Agency Coordination with appropriate federal, state, regional, and local agencies based on Iowa DOT guidance in partnership with the Iowa DOT. Agencies will be provided an

opportunity to comment on the project's range of alternatives, environmental impacts, and preferred alternative. The following agencies will be contacted as a part of Early Agency Coordination:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Environmental Planning
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VII
- U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. National Park Service
- U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Mahaska County Board of Supervisors
- Mahaska County Conservation Board
- Mahaska County Departments of Public Works (includes Planning)
- City of Oskaloosa – Public Works and Community Development
- Other municipal jurisdictions as appropriate (Cities of Beacon, University Park)
- State Historical Society of Iowa for their information
- Native American tribes to meet Iowa DOT guidelines regarding cultural resources and Native American tribal consultation

5.2 Public Involvement

One public information meeting (PIM) will be held for this phase of project development. Another meeting conforming to Iowa DOT PI requirements will be held for the EA (Public Hearing).

Iowa Code 6B Assistance

Because farmland may be acquired for the construction of the proposed project, and the potential for the use of eminent domain and/or condemnation of farmland to be acquired for the project exists, it is anticipated that the provisions of Iowa Code Section 6B may apply. If so, coordinate agricultural land certifications with Mahaska County, prepare property owner notification letters, and prepare and publish the 6B public hearing requirements. The Section 6B hearing, if held, will be conducted simultaneously with the EA Public Hearing. Summarize the Section 6B process and results in the EA documentation.

Exhibits for the Public Hearing will be refinements of those displayed at the public informational meeting. As needed, the 1"=400' and larger scale aerial mosaics will be finalized to show alternatives and project details. No audio-visual presentation is expected to be prepared as part of the public hearing.

III. SCHEDULE

The schedule for the EA is a 15-month timeline expected to begin in August 2021. The completion date of this project will be approximately November 2022.