

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REVIEW OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Public Hearing

Tuesday, October 3, 2017; 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Sesostris Shrine Center

1050 Saltillo Road, Lancaster County

(northwest of intersection of Saltillo Road and US-77)

DPU-LIN-2-6(120) Lincoln South Beltway; C.N. 12578D

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed Lincoln South Beltway, a new freeway in Lancaster County. The meeting will be a combined open house and open public forum held at the Sesostris Shrine Center, 1050 Saltillo Road (northwest corner of Saltillo Road and US-77) on Tuesday, October 3rd. Format includes open house from 5:00 to 6:00, a panel presentation at 6:00, and a public forum from 6:20 to 7:30. Members of the public who wish to provide comments at the public forum will be asked to sign up to speak; time will be limited to allow for maximum participation. If needed, the public forum will be extended beyond 7:30 to accommodate all speakers.

The proposed **Lincoln South Beltway** project would construct a new 11-mile east-west freeway south of the City of Lincoln, located between US-77 on the west and N-2 on the east, approximately 0.5 miles south of Saltillo Road. The project was previously considered and approved in 2002 as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Since 2002, modifications have been made to the project design, conditions within the project area have changed, and new laws and regulations have been implemented. NDOT prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address these changes and reevaluate the conclusions of the 2002 EIS related to the Lincoln South Beltway. The 2002 EIS also considered and approved an East Beltway; however, the East Beltway is not being reevaluated in the EA because funding is not available to advance that project at this time. The 2002 EIS recognized that the South and East Beltways could be advanced separately.

The purpose of the Lincoln South Beltway is to improve east-west connectivity for regional and interstate travel through Nebraska and to reduce conflicts between local and through traffic, including heavy truck traffic, in Lincoln. The project is needed to address increased travel demand on Lincoln's transportation network, conflicts between local and regional trips along Nebraska Highway through Lincoln, and challenges associated with heavy truck traffic through Lincoln.

The new freeway would include the following elements: four travel lanes (two in each direction), inside and outside shoulders, a depressed median, and five grade-separated interchanges, including freeway connections with US-77 and N-2 and local road connections at S. 27th Street, S. 68th Street,

and S. 82nd Street. Construction is planned to begin in 2020 and would take approximately 5 to 7 years to complete. During construction, periodic detours would be required for intersecting local roadways, including S. 27th Street, S. 54th Street, S. 68th Street, 82nd Street, S. 96th Street, and Saltillo Road.

The project would require the acquisition of new right-of-way, mostly from agricultural uses. There is a potential for three residences and one business relocation. Wetlands and streams will also be affected, and the project will require a Section 404 permit. A minor (*de minimis*) impact to the Jamaica North Trail has been identified; no impacts to Wilderness Park or other recreational or historic properties have been identified. Measures have been proposed to mitigate adverse effects.

The Draft EA is provided for public input. It presents the alternatives evaluated, impacts identified, and proposed mitigation measures for the project. The EA is available on NDOT's website at <http://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/bna/first10/fy-2020-2023/lincoln-south-beltway> and during regular business hours at the following locations in Lincoln: NDOT Headquarters (1500 Hwy 2), City of Lincoln Public Works & Utilities (555 South 10th Street, Suite 208), Lancaster County Engineer Office (444 Cherrycreek Road, Bldg. C), Federal Highway Administration Nebraska Division Office (100 Centennial Mall North, Room 220), and Bess Dodson Walt Library (6701 S. 14th Street).

The public hearing allows the public the formal opportunity to comment on the project. All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and present relevant comments and questions. If you require special accommodations to access the EA or participate in the hearing, please contact Sarah Soula, Public Involvement Manager, Nebraska Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759; sarah.soula@nebraska.gov; phone (402) 479-4871; fax (402) 479-3989. The hearing will be conducted in English with Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, and Chinese translators available.

Comments will be collected through October 7, 2017 and must be postmarked or emailed by this date to be part of the official record. All comments and responses will be considered and included in the Final EA, and all comments will receive individual responses from NDOT. For further information, contact Thomas Goodbarn, NDOT District One Engineer, (402) 471-0850, thomas.goodbarn@nebraska.gov.

Lincoln South Beltway

DPU-LIN-2-6(120); C.N. 12578D



Send comments to:

**NDOT Public Involvement
Sarah Soula**

P.O. Box 94759; 1500 Hwy. 2
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

402-479-4871

sarah.soula@nebraska.gov

For more information:

**NDOT District 1 Engineer
Thomas Goodbarn**

1500 Hwy 2
Lincoln, NE 68509

402-471-0850

thomas.goodbarn@nebraska.gov

<http://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/bna/first10/fy-2020-2023/lincoln-south-beltway/>

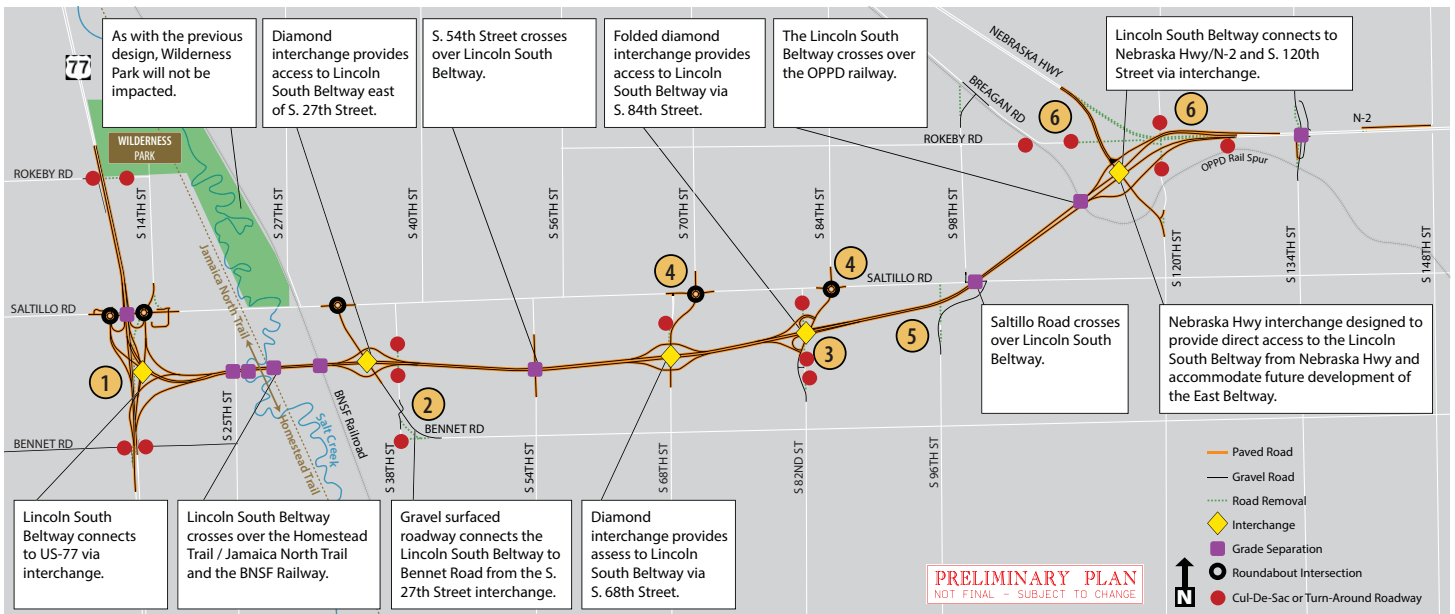


Visit <http://dot.nebraska.gov> and click on the **Subscribe** button to sign up for email notifications on topics of interest.

DPU-LIN-2-6(120), CN 12578D

CORRIDOR ALIGNMENT

The figure below represents the current alignment of the Lincoln South Beltway. It includes four, 12-foot lanes, 12-foot paved outside shoulders and a 54-foot wide median. Key features have been noted. This is a preliminary plan that is still being refined through the design process. It is subject to change based on social, economic and environmental reviews.



Key modifications or changes since the previous design presented in June 2013.

- 1** The West System Interchange has been modified based on design speed and traffic projections. Changes have resulted in improved mainline and ramp design speeds.
- 2** The Bennet Road connector has an updated design providing a better connection and direct access.
- 3** The interchange at S. 84th Street has been modified to reduce impacts to environmental resources.
- 4** New, single-lane roundabout intersections have been added along Salttillo Road, east of S. 27th Street.
- 5** Eliminated freeway bridges over undercrossing driveway.
- 6** Cul-de-sacs, or turn-around locations, have changed at the East System Interchange. New cul-de-sac locations are at S. 120th Street north of the interchange and at Rokeby Road, east of Breagan Road.

PUBLIC INFORMATION FACT SHEET

Environmental Assessment & Preliminary Engineering

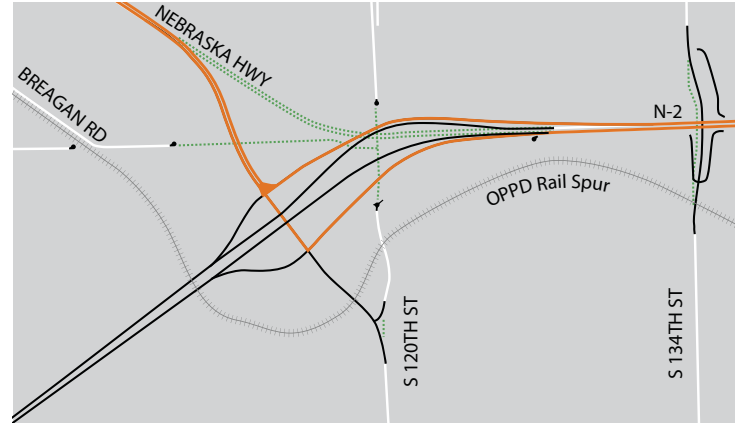
BICYCLE CONNECTIVITY

Bicycle connectivity will be accommodated through the Highway 77 and N-2 system interchanges. See the maps below for details. The City of Lincoln and NDOR are coordinating to identify opportunities to accommodate planned trails in south Lincoln.

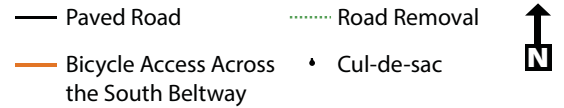
WEST INTERCHANGE



EAST INTERCHANGE



PRELIMINARY PLAN
NOT FINAL - SUBJECT TO CHANGE



NEXT STEPS

