

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REVIEW OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Thursday, September 12, 2019; 4:00-6:00 PM

**City Council Chambers - Lexington Municipal Building
406 E 7th Street, Lexington, NE**

RRZ-TMT-1705(3) Lexington East Viaduct; C.N. 61457

The City of Lexington in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed construction of a viaduct and roadway improvements in the vicinity of County Road 435, the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossing, and US Highway 30 (US-30) on the east side of Lexington in Dawson County. The hearing will be at the City Council Chambers - Lexington Municipal Building, 406 E 7th Street in Lexington on Thursday, September 12, 2019, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

The public hearing is being held to present the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) to the public and to take their comments and questions on the DEA. The DEA presents the alternatives evaluated, impacts identified, and proposed mitigation measures for the project; which were based on social, economic, and environmental analyses conducted for the project.

All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and present relevant comments and questions. The format includes an open house from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, a formal presentation at 5:00 PM to 5:20 PM, and a public forum from 5:20 PM to 6:00 PM. 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 three minutes to allow for maximum participation. If needed, the public forum will be extended beyond 6:00 PM to accommodate all speakers. The remainder of the time will be in an open house format where the public can visit and speak one-on-one with project representatives.

Comments will be collected through Friday, September 27, 2019, 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 a formal response from the City.

As a result of the screening process and information gathered at the November 2013 open house, two of the four alternatives were eliminated from further evaluation. The No Build Alternative (do nothing) and the Preferred Alternative to build a new north-south viaduct over the UPRR and US-30 were carried forward for a detailed evaluation in the DEA. As part of the development of this project, the City of Lexington would construct two new local roads to maintain access in the area, realign County Road 755 from County Road 435 to provide an optimal intersection with US-30, and create turn lanes and shoulders for US-30 at the relocated intersection of County Road 755.

Identified as **Lexington East Viaduct**, this proposed project would construct a new north-south viaduct along County Road 435 over the

UPRR and US-30 and close the existing at-grade crossing of the UPRR tracks at County Road 435 and County Road 436.

The purpose of this project is to improve traffic flow around the intersection of County Road 435, US-30 and the UPRR. The needs for this project are to reduce crashes on County Road 435 near US-30 and the UPRR crossings, reduce delays for vehicles crossing the UPRR tracks along County Road 435 and provide accessibility that is consistent with plans approved by the City of Lexington.

This project would require the acquisition of additional property rights which could include new right-of-way (ROW), permanent easements (PE), and/or temporary easements (TE). Current access to several businesses would change. 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. Access may be limited due to phasing requirements.

The proposed project would not be constructed under traffic and would require detouring US-30 and local traffic. A designated detour for US-30 traffic would be provided utilizing US Highway 283 (US-283), Interstate 80 (I-80), and Nebraska Link 24B (L-24B). A designated detour for local traffic would be provided utilizing County Road 756 and Taft Street north of US-30 and US-283 and East Walnut Street or County Road 754 south of US-30.

Anticipated 2-year construction could start as early as spring of 2021 and be completed by fall of 2023.

Minor impacts to farmland, streams, wetlands and floodplains are expected as a result of the project. No impacts to parks, public lands or recreational properties are anticipated.

The City of Lexington will make every reasonable accommodation to provide a meeting facility that is accessible to everyone and is compliant with current Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. If you require special accommodations to access the DEA or participate in the hearing, please contact Dennis Burnside, City of Lexington, P.O. Box 70, Lexington, NE 68850; dburnside@cityoflex.com; telephone (308) 324-2341. Comments in regard to the DEA and the proposed project may also be submitted to the contact above.

The DEA document will be available for public review from August 28, 2019 to September 27, 2019 which is the end of the public comment period and when public comments are due. The DEA can be reviewed at the following locations during regular business hours: Lexington Municipal Building, 406 E 7th Street, Lexington, NE; Dawson County Courthouse, 700 N Washington Street, Lexington, NE; Lexington Public Library, 907 N Washington Street, Lexington, NE; NDOT Headquarters, 1500 Highway 2, Lincoln, NE; and FHWA Nebraska Division, 100 Centennial Mall N., Lincoln, NE. The DEA is also available for review on the City of Lexington website at <http://www.cityoflex.com/find-info/city-services/public-records> and the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) website at <https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/environment/pubs/project-docs/>.