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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US-30 Advisory Panel Announces Recommendations

The US-30 Advisory Panel will present their recommendations regarding the proposed upgrading of US-30 in Dodge County to the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) and the Federal Highway Administration. The formal presentation will be December 11 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District office in Wahoo.

“The Panel represented different viewpoints from residents throughout Dodge County. They evaluated a considerable amount of technical information related to drainage, flooding, highway maintenance, safety, and service to communities, among others, before reaching these recommendations. The recommended location for the improved highway, special highway features, and design issues are included in these recommendations,” according to Greg Michaud, Panel Facilitator.

Key points in the Panel’s recommendations include:

Location: The Panel recommends Alternative #8 be adopted by the NDOR and the Federal Highway Administration as the preferred alternative for an improved US-30 between Schuyler and Fremont. From the west, this alternative veers north off existing US-30 at County Road 4 and continues northeast. The alternative then turns east and closely follows County Road S until it connects northwest of Fremont at the Fremont Northwest Bypass.

Highway Features: To address the overwhelming public concern regarding safety, the Panel strongly advocates that an interchange at Highway 79 be included in the initial construction of the project.

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Highway Relinquishment: The Panel recommends that NDOR take a progressive and proactive approach by working cooperatively with Dodge County to develop an agreement that would reduce the additional financial burden placed on the County.

Drainage: To ensure that local drainage concerns are taken into consideration when the improved US-30 is being designed, the Panel recommends that an advisory group be formed that consists of representatives from the North Bend Drainage Board, the Dodge County Road Department, the Lower Platte North Natural Resource District, and adjacent property owners.

The Panel's report also includes suggestions regarding additional flood protection and potential paving of two county roads that intersect with Alternative #8.

Copies of the Panel's report will be made available later in the month by the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR). Interested persons will be able to view and download copies from the NDOR website at <http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/projects> Paper copies also can be obtained by contacting Jim Schurr, Project Coordinator for NDOR, at (402) 479-4416.

The Panel solicited public input through two mailings that were sent to over 2,000 households, businesses and organizations to help identify and prioritize issues important to various segments of the population in Dodge County. The Panel then measured each of the prioritized issues. These issues and their measurements are being used by the Panel to help assess alternative alignments for the proposed US-30 expressway through Dodge County.

The Panel includes representatives from agriculture, business, community affairs, diking and drainage districts, and local government. The Panel began meeting in May, 2005, to develop recommendations concerning the proposed US-30 improvement between Schuyler and Fremont.

#NDOR#

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