



N-12 Niobrara East & West



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Visit the Project Website:

www.transportation.nebraska.gov/projects/niobrara-n12/index.htm

Project Team Contacts

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N-12 Niobrara East & West Public Meeting

What is the purpose of the meeting on July 23?

The Corps will present the range of alternatives for the Project, discuss the alternative screening process, and seek public input on alternatives that will aid the Corps in finalizing screening to determine the alternatives that will be carried forward in the EIS. If you are unable to attend, all of the information will be available on the Project website listed above.

What is the meeting format?

From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., the meeting will be in an open-house format to allow participants to talk with Project team members one-on-one. At 7:00 p.m., Project team members will begin a formal presentation. A question-and-answer session will follow at 7:30 p.m. Members of the public who wish to speak during the question-and-answer session will be asked to register and will be called to speak in the order in which they register. Participants who wish to speak during the question-and-answer session may register prior to the meeting by contacting Matt

Pillard (HDR Engineering, Inc.) by email at Matt.Pillard@hdrinc.com or by phone at (402) 399-1186. Participants can also register at the meeting. Each registered speaker will have up to 3 minutes, depending on the number of participants, to state a comment and/or ask a question. Project team members will answer any questions.

**Public Meeting:
 Mark Your Calendar**

When: July 23, 2009
Time: 6:00 – 8:30 pm
Place: WFLA Hall
 Spruce and Park Avenues
 Niobrara, Nebraska

Open house from 6:00 to 7:00 pm
 Formal presentation at 7:00 pm
 Q&A session at 7:30 pm

NEBRASKA



N-12 Niobrara East & West

Project Description

Nebraska Highway 12 (N-12) is an east-west two-lane highway in northeastern Nebraska that provides a route for local residents and through traffic. The intent of the Project is to maintain, improve, or replace with a new alignment, as necessary, the existing N-12 roadway east and west of the Village of Niobrara, resulting in a safe and reliable roadway (the Project).

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US Army Corps of Engineers and Nebraska Department of Roads

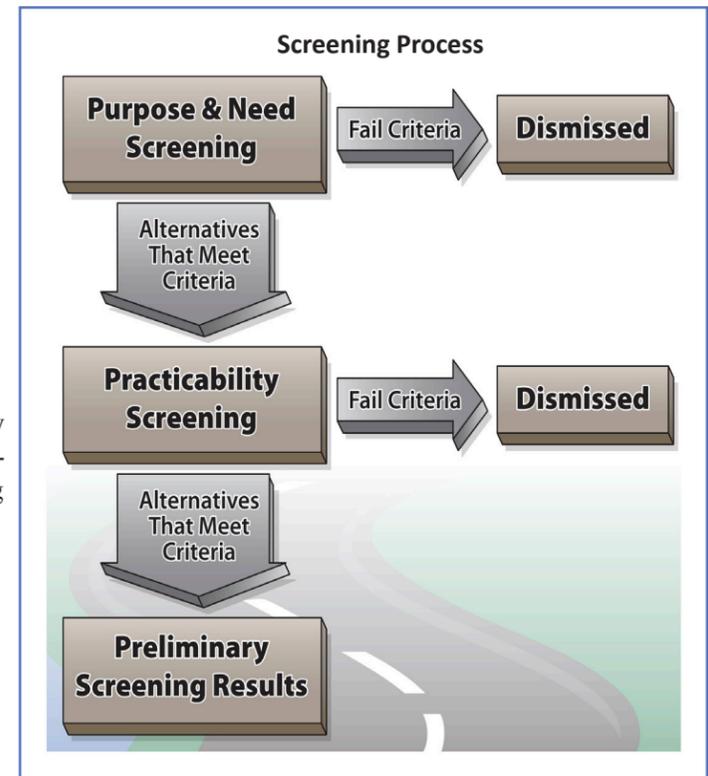
N-12 Niobrara East & West Project

Corps Reviews Alternatives for Detailed Evaluation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) would like to initiate the next phase in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the Nebraska Highway 12 (N-12) Niobrara East & West Project (the Project). Following the agency and public scoping meetings held on August 28, 2008, the Corps developed a range of alternatives, including roadway alternatives in the floodplain and roadway alternatives out of the floodplain (see Range of Alternatives). This range of alternatives will not include the concepts of operational changes to the Missouri River or sediment removal from Lewis and Clark Lake (see page 2).

The Corps developed screening criteria to ensure that Project alternatives facilitate the Project purpose and need and are practicable when considering cost, logistics, and technology. It was determined that an alternative could reasonably be eliminated from detailed consideration in the EIS if it fails to satisfy one or more of the screening criteria (see Screening Process).

The Corps has scheduled a public meeting for July 23, 2009, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the WFLA Hall in Niobrara, Nebraska. The Corps is seeking information from the public that may assist them with screening the alternatives. An open house meeting will start at 6:00 p.m., a formal presentation will start at 7:00 p.m., and a question-and-answer session will follow at 7:30 p.m.



Range of Alternatives

Alternatives include:

- ▶ No-action alternative
- ▶ Elevation raise on existing alignment with detour during construction
- ▶ Elevation raise on existing alignment with one-way traffic during construction
- ▶ Elevation raise on parallel alignment
- ▶ Elevation raise on base of the bluffs alignment
- ▶ Bluffs alignment
- ▶ South of the bluffs alignment



Corps representative discusses the N-12 Project at the August public scoping meeting.

Public Scoping Meeting Summary

Approximately 140 people attended the public scoping meeting on August 28, 2008, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the WFLA Hall in Niobrara. Many attendees commented either verbally or in writing at the meeting or mailed comments at a later date. The Corps used the public comments to revise the Project purpose and need and to determine the range of alternatives (see page 1). Recurring

questions or comments raised at the meeting are addressed below and throughout the newsletter.

- Q** How long will Gavins Point Dam be functional?
- A** Given the current sedimentation rate, the Corps estimates that the dam would be functional for 170 years.

- Q** Will access to Niobrara be maintained by all of the alternatives?
- A** Yes, all of the alternatives maintain a connection to Niobrara. Niobrara would not be bypassed by any alternative (see page 3).
- Q** Will a roadway in the bluffs (Pierre shale) be safe or reliable?
- A** Construction would be influenced by Pierre shale formations. A detailed geotechnical investigation would be required to determine the level and extent; however, design provisions could be made to facilitate construction of a safe and reliable roadway where Pierre shale is encountered.

Reasons for Dismissing Regulation Changes to the Missouri River and Sediment Removal from Lewis and Clark Lake

The Corps considered the concept of regulation changes to the Missouri River Mainstem System, including decommissioning Gavins Point Dam, and removing sediment from Lewis and Clark Lake as a means to resolve flooding problems on N-12. However, these concepts were dismissed for the following reasons:

Regulation Changes to Missouri River

- ▶ Flows of the magnitude and duration necessary to move accumulated sediment are dependent on an adequate quantity of water in the Missouri River Mainstem System.
- ▶ The amount or magnitude of flow would need to be coordinated with downstream tributary flows and forecasted rainfall.
- ▶ High water releases to move sediment can create a conflict in the management goals and some of the authorized purposes of the Missouri River Mainstem System (that is, flood control, navigation, irrigation, hydropower generation, water supply, water quality, recreation, and fish and wildlife).
- ▶ The process for a change to the Corp's Master Manual would inhibit a timely implementation with no guarantee of its approval.
- ▶ NDOR would still be required to resolve the existing roadway deficiencies.

The concept of regulation changes to the Missouri River Mainstem System will not be included in the range of alternatives in the EIS as any potential alternative of this concept would not meet the Purpose and Need for the Project.

Sediment Removal from Lewis and Clark Lake

- ▶ Funding for sediment removal would be required every year for the life of the roadway (typically 50 years).
- ▶ Dredging costs are excessive compared to other alternatives for this Project.
- ▶ NDOR would still be required to resolve the existing roadway deficiencies.

The concept of sediment removal from Lewis and Clark Lake will not be included in the range of alternatives in the EIS due to the excessive cost of this concept compared to other available alternatives.

How Can I Submit Comments?

The Corps encourages all interested parties to submit comments at any time by mail, e-mail or telephone to the Project Team contacts listed on page 4.

What's Next?

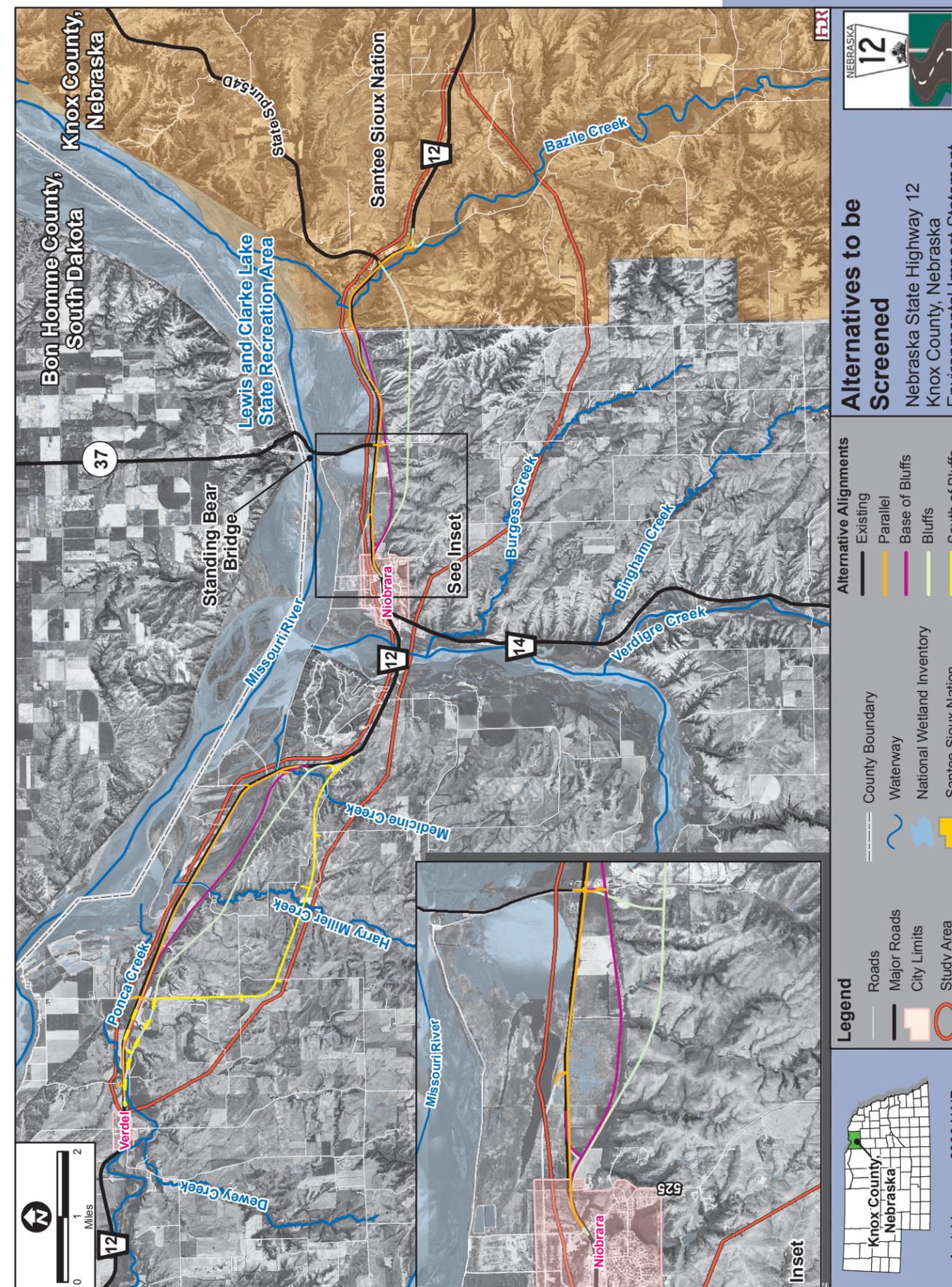
July 2009
Alternatives Screening Public Meeting

Spring 2010
Public release of Draft EIS

Spring 2010
Draft EIS/Project Location Public Meeting

Winter 2010/2011
Publish signed Final EIS

Spring 2011
Record of Decision, 404 Permit decision



Alternatives to be Screened

Nebraska State Highway 12
Knox County, Nebraska
Environmental Impact Statement

Alternative Alignments
 Existing
 Parallel
 Base of Bluffs
 Bluffs
 South of Bluffs

Legend
 County Boundary
 Waterway
 National Wetland Inventory
 Santee Sioux Nation
 Roads
 Major Roads
 City Limits
 Study Area

Knox County, Nebraska
 Aerial Imagery: 2006 NAIP