



Project Description

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).

Who's Project is This?

The planning, design, and construction of the Applied-for Project is the responsibility of Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR). NDOR submitted a Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permit application containing a roadway design project (the Applied-for Project) to the Corps. The Corps is responsible for review of the permit application, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal laws and acts, and determining if a Section 404 permit can be issued for the Applied-for Project.

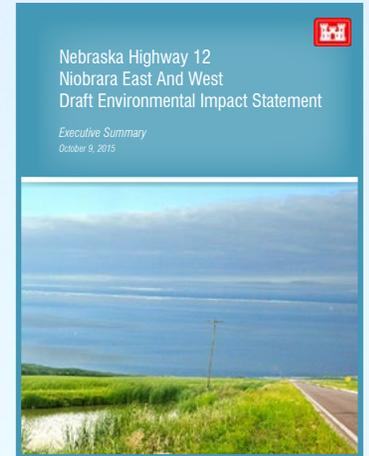
Inside

Environmental Impact Statement.....	3
Public Hearing and Open House Info.....	3
What's Next	3
Alternatives Carried Forward Map.....	4



Corps Issues Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Comment

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Omaha District, Regulatory Division, received a permit application from the applicant, the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR), on September 11, 2015. NDOR has requested authorization for the placement of fill material in waters of the United States in connection with the NDOR's proposed Nebraska Highway 12 (N-12) roadway east and west of the Village of Niobrara (Niobrara), Nebraska (Project). The Corps, as part of its permit review process, developed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).



The purpose of the Draft EIS is to inform decision makers and the public of the environmental impacts of the roadway design project (the Applied-for Project). In addition, the Draft EIS reviews the reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment. The Corps is seeking comments on the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS, and the comments received on it, will provide the Corps with the information to make an informed Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 United States Code [USC] 1344) permit decision. The Draft EIS will also be used to aid in the decision required by the permit decision under the National Park Service, a cooperating agency, as it relates to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

What is the Alternative for which NDOR is Applying ?

NDOR applied for the A7 alternative. This alternative would relocate N-12 east and west of Niobrara, NE, south of its existing location and construct a new roadway at a higher elevation to accommodate future water levels with enhanced bridged sections. This alternative has more bridges to reduce wetland impacts and enhance Missouri River floodplain connectivity. Two segments of N-12 would be relocated. The segment of N-12 that is in the bluffs, including the segment that goes through the Village of Niobrara, will remain the same. The west segment is approximately 6.4 miles long and extends from just east of Verdel, Nebraska, on the west end to 2 miles west of the bridge over the Niobrara River. In the west segment, the Applied-for Project would deviate from the existing alignment just east of Ponca Creek and would rejoin the existing alignment just north of County Road 892. The east segment is approximately six miles long and extends from just east of Buckeye Road in Niobrara, NE to approximately one mile east of Spur 54D (S-54D). In the east segment, the alignment would deviate from the existing alignment east of Buckeye Road in Niobrara, NE and would reconnect with existing N-12 at approximately S-54D. A new connection to the Chief Standing Bear Memorial Bridge (N 14) and SD-37 would be developed. For both segments, the existing N-12 roadway would be removed to the existing ground level. See page 3 for a map of the project area.





Accessing the Draft EIS

How Can I Review the Draft EIS?

Visit the project website listed below for Draft EIS hard copy locations or to download and view it electronically:
www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram/Nebraska/EISHighway12.aspx

Project Contacts

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Purpose of the EIS

With the publication of the Draft EIS, the Corps seeks to inform federal, state, and local governments, decisions makers, project stakeholders, and the public of the potential impacts associated with the Applied-for Project and identified reasonable alternatives. The Corps invites interested parties to comment on the Draft EIS. The Corp's decision will be provided in the form of a record of decision. Information presented in the Draft EIS will also be used to aid in the decision required by the National Park Service, a cooperating agency, as it relates to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.



Public Hearing & Open House

The public open house meeting will be held on **Monday, November 9th from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** with a **public hearing to follow at 6:00 p.m.**, to provide information contained within the Draft EIS, and to solicit input on the Draft EIS and NDOR's Section 404 permit application. Following the open house meeting, a formal public hearing will commence at 6:00 p.m. No formal presentation will be made by the Corps or NDOR. **Event location and details can be found on page 4.**

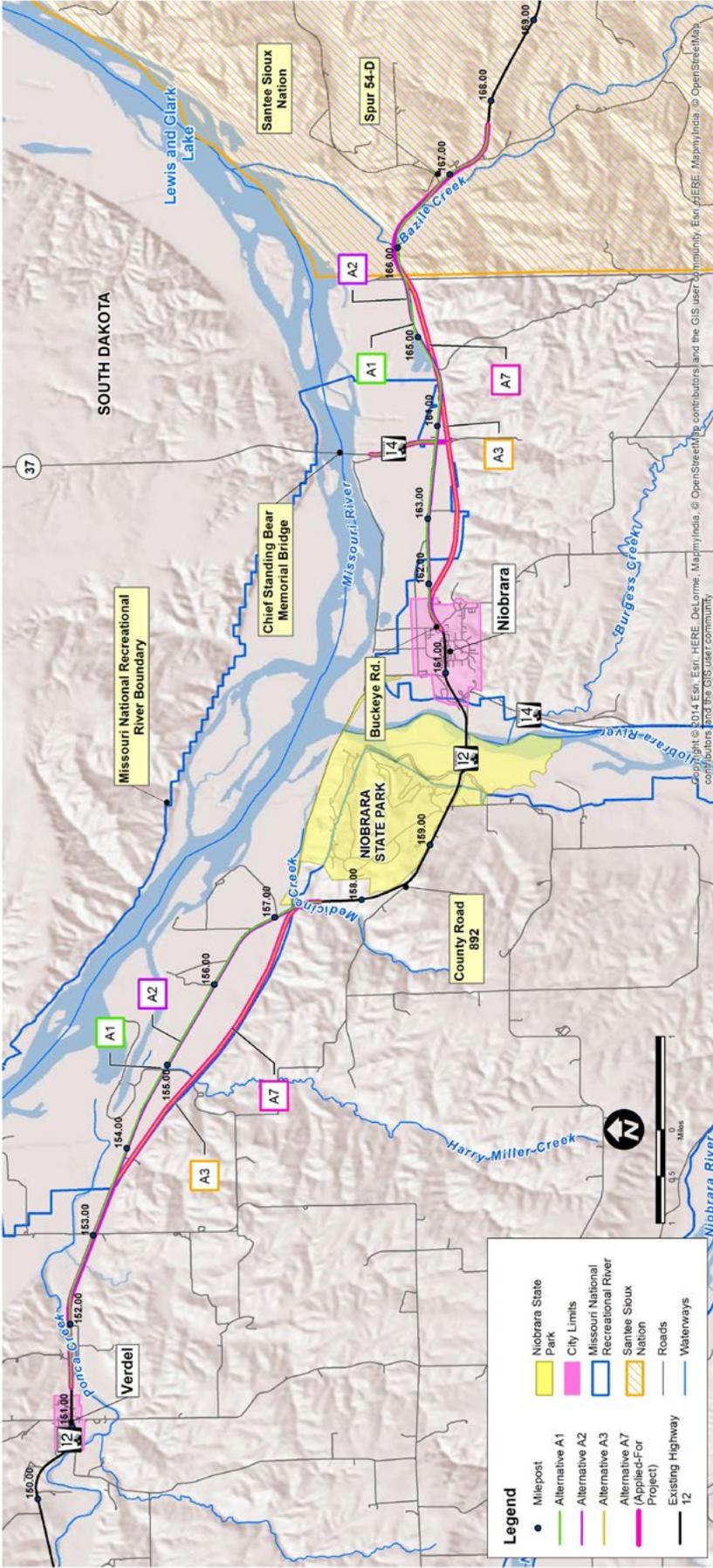
What is the Purpose of the Public Hearing?

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public testimony on the Draft EIS and NDOR's Section 404 permit application that will aid the Corps in making a decision on NDOR's Applied-for Project. Members of the public who wish to speak during the hearing will be asked to register and will be called to speak in random order. Participants can register at the open house beginning at 4:30 p.m. Each registered speaker will have up to three minutes, depending on the number of participants, to state a comment.

How Can I Submit Comments?

The Corps encourages all interested parties to submit comments until November 23, 2015 by mail, email or telephone to the project contacts listed on the side of this newsletter.





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Attn: CENWO-OD-RF
Omaha, NE 68102-4901



Save The Date!

Public Open House and Public Hearing Monday, November 9, 2015

You are invited to attend a Public Hearing for this Project

The Corps invites you to attend the public open house meeting and public hearing to provide you with information on the project and solicit your comments.



Public Open House

Monday
November 9, 2015
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.



Public Hearing

Monday
November 9, 2015
6:00 p.m.



Location

Niobrara Secondary School
East Gymnasium, 247 NE-12
Niobrara, NE 68760

