

July 21, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information Open House August 3 for Improvements on N-12 in Niobrara Area

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) will hold an Information Open House August 3 to solicit feedback on a newly developed alternative for the proposed improvement of Nebraska Highway 12 (N-12), known as **Niobrara East & West**, in Knox County. The open house will be held from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Niobrara High School – Gymnasium, 247 North Highway 12, in Niobrara. There will be a short presentation beginning at 5:00 p.m., prior to the open house.

NDOR applied for a Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in September of 2015. As part of the permit process, the Corps held a public hearing on November 9, 2015. At that time, the public had concerns and recommended an alternate solution should be sought. The public cited hardships on landowners, farms, and ranching operations. Concerns were also expressed regarding icing and snow removal challenges on a roadway adjacent to the bluffs. In a letter to the Corps, NDOR requested that the permit application be withdrawn.

NDOR has developed a new alternative (A8) adjacent to the existing highway to provide a long-term transportation solution for N-12. NDOR has hosted meetings with the Corps, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Park Service (NPS) to evaluate this alternative and the environmental impacts in advance of a permit decision.

The proposed project includes two segments of the existing N-12 roadway east and west of the Niobrara. The highway experiences flooding and damage due to high water levels associated with the Missouri River. The NDOR is proposing to improve N-12 to eliminate damage caused by flooding and provide a reliable, stable and safe roadway for the region.

Personnel from the Department of Roads will be available to answer questions, receive comments, and discuss any aspect of the proposed highway improvement project. Information regarding the project will be available after the meeting on the NDOR website at www.roads.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/ by clicking on the “Niobrara East & West” link.

#NDOR#

Contact:

Sarah Kugler, Public Involvement Manager, Lincoln, (402) 479-4871

NR20-GA-31674



Visit www.roads.nebraska.gov and click on the *Subscribe* button to sign up for email notifications on topics of interest.