

Polk County Public Works
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50313

Mail to:

How You Can Participate:

- Mail written public comments to:

Polk County Public Works
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50313
- Attend the Public Information Meeting on July 10, 2008 at Snyder & Associates, 2727 SW Snyder Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50023
- Review project documents on the project website
- Call Polk County Public Works with questions or project comments, at (515) 286-3705

Alternate Locations for Project Information:

- Polk County Public Works
5585 NW 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50313
- Polk County Board of Supervisors Office
111 Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/publicworks/Pages/neBeltway.aspx>

**NORTHEAST BELTWAY
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PROJECT NEWSLETTER**

Issue 2

Summer 2008



In This Issue:

Project Status	1
Upcoming Public Meeting	1
Proposed Project Alternatives	2
Alternatives Map	3
How You Can Participate	4

**PROJECT STATUS:
ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT**

The Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Northeast Beltway project has progressed to the identification of project alternatives.

The last public information meeting for this project was held in November 2007, and discussed generalized Build and No Build Alternatives for the project. Now, a large range of specific project alternatives is proposed for the project. Agency input regarding these potential project alternatives was gathered in January 2007. The alternatives have been refined and will be presented for public review and comment, and the public will have the opportunity to suggest additional alternatives.

The next project Public Information Meeting will be in July (see below), and will provide the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed alternatives. After the entire range of alternatives is identified, alternatives will be screened for feasibility and a smaller number of project alternatives will be carried forward for specific analysis. This is scheduled to occur in 2009.

JULY PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**Thursday, July 10, 2008, 4:30 – 6:30 PM (Open House)
Snyder & Associates, Inc.
2727 SW Snyder Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50023**

The meeting will be a forum for public review and comment on the proposed range of alternatives for the proposed Northeast Beltway project. The public will also be able to suggest additional project alternatives.

The meeting will have two parts. A revolving presentation will be shown to participants upon arrival, with an open house following to answer questions from the public one-on-one. To avoid crowds, we encourage you to consider arriving at the meeting later than 4:30. Past meetings have been very crowded within the first 30-45 minutes of opening.

Please plan to attend this meeting so your opinions will be heard, and to help shape this important piece of Polk County's future. If you are unable to attend, please visit the project website for meeting handouts and other project information.

Please visit the Northeast Beltway Project Website for more information:
<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/publicworks/Pages/neBeltway.aspx>

PROPOSED PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The East Segment of the Northeast Beltway EIS is in the Alternatives Development phase. Proposed project alternatives have been defined and refined through public agency comments. The alternatives are being presented for public comment at this time. Comments on the proposed alternatives will be incorporated into further alternative refinements.

Expansion of NE 46th Street or NE 56th Street

The expansion of either NE 46th Street or NE 56th Street to become the Northeast Beltway will be considered. A Northeast Beltway option on NE 46th or NE 56th Street would require the construction of a frontage road system to provide access to parcels that would not be acquired by the project. Either of these options would result in a loss to the local street network, a loss of local street access (traffic may only enter the Northeast Beltway from an interchange), and potential for more home and farm relocations than an alternative not on an existing road.

Expansion of NE 126th Avenue

The expansion of NE 126th Avenue to become the Northeast Beltway would require the construction of frontage roads to provide access to parcels that would not be acquired by the project. This option would utilize the existing I-35 bridge on NE 126th Avenue, but local traffic would not be able to access NE 126th Avenue unless it is from an interchange.

Alternatives on New Alignment (North-South or East-West)

A roadway alternative on new alignment would not use an existing roadway, but instead would be a completely new road, leaving the existing local street network in this area completely intact. Alternatives on new alignment are proposed for the north-south roadway segment (instead of widening NE 46th or NE 56th Streets) as well as for the east-west roadway segment (instead of widening NE 126th Avenue). The east-west new alignment would include a new I-35 interchange north of NE 126th Avenue; the existing NE 126th Avenue connection across I-35 would remain, but interstate access would be relocated to the Northeast Beltway.

Expansion of NE 158th Avenue or IA 210

Two Northeast Beltway alternatives north of the City of Elkhart are included in the proposed range of alternatives. Both alternatives would route on NE 56th Street to the Skunk River, and then route to US 69 either on an expanded NE 158th Avenue or IA 210 (Story County). A NE 158th Avenue alternative would include a new interchange on I-35, while the IA 210 alternative would retain its interchange.

Proposed Alternatives: Northeast Beltway

The proposed range of alternatives for the Northeast Beltway is shown on the right. This map shows the entire range of alternatives being considered, including all the alternatives discussed on the facing page.

The Northeast Beltway is proposed to be a 300' wide, 4-lane limited access corridor, with access only at interchanges.

It is proposed that the existing local road network remain open to serve local traffic, with grade separations for the Northeast Beltway (bridges).

This range of alternatives will be analyzed, and a few alternatives will be carried forward for further consideration. This is scheduled to occur in 2009.

