

# NW 26th STREET / MORINGSTAR DRIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

Summer 2008

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## PROJECT STATUS: ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT



The Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street 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 17, 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 NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street project. Additional alternatives may also be proposed by the public at the meeting.

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 NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street Project Website for more information:  
<http://www.polkcountyia.gov/publicworks/Pages/nw26.aspx>

### Study Area Expansion

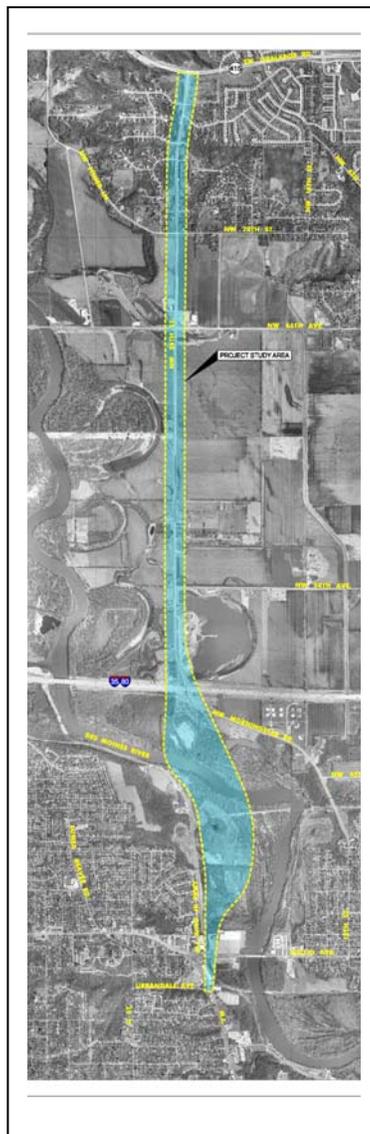
The NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street project has undergone a series of study area changes since the project's start in 2006. The study area changes throughout the course of the project to date have affected the location of proposed project alternatives.

#### *Initially Proposed Study Area*

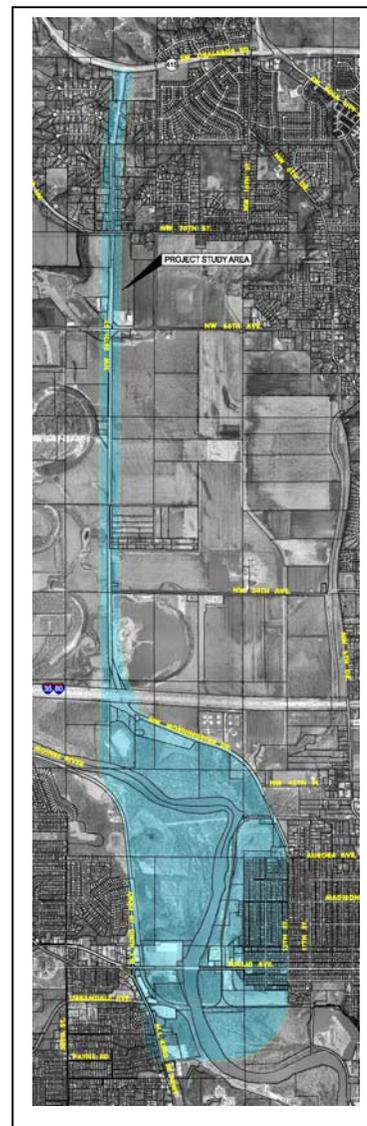
In 2006, the project was proposed to have a small study centered about NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street, a proposed interchange at NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Interstate-35/80, and an area to construct new alignment to cross the Des Moines River and connect the facility to Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. The original study area as seen to the right was presented in the initial public information meeting and to public agencies for project scoping.

#### *Changes from Initial Public Meeting*

The initial public meeting produced similar comments from the public regarding the area south of I-35/80. Many commented that the study area should be expanded to include alternatives other than the land about the Des Moines River greenbelt. The majority of that land is owned by the Federal government. To that end, the study area south of I-35/80 was expanded to the east (to 12<sup>th</sup> Street) and the south (to Hickman Road). The revised study area map to the right shows the changes made to the project study area based on public comments from the initial public information meeting.



Original Study Area



Revised Study Area  
Developed from Initial  
Public Comments



## PROPOSED PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street 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.

### **A Merle Hay Road Expansion – Existing Roadway Alternative**

- Expand Merle Hay Road to a 6-lane road (NW 70th Avenue to Douglas Avenue)

### **B NW Beaver Avenue Expansion – Existing Roadway Alternative**

- Expand NW Beaver Avenue to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane

### **C Lower Beaver Road Expansion – Existing Roadway Alternative**

- Expand NW Beaver Avenue to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane
- Expand Lower Beaver Road to 4-lane with two-way left turn lanes

### **D NW 26th/West Bank - New Alignment**

- Expand NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (IA 415 – I-35/80)
- Construct interchange at I-35/80
- Construct new alignment (4-lanes) from interchange to Euclid Avenue

### **E NW 26th/Morningstar/East Bank – New Alignment**

- Expand NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (IA 415 – I-35/80)
- Construct interchange at I-35/80
- Expand Morningstar Drive to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (I-35/80 to Aurora)
- Construct new alignment (4-lanes) from Morningstar to Euclid Avenue

### **F NW 26th/Morningstar/East Bank/MLK Connection – New Alignment**

- Expand NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (IA 415 – I-35/80)
- Construct Interchange
- Expand Morningstar Drive to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (I-35/80 to Aurora)
- Construct new alignment (4-lanes) from Morningstar – MLK

### **G NW 26th/Morningstar/12th Street – Existing Roadway Alternative**

- Expand NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (IA 415 – I-35/80)
- Construct Interchange
- Expand 12<sup>th</sup> Street to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (I-35/80 to Aurora)

### **H NW 26th/Morningstar/12th/MLK Connection – New Alignment**

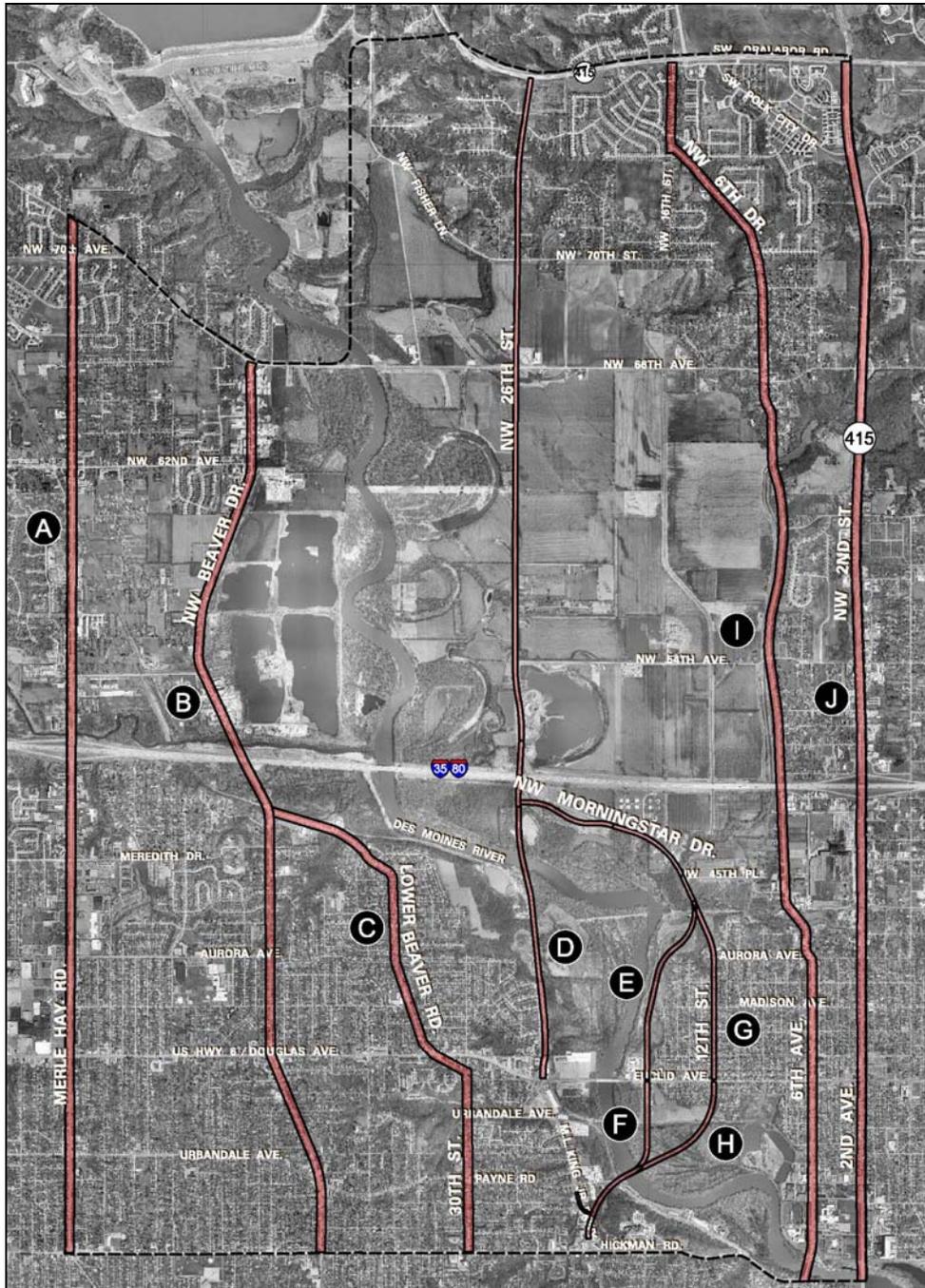
- Expand NW 26<sup>th</sup> Street to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (IA 415 – I-35/80)
- Construct Interchange
- Expand 12<sup>th</sup> Street to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (I-35/80 to Aurora)
- Construct new alignment (4-lanes) from Euclid to MLK

**I NW 6th Avenue – Existing Roadway Alternative**

- Expand NW 16th Street to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (IA 415 – NW 6th)
- Expand NW 6th Drive/Avenue to 4-lanes with a two-way left turn lane (NW 16th Street – Euclid Avenue)

**J NW 2nd Avenue – Existing Roadway Alternative**

- Expand NW 2nd Avenue to six-lanes (IA 415/Oralabor Road to Euclid Avenue)



Polk County Public Works  
5885 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50313

Mail to:



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### How You Can Participate:

- Mail written public comments to:  
  
Polk County Public Works  
5885 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50313
- Attend the Public Information Meeting on July 17, 2008 at Snyder & Associates, Inc.  
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 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50313
- Polk County Board of Supervisors Office  
111 Court Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/publicworks/Pages/nw26.aspx>

