

U.S. HIGHWAY 85

Public Scoping Meeting

I-94 Interchange to Watford City Bypass (McKenzie County Road 30)

Project 9-085(085)075 PCN 20046 • Stark, Billings and McKenzie Counties, North Dakota

When?

November 9 & 10, 2015
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Formal Presentation:
5:30 p.m.

What is the Description of the Proposed Project?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed US Highway 85 project. The project limits are from the I-94 Interchange to the Watford City Bypass (McKenzie County Road 30) in Stark, Billings and McKenzie Counties, North Dakota.

The proposed project would expand US Highway 85 to four lanes (with flexible design options to avoid or minimize impacts) and rehabilitate or replace the historic Long X Bridge over the Little Missouri River.

What is the Purpose of the Public Scoping Meetings?

The purpose of the public scoping meetings is to initiate early communication; inform the public about the proposed project; help develop the proposed project's purpose and need; and to gather feedback regarding the overall proposed project.

How Can I Help Develop the Purpose & Need?

Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) changed the Environmental Impact Statement process for the FHWA. One of the changes includes the lead agencies (NDDOT and FHWA) must give the public the chance to become involved with the development of the proposed project's purpose and need statement.

FHWA typically frames the development of the purpose and need by these following categories:

- » Project Status
- » System Linkage
- » Capacity
- » Transportation Demand
- » Legislation
- » Social Demands/Economic Development
- » Modal Interrelationships
- » Safety
- » Roadway Deficiencies

The purpose & need is the most important chapter of an Environmental Impact Statement. It establishes why the project is being proposed, why it is needed and drives the process for alternatives consideration, analysis and the ultimate selection of an alternative.

Nov. 9, 5–7:30 pm MST
Belfield City Hall
107 2nd Avenue NE
Belfield, ND

Nov. 10, 5–7:30 pm CST
Watford City Hall
213 2nd Street NE
Watford City, ND



The brief and preliminary purpose and need is to link the four-lane highway system between I-94 and US Highway 85 south of Watford City and to safely accommodate the mix of industrial, agricultural and passenger traffic in the area.

How Can I Find Information Regarding the Proposed Project?

The public will get the opportunity to provide input through the Alternatives Public Workshops, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement public comment period, and the Public Hearings.

A variety of methods will be used to keep the public, agencies, and Tribes involved in the project, such as periodic mailings with updates or announcements. A project website has been established for the project:

<http://www.nddotwilliston.com/85-project-watford-city-i94/>

What is the Proposed Project's Schedule?

Notice of Intent	October 6, 2015
Invitations to Cooperating & Participating Agencies	October 26, 2015
Agency Scoping Meeting	November 9, 2015
Public Scoping Meetings	November 9 & 10, 2015
Alternatives Methodology/Range of Alternatives	Winter 2015 to Early Spring 2016
Alternatives Public Workshops*	Spring 2016 to Early Summer 2016
Draft Environmental Impact Statement*	Spring 2017 to Early Summer 2017
Public Hearings*	Spring 2017 to Early Summer 2017
Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision	Fall 2017

*Additional opportunities for public comment

We Want to Hear From You

Please submit your comments regarding the proposed project's purpose and need, along with any other benefits, concerns or overall comments regarding the US Highway 85 project.

Comments can either be mailed or emailed by December 10, 2015 to:

Matt Linneman, Program Manager
 Environmental & Transportation Services
 NDDOT
 608 E. Boulevard Avenue
 Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0700
 Telephone: (701) 328-2640

Email: mlynneman@nd.gov
 Note "Public Scoping Meeting"
 in email subject heading.

