

Appendix H

Public and Interested Party Involvement

Accessibility Support

This document may contain elements that are not fully accessible to screen readers. For a detailed explanation of the content or to request an alternative format, please contact Marissa Kuehn, NDOT Public Involvement Manager at marissa.kuehn@nebraska.gov or 402-479-4514

Decatur Bridge

Burt County, NE and Monona County, IA

NDOT Project Number: STP-51-7(109)

Control Number: 32395

Iowa DOT Project Number: STP-175-1(106)--2C-67

PUBLIC AND INTERESTED PARTY INVOLVEMENT REPORT

March 2026



To: NDOT Environmental
From: Sarah Fisher, Public Involvement Specialist, NDOT
Date: 8 November 2024
RE: Public Involvement Summary Memo, STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

**Public Involvement Outreach for Community Advisory Group Meeting #1:
CN 32395, STP-51-7(109), Decatur Bridge**

Based on an analysis of the project scope, two Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings and public notification in the form of an email invitation were used as outreach tools for the public involvement on this project. The first CAG meeting was held at the Onawa Community and Recreation Center, 320 10th Street, in Onawa, Iowa on Thursday, January 18, 2024, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM, with 20 stakeholders in attendance. The meeting notification included emails to approximately 30 community members representing a cross-section of local interests, representing both the Nebraska and Iowa sides of the project study area.

During the meeting, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) team, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), delivered a presentation that included a project overview and anticipated timeline, followed by small group discussions where participants were encouraged to share thoughts and considerations for the study. A community-wide survey draft was shared with attendees for the opportunity to provide feedback prior to the survey launching publicly the following week (February 1).

A summary of the attendees' comments and discussion follows and is organized by topic. Bolded terms indicate topics that were reiterated by several meeting participants.

Need for a Bridge

- The Decatur Bridge provides **vital connectivity** and quality-of-life benefits to both communities on both sides of the river.
- Access to **healthcare** was top of mind for nearly all participants as the closest area hospital is in Onawa. The nearest facilities on the Nebraska side are about 40 miles away in Pender and Blair.
 - Home healthcare aides from Burgess Medical Center in Onawa cross the bridge to care for patients in the Decatur area.
- Onawa offers the closest emergency helicopter landing pad – carrying patients to Omaha or Sioux City. Blair offers the closest alternative landing area but requires a 45–50-minute drive.
- Both states support each other with **emergency services and mutual aid**, as needed. The Decatur Fire Department crosses the bridge to provide emergency support with brush fires in rural areas of Iowa.
 - Onawa currently employs four people from Decatur on the emergency response team. If the crossing were closed, the loss of access could lead to a reduction in these staff members.
- Several **essential needs and economic opportunities** exist that residents of Decatur access across the bridge, including jobs/major employers, education, groceries and auto parts. The following were named specifically by CAG participants:

- Burgess Health Center
- Casinos (four vans per day transport employees from Walthill and Macy)
- Universities (administration as well as college students in Nebraska tend to work in Onawa)
- Hard steel (Norfolk)
- Westendorf Manufacturing in Onawa
- Grocery distributors (Hy-Vee requires 10 trucks per day)
- Central Valley Ag
- In 2011 when the bridge was closed for six months, participants recalled several people who lost jobs due to the increased travel time required to get from Decatur to Onawa. The time and cost of travel outweighed the income.
- Businesses on both sides of the river depend on **commerce/shoppers** traveling across the bridge. The sentiment was that without the bridge, businesses would be required to close.
- **Agricultural considerations** – farmers have lands on both sides of the river and use the bridge to access them. Peak use of the crossing by farm vehicles occurs during spring planting and autumn harvest.
- Access to **quality of life/recreation** is also facilitated via the bridge. The area is a popular outdoor recreation/camping stop. The nearest movie theater for Decatur residents is in Onawa.
- Removal of the existing bridge would impact both communities' opportunities for future growth and economic development.

Existing Bridge Deficiencies

- The existing bridge is considered **too narrow** for semi-trucks and large farm equipment to safely cross.
 - When semi-trucks and farm equipment meet traveling on the bridge, one is forced to back up to allow the other to pass.
 - Trucks carrying haybale loads have hit the rails, dislodging haybales creating dangerous roadway obstructions.
- Frequent crashes on the bridge were noted.
- Existing bridge **load requirements** are lower than current standards. This is a challenge for transporting area agriculture products and results in industries considering other locations to develop. Unpermitted loads (loads that may exceed the posted weight restrictions) cross the bridge regularly.
- The **open-grate decking** can be unnerving for some. It is dangerous for bicycles and even motorcycles to cross.
- The grade/slope of the roadway is rather steep coming into Decatur and contributes to increased travel speeds. Improvements to the bridge should consider flattening the grade.
- Snow removal, if not done correctly, can further restrict the already narrow travel lanes.
- Riverbank stabilization is needed.

Travel Time

- Without the bridge, travel times from Decatur to Onawa would be about 100 minutes (1.5-1.75 hours) according to participants requiring the use of the other nearest river crossings.
- Decatur access to the Onawa hospital increases to about 50 minutes, compared to the 10–15-minute travel time using the existing crossing at Decatur.

Bridge Location

- Participants generally agreed that a new bridge should be **as close as possible to the existing bridge**.
- Attendees indicated a preference for a new bridge being located on the north side (upstream) of the existing bridge to avoid the sewer treatment facility and a regionally popular public park/campground.
- General sentiment was that a replacement bridge should **continue to carry travelers through Decatur downtown** – an economic driver for the community that must be maintained.
- Participants voiced a desire to **minimize impacts** to public and private property.
- The Village of Decatur is considering plans to provide more development near the river. Two Rivers Development is planning to build a four-plex apartment complex north of 7th Street near the base of the bridge.
- The study team should review the long-term comprehensive plan for the Village of Decatur to map out future developments and opportunities for growth as part of the alignment screening/evaluation process.

Bridge Closure and Detours

- Overwhelming feedback indicated a bridge closure, especially for an extended period of time, would be damaging to both Decatur and Onawa residents.
- Permanent closure would be devastating to the Decatur community.
- A short-term closure could be acceptable, but participants voiced a strong need to **keep access open through construction for as long as possible**. Short-term closures were categorized as one to three months. However, with the last one-month closure, participants recounted that some people lost their jobs because of increased travel time/cost.
- **Bridge permanent or temporary closures would result in financial impacts** for low-income families who don't have the funds to travel farther to the next closest crossing.
 - A bridge permanent or temporary closure would have a huge impact on students and staff at the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC); 70% of NICC students are considered low income.
- A preference for the closure to occur during the winter months when the campground is closed was noted.

- Decatur City Park, south of the bridge, offers the most convenient public **boat ramp** and is the only one available in the immediate area. CAG members indicated the need and desire to keep the park and boat ramp open during construction to support its use by emergency services.
- Highway 175 is a recommended detour for Interstate 29 closures.

Bridge Users

- Few pedestrians cross the bridge; however, some NICC students walk across to work. There is no pedestrian accommodation on the existing bridge; therefore, pedestrians are intermixing with vehicular traffic.
- The open-deck grate is dangerous to bicycles and even motorcycles to travel across.
- Participants inquired as to whether the existing bridge could remain open as a bicycle and pedestrian path/crossing of a new bridge is constructed.
- An individual mentioned there may be a planned bicycle trail on the Iowa side, but a connection across the river was not included.

Community Perspective, Seasonal Events and Impacts to Consider

- Participants shared that Decatur and Onawa are **twin cities**, a river divides them, but they function together as one – providing partnership and support for vital EMS and fire services.
- While the existing bridge does have historical interest but is not seen as a “trademark” or “landmark” for Decatur. Most participants believe the community would prefer a functional bridge and replacing the existing bridge should not upset the community.
- **Tourism** draws many people to the area, particularly April 1 through October 31 (weather dependent).
- The area has **four seasonal draws**, including summer holidays (4th of July and Labor Day along with every summer weekend people come to recreate). Fall draws visitors for deer and duck hunting. Ice fishing tournament & chili contest bring people into town during the winter. April begins the draw of visitors wanting to be on the river in the spring.
- Events to consider: Memorial Day, River Front Days (Father’s Day), harvest season (hauling grain), Monona County Fair (mid-July), Fireworks July 3rd and Pow Wow weekend.
- For Pop-n-Docs, Labor Day and Memorial Day are important.
- The Decatur Museum is working to place a commemorative marker near the historic bridge on the Nebraska side.
- CAG members see this important project as an opportunity to invest in the community and to build momentum for future economic development and community enhancements.
- Some participants inquired about widening the existing highway through Decatur.
- An eagle’s nest was identified just east of the existing bridge.

Request to serve as a Community Advisory Representative for the Decatur Bridge Project

From Hummel, Lisa K <lkhummel@burnsmcd.com>

Date Thu 12/7/2023 3:02 PM

To decaturrfd@yahoo.com <decaturrfd@yahoo.com>

Cc Nelsen, Lucas <lucas.nelsen@nebraska.gov>

Dear Chief Punke:

The Decatur Bridge is a historic landmark that has provided regional connectivity for more than 70 years. Ongoing maintenance of the aging bridge indicates it is time to determine the appropriate long-term solution to provide continued access across the Missouri River. We are inviting you or an appropriate representative from the Decatur Fire Department to serve in an advisory role as we explore how best to deliver a solution that serves the local communities.

Identified as Decatur Bridge, the proposed project would evaluate options to improve the Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51) / Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) Missouri River crossing. The project planning and design effort will occur over three phases. The first phase is a proposed location and environmental study. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2029 dependent upon available funding.

We are looking for one representative from the Decatur Fire Department to serve on a Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the Decatur Bridge project. The group would meet in person two times during the study phase. Community-wide outreach and public meetings will also be held.

1. Meeting #1 is scheduled for January 18, 2024, from 1-4 p.m. at the Onawa Community and Recreation Center – Kelly Hall (320 10th Street Onawa, IA 51040).
2. Meeting #2 is tentatively planned for April 2024.

If you or a representative would like to participate, please reply to this email at lkhummel@burnsmcd.com or contact me by phone (816) 349-6821.

A project website is available with additional project details: ndot.info/32395.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (Nebraska DOT), in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), are working with a consultant team (Burns & McDonnell) to deliver this project.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kay Hummel on behalf of
Lucas Nelsen, Nebraska DOT and
Dakin Schultz, Iowa DOT

Lisa Kay Hummel

Project Manager / Program Mgmt & Planning
Burns & McDonnell

Office 816-349-6821 / Mobile 816-521-8746

lkhummel@burnsmcd.com

9450 S Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64114

Request to serve as a Community Advisory Representative for the Decatur Bridge Project

From Hummel, Lisa K <lkhummel@burnsmcd.com>

Date Tue 11/7/2023 4:15 PM

To chamber@onawa.com <chamber@onawa.com>

Cc Schultz, Dakin <dakin.schultz@iowadot.us>

Bcc Nelsen, Lucas <lucas.nelsen@nebraska.gov>; Decatur Bridge, STP-51-7(109), CN 32395 <DecaturBridge_STP-51-7_109_CN-32395@Burnsmcd.onmicrosoft.com>

Dear Jenn Collison:

We are looking for one representative from the Onawa Chamber of Commerce to serve on a Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the Decatur Bridge project. The group would meet in person two times during the study phase. Community-wide outreach and public meetings will also be held.

1. Meeting #1 is scheduled for January 18, 2024, from 1-4 p.m. at the Onawa Community and Recreation Center – Kelly Hall (320 10th Street Onawa, IA 51040).
2. Meeting #2 is tentatively planned for April 2024.

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Sincerely,

Lisa Kay Hummel on behalf of

Lucas Nelsen, Nebraska DOT and Dakin Schultz, Iowa DOT

Lisa Kay Hummel

Project Manager / Program Mgmt & Planning

Burns & McDonnell

Office 816-349-6821 / Mobile 816-521-8746

lkhummel@burnsmcd.com

9450 S Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64114

From: Schultz, Dakin <Dakin.Schultz@iowadot.us>

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:40 AM

To: Felix, Jessica <jessica.felix@iowadot.us>; Winkelmann, Michelle L <mlwinkelmann@burnsmcd.com>; Hummel, Lisa K <lkhummel@burnsmcd.com>

Subject: FW: Project kickoff for the Decatur Bridge Location and Environmental Study Project

From: Chamber <chamber@onawa.com>

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:39 AM

To: Schultz, Dakin <Dakin.Schultz@iowadot.us>

Subject: RE: Project kickoff for the Decatur Bridge Location and Environmental Study Project

CAUTION:

This email originated from outside the Iowa Department of Transportation.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for the information. I signed up to receive e-mails so I can keep up to date on the progress.

Jenn Collison, Director
Onawa Chamber of Commerce
707 Iowa Ave
Onawa, IA 51040
712-423-1801
chamber@onawa.com
www.onawachamber.com

From: Schultz, Dakin <Dakin.Schultz@iowadot.us>

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:29 AM

To: Chamber <chamber@onawa.com>

Cc: Felix, Jessica <Jessica.Felix@iowadot.us>; mlwinkelmann@burnsmcd.com; lkhummel@burnsmcd.com

Subject: FW: Project kickoff for the Decatur Bridge Location and Environmental Study Project

Jenn

The Decatur Bridge has provided regional connectivity between Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa for more than 70 years and serves as an important link to jobs and services. Ongoing maintenance of the aging bridge indicates it is time to determine the appropriate long-term solution to provide continued access across the Missouri River.

Identified as *Decatur Bridge*, the proposed project would evaluate options to improve the Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51) / Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) Missouri River crossing. The project planning and design effort will occur over three phases outlined below. Construction will be dependent on available funding.

Phase 1: Feasibility Study (Fall 2023 – Fall 2024)

This early assessment of the project begins with environmental studies and public input to better understand existing conditions and future needs.

Phase 2: Preliminary Design & National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Decision (Fall 2024 – Fall 2025*)

Alternatives would be considered, and preliminary plans would be developed as part of the NEPA decision-making process, resulting in a preferred alternative and an approved NEPA decision document.

Phase 3: Final Design (Anticipated to begin in 2026 following NEPA approval)

The preferred alternative will be advanced through final design and construction plans will be made. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2029 dependent upon available funding.

*All dates and timeframes subject to change.

The study of such possible future improvements to the crossing are subject to compliance with the NEPA, Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Currently, the team is identifying community members to serve in an advisory role for the project. Public outreach is scheduled to begin in mid-January of 2024 with a community-wide survey. Public information meetings are tentatively planned for June 2024.

Those interested in receiving email updates at key project milestones are encouraged to sign-up via the project website: ndot.info/32395.

Nebraska DOT has contracted Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. (Burns & McDonnell) to assist with delivering this project. Nebraska DOT is leading this project in partnership with the Iowa DOT.

Dakin Schultz, Iowa Department of Transportation

Decatur Bridge - CAG Meeting #1

Organizer Hummel, Lisa K <lkhummel@burnsmcd.com>
Meeting time This event occurred 9 months ago (Thu 1/18/2024 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM)
Location Kelly Hall - Onawa Community and Recreation Center 320 10th St. Onawa, IA 51040
My response Not yet responded
Required attendees Hummel, Lisa K, Mbsiecke@gmail.com, kpunke05@gmail.com, mayor@onawa.com, John Casady, roads@burtcountyne.gov, sheriff@burtcountyne.gov, mocoema@mononacounty.org, mocodist3@mononacounty.org, mocoso@mononacounty.org, janejudt@gmail.com, ahadden@burgesshc.org, lbeaudette@lyonsdecaturschools.org, Marty Fonley, Dawne Price, economicdevelopment@burtcounty.org, chamber@onawa.com, cweaver@onawa.com, cepersinger@gmail.com, doug.chafa@dnr.iowa.gov, Jean Parker-Morris, bappleton@bbbend.com, mark@popndocs.com
Optional attendees Schultz, Dakin, Nelsen, Lucas, Winkelmann, Michelle L, Decatur Bridge, STP-51-7(109), CN 32395, Lindsey Beaudette
Message sent Fri 1/12/2024 1:20 PM

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a Community Advisory Group (CAG) member for the Decatur Bridge project.

Purpose of Meeting: Introduce CAG participants to the Decatur Bridge project purpose, goals, and timeline. Gather information regarding existing conditions and features and obtain your input and feedback. We will walk through the draft community survey and ask that you help promote the survey with your networks once the survey launches February 1, 2024.

Meeting Agenda:

1:00 – 1:15 PM	Welcome & Introductions
1:15 – 1:45 PM	Project Overview & Existing Conditions
1:45 – 2:00 PM	Small-group Discussions – Overview
2:00 – 2:15 PM	15-minute Break
2:15 – 3:00 PM	Small-group Discussions
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Group Report Out & Discussion
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Online Survey Overview & Wrap Up

Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or needs in advance of Thursday!

Lisa Kay Hummel

Decatur Bridge Project Community Engagement Lead
Burns & McDonnell
Phone: 816-349-6821
Email: lkhummel@burnsmcd.com

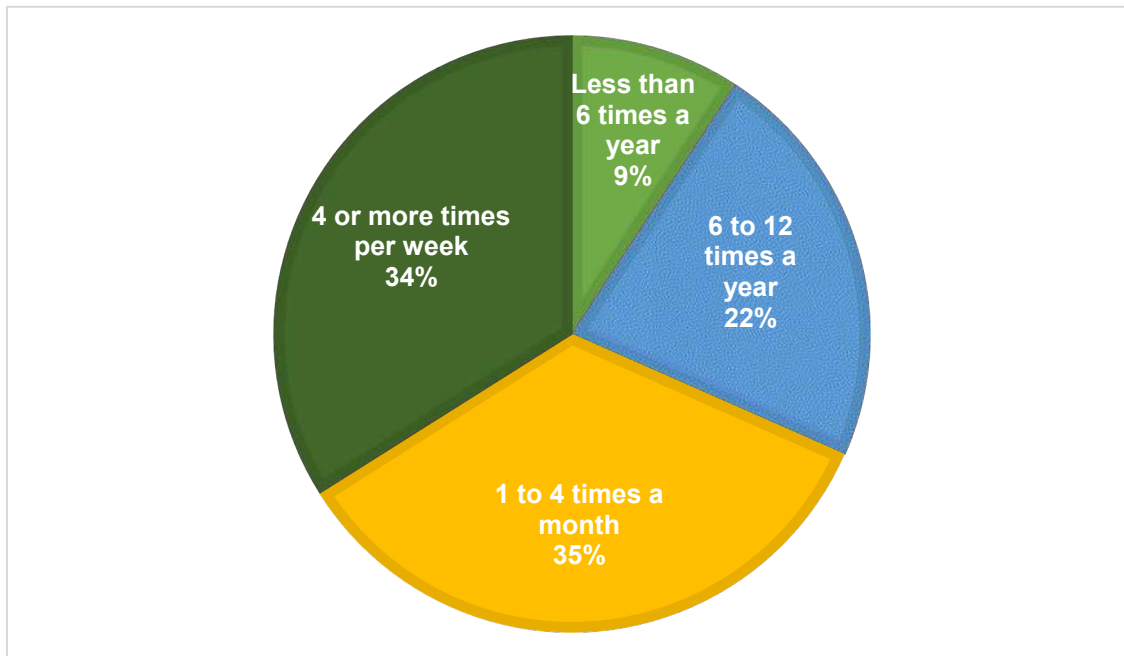
To: NDOT Environmental
From: Sarah Fisher, Public Involvement Specialist, NDOT
Date: 8 November 2024
RE: Public Involvement Summary Memo, STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Public Involvement Outreach for Community Survey: CN 32395, STP-51-7(109), Decatur Bridge

Based on an analysis of the project scope, a community survey was used as an outreach tool for public involvement on this project. The survey was hosted online through the project website and available between February 1 and March 15, 2024, with 1,092 surveys submitted. Hard copy surveys were available for pickup and drop-off at community locations in Nebraska and Iowa, including Decatur City Hall, Decatur Senior Center, Onawa City Hall, Onawa Community Center and Onawa Public Library/Chamber of Commerce. Survey promotion included news releases distributed by Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), promotional flyers distributed at public facilities, and the project's Community Advisory Group (CAG) shared the survey through email, social media and word of mouth. A summary of the survey results follows.

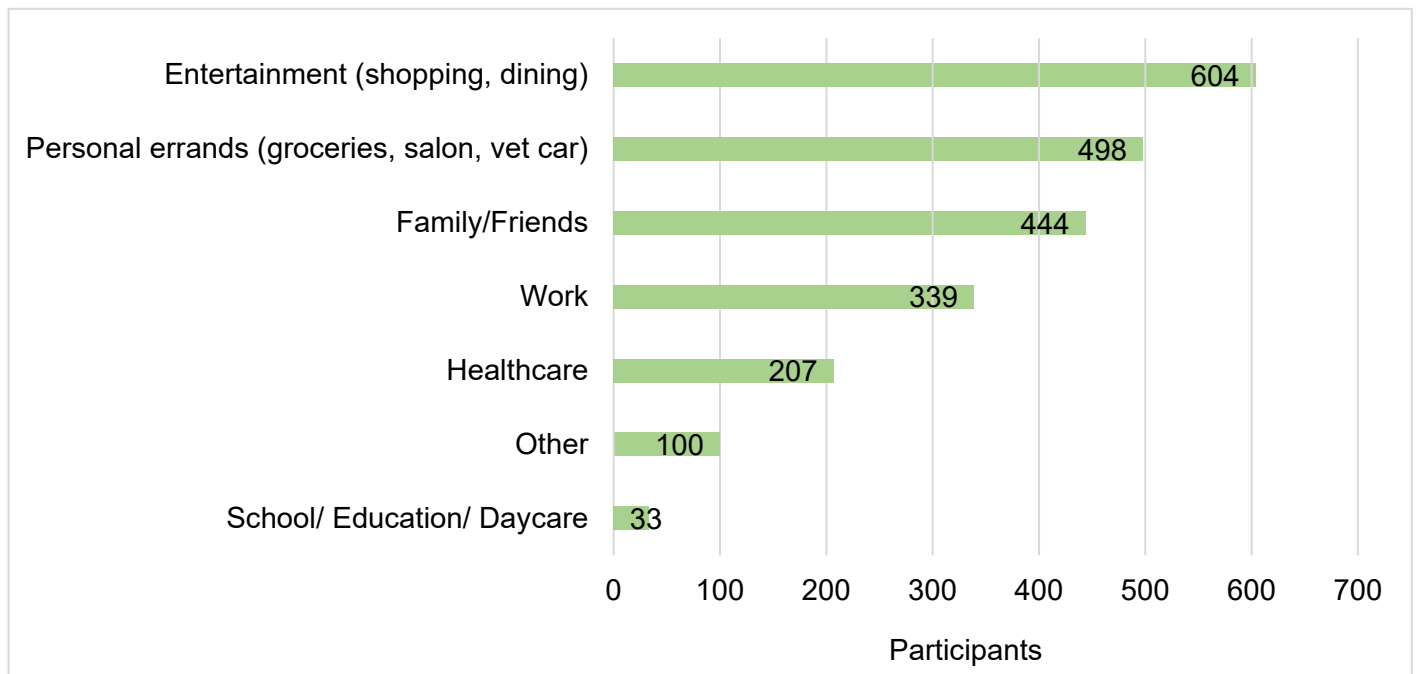
COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

1. **How often do you travel across the Decatur Bridge?** This question received 1,092 responses.



2. **What is the primary purpose of your trip?** Participants were asked to select their top three. This question received 1,085 responses.

Top responses in the “other” category included: recreation (camping, fishing, etc.), accessing property, church and joyriding/cruising.

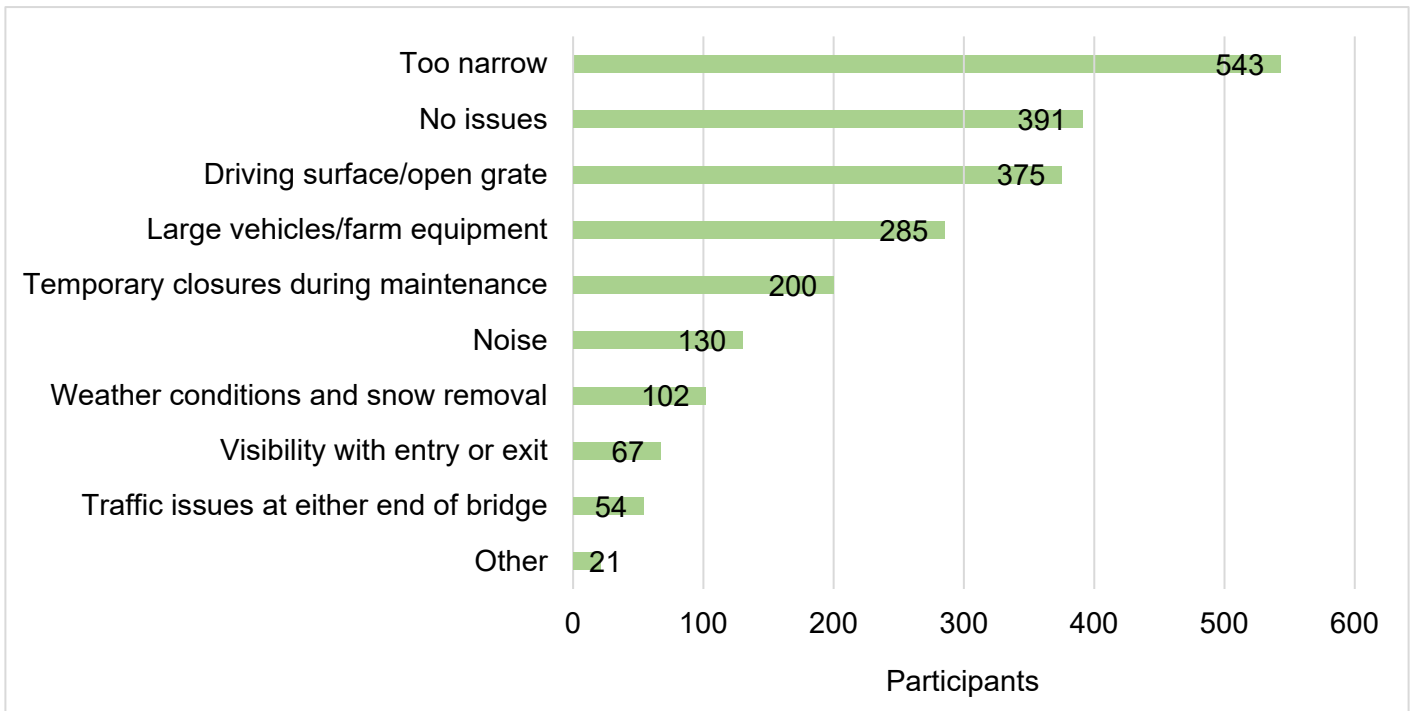


3. **How do you typically travel across the bridge?** Participants were asked to select all that apply. This question received 1,055 responses.

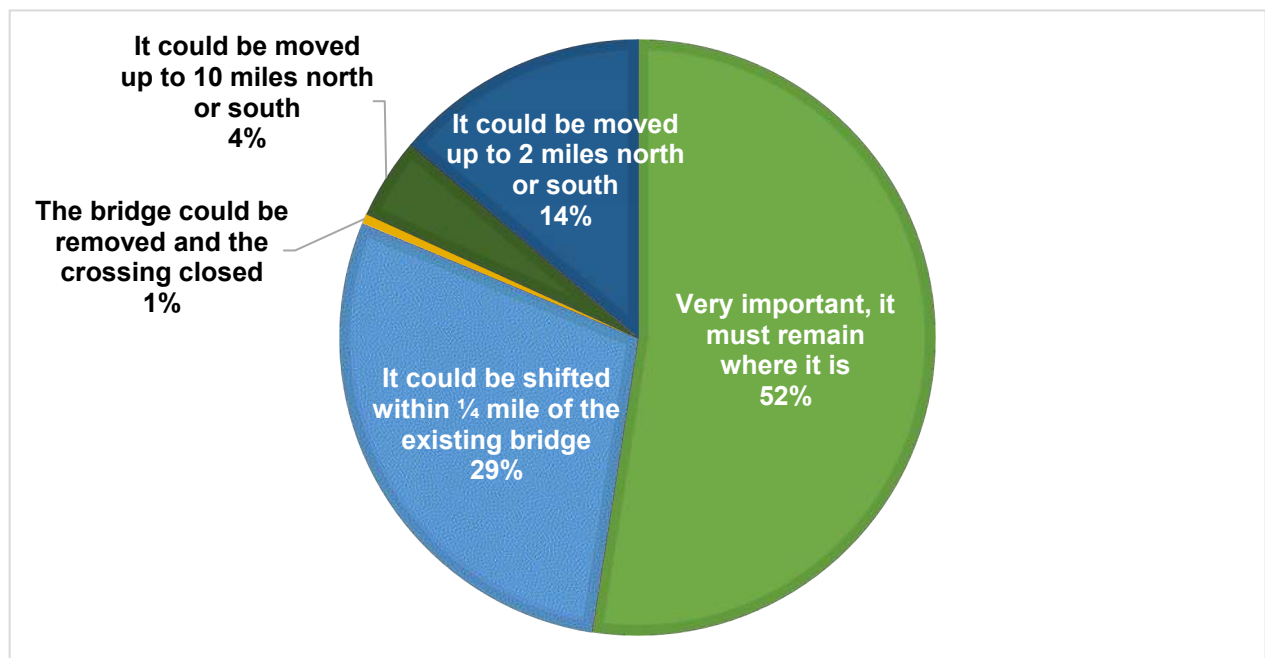
Every respondent indicated they travel via personal vehicle. Additional modes are listed below.

Travel Mode	Respondents
Personal vehicle	1,055
Carpool/Rideshare/Casino van	47
Public transit/On-demand	8
Large truck or semi	100
Farm equipment	72
Other: motorcycle, camper/RV, work vehicle	36

4. **Do you have any of the following issues or concerns using the existing Decatur Bridge?** Participants were asked to select all that apply. This question received 1,081 responses.

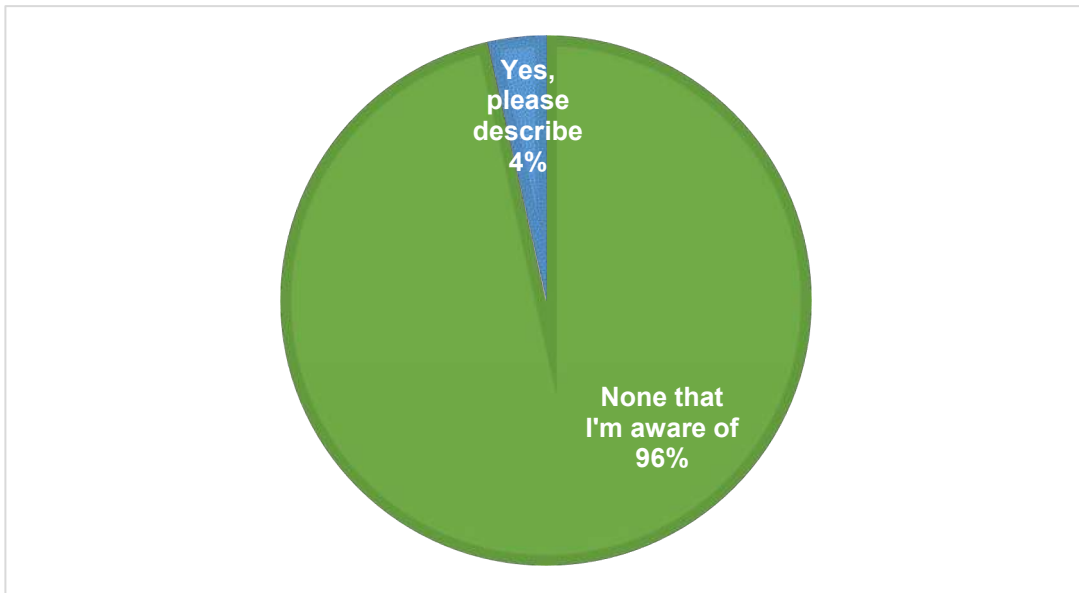


5. **How important is it the bridge be located at its existing location?**
This question received 1,088 responses.

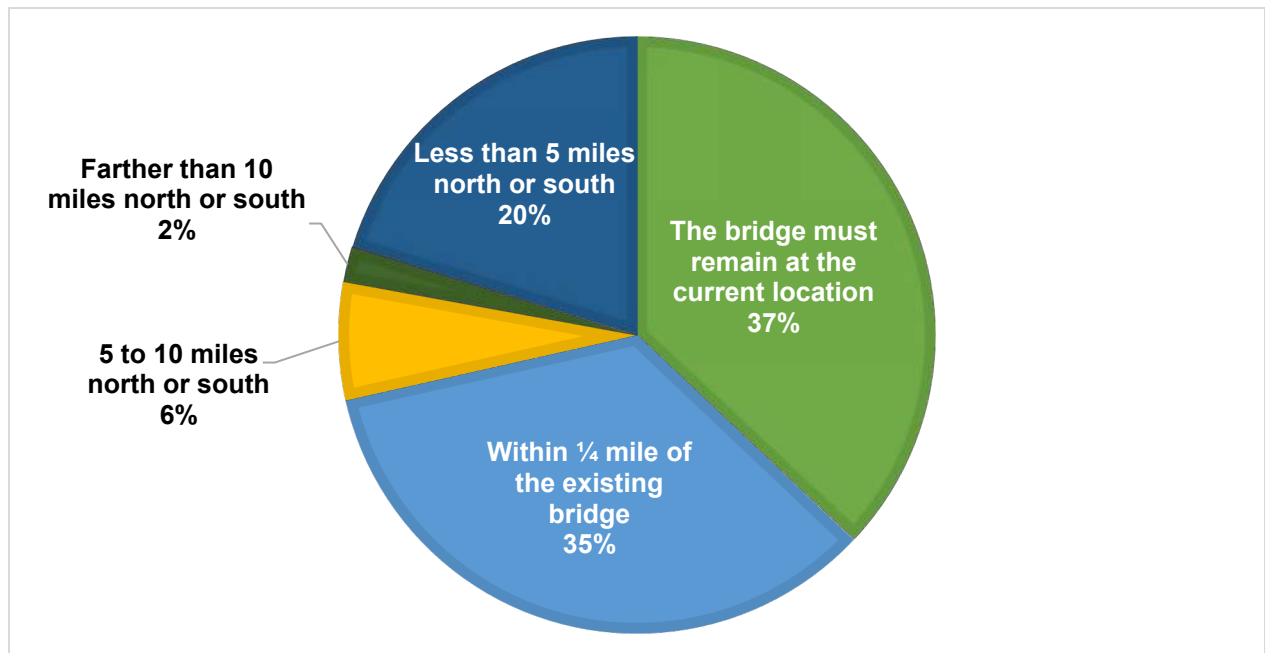


6. **Are there any area developments planned or potential opportunities that may increase traffic to the area or impact a new bridge location or design? (Such as a new industrial facility, manufacturing or commercial development)** This question received 1,081 responses.

Top responses in the “yes” category regarding a new location included: Port of Blencoe, Blackbird Bend Casino expansions, and expansion of businesses at I-29 exit. Design elements referenced included: increasing the crossing weight limit and removing the open grate.



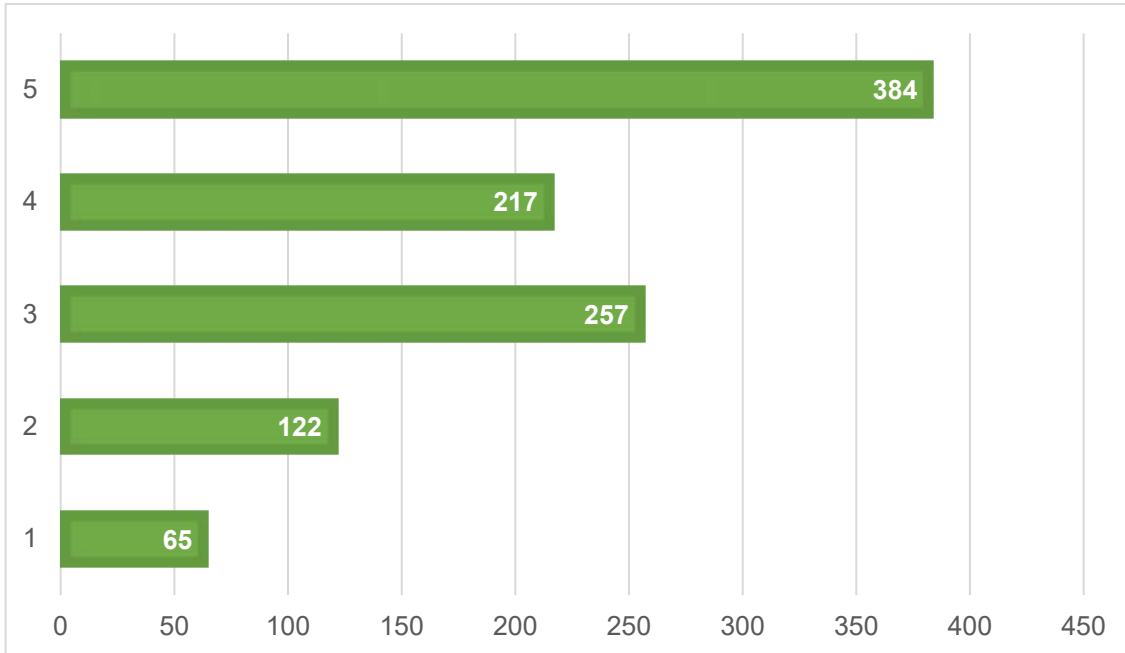
7. **How far would you be willing to travel from the existing bridge to cross the river?** This question received 1,088 responses.



8. **If the Decatur Bridge was *temporarily* closed, how severely would you be affected?**

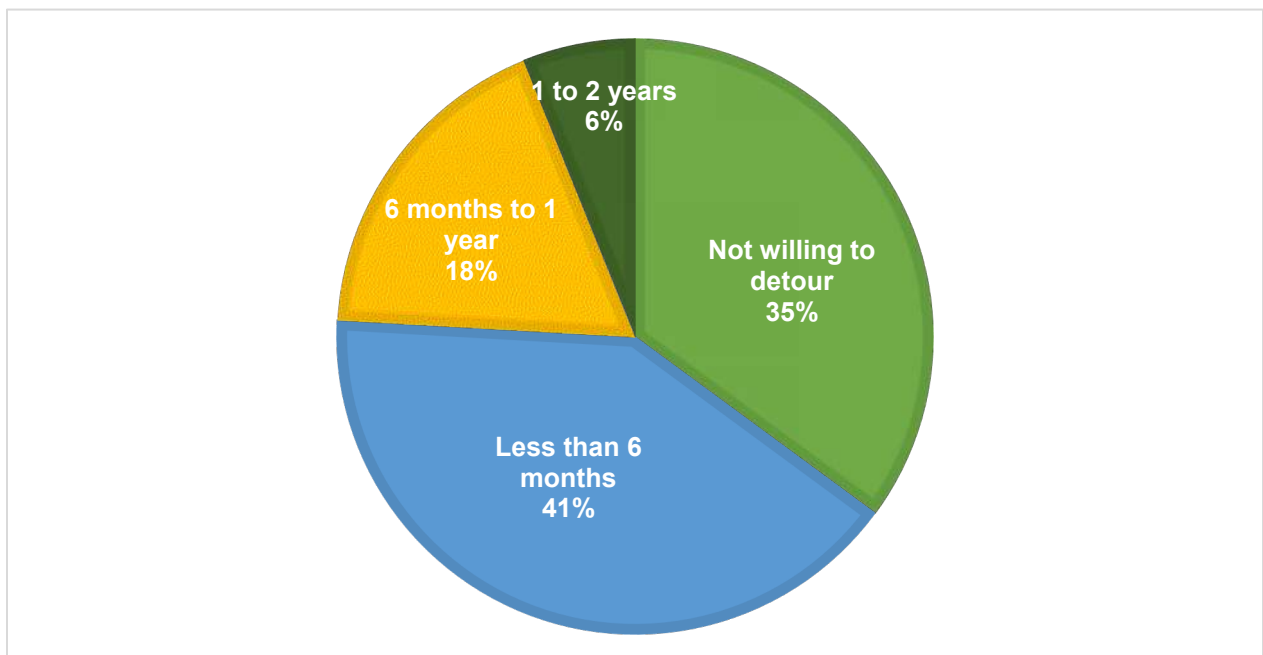
This question received 1,045 responses.

For this question, a 5-rating represented “severely impacted” and 1 represented “not impacted.”
The average rating came in at 3.7 for all respondents.



9. **For how long would you be willing to detour if the bridge was temporarily closed?**

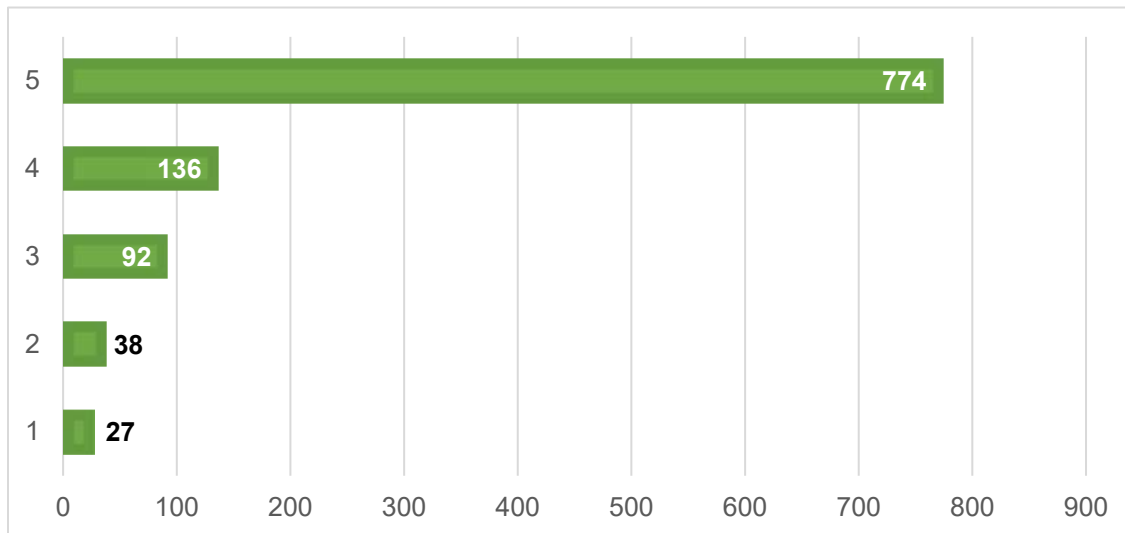
This question received 1,083 responses.



10. If the bridge was *permanently* closed, how severely would you be affected?

This question received 1,067 responses.

For this question, a 5-rating represented “severely impacted” and 1 represented “not impacted.”
The average rating came in at 4.5 for all respondents.



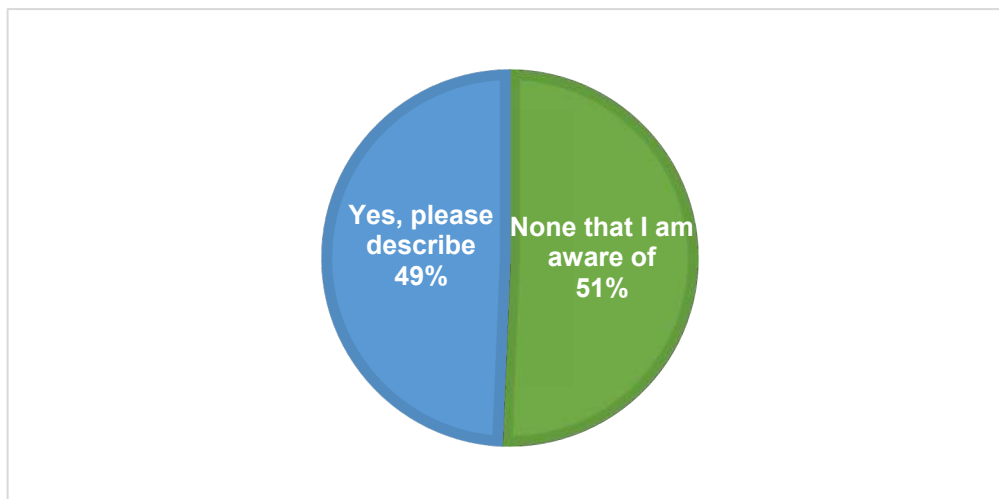
11. Please share any hardships you would experience if the current bridge was closed or significantly moved. This question received 511 responses.

Top responses included:

- **Loss of employment due to the additional time and money required to detour**
 - **36% of respondents** cited concerns about how a lengthy detour would affect their employment. This included someone’s ability to get to their job and/or keep their job. Many also mentioned the impact on their staff, customer base, clients and the ability to get goods to and from their businesses.
- **Access to health care would be reduced**
 - **26% of respondents** cited concern about access to health care including distance to doctor appointments, ambulance response times, access to a pharmacy, needing to find a new doctor or health care provider. These concerns included a respondent’s own health as well as that of a family member under their care.
- **Impact on families**
 - **26% of respondents** cited concerns surrounding family relationships and support. These comments included trying to see elderly family members, frequency of visits, families that share custody of their children, and families that help with childcare. Many respondents fear closing or significantly moving the bridge would make the tasks very difficult.
- **Additional costs required to detour would burden lower income community members.**
 - Respondents included concerns about affording the additional gas a lengthy detour would require.

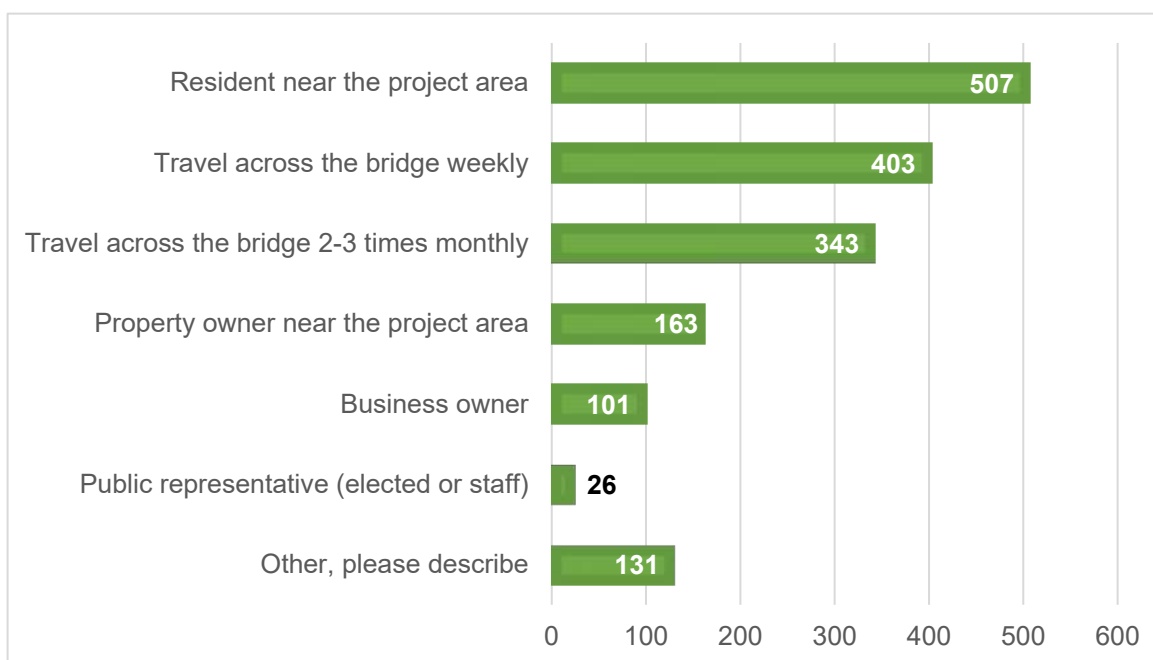
12. **Are there any major events in the area held either annually or one-time? (i.e., festivals, boating or hunting events, etc.)** This question received 1,048 responses.

Top responses provided for “yes” included: Decatur Riverfront Days, Annual Powwow for the Omaha and Winnebago Tribes, Monona County Fair, Burt County Fair, 4th of July, Ragbrai, Onawa Harvest Festival/Annual Hedewachi Harvest Dances, Lewis and Clark Days, Summer camping/ recreation and boating, Hunting – Pheasants Forever, Coffee Crawl, Graffiti Night, Golf Tournament.

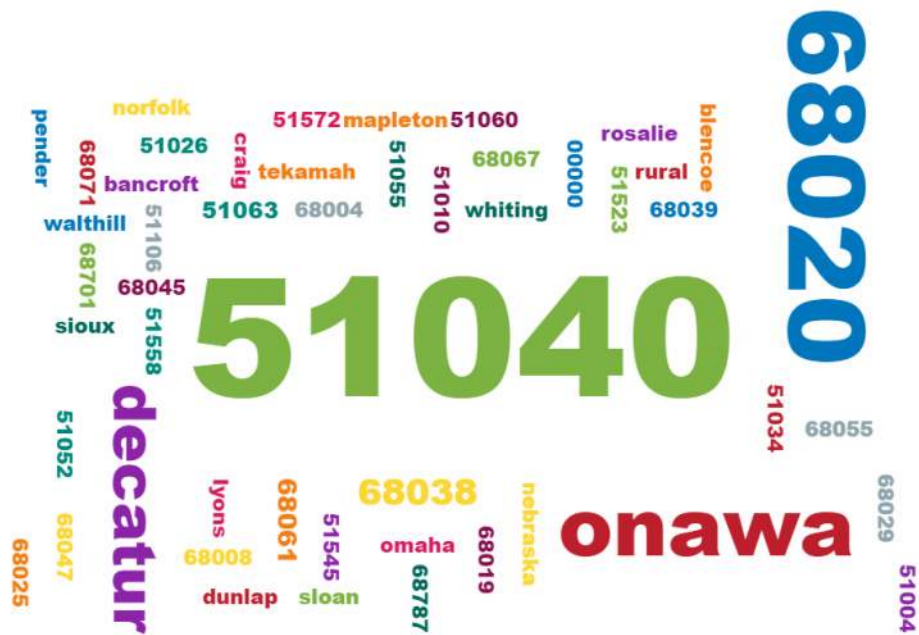


13. **What is your interest in the Decatur Bridge project?** This question was required, and participants were asked to select all that apply. (1,092 respondents; 1,674 total selections).

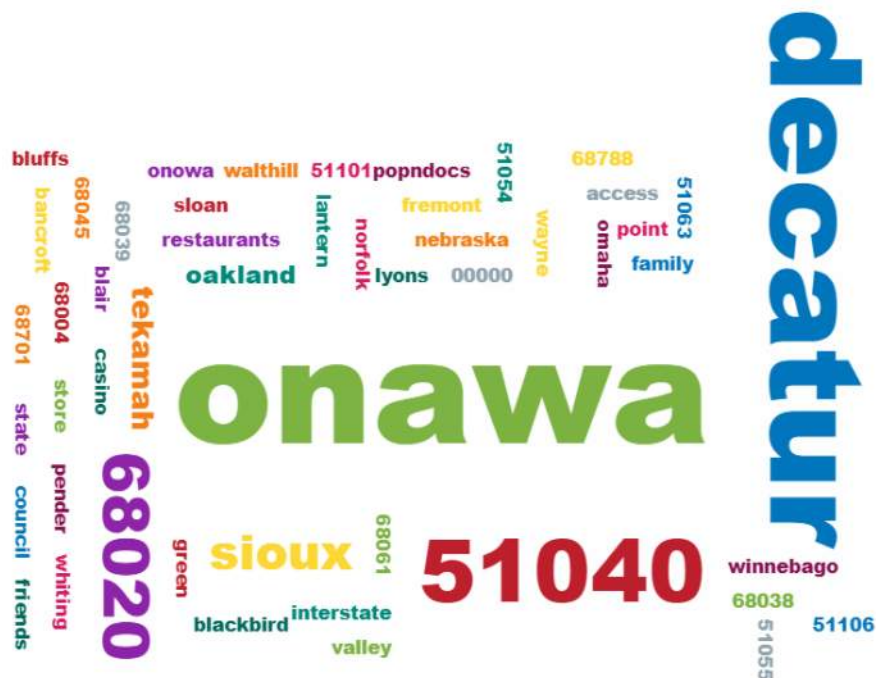
Top “other” responses included: Visitors (specifically traveling to Decatur to dine), family lives in the area, Monona County in support of Decatur, and business owners.



14. **Participant home zip codes represented as a word cloud.** The larger the words, the more frequently they were referenced. Includes 1,092 responses.

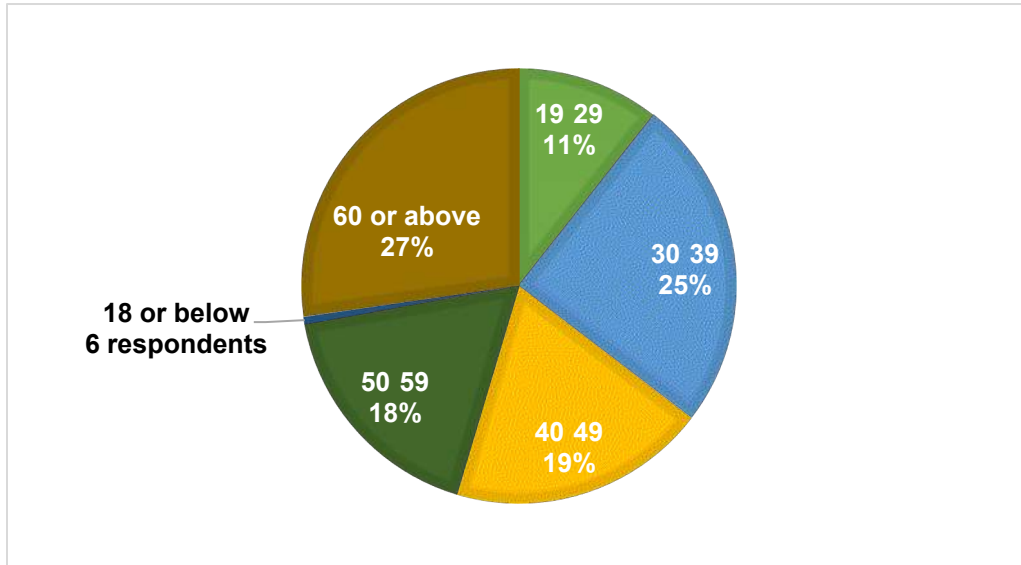


15. **Participant most frequent destinations represented as a word cloud.** Includes 1,092 responses.



The following showcases the demographic breakdown of the survey respondents.

Participant age range in years.



Participant race and/or ethnicity.

White 89.4% (961 respondents)

American Indian or Alaska Native 6.2% (67 respondents)

Prefer not to disclose 5% (53 respondents)

Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin 0.7% (8 respondents)

Black or African American 0.5% (5 respondents)

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 0.5% (5 respondents)

Asian 0.4% (4 respondents)

Middle Eastern or North African 0.1% (1 respondent)

Other 0.4% (4 respondents) – indicating Irish/Scottish/Danish/German, Biker, and American



Decatur Bridge Community-wide Survey – Participate by March 15

The Decatur Bridge is a historic landmark providing regional connectivity for more than 70 years. Ongoing maintenance of the aging bridge indicates it is time to determine the appropriate long-term solution to provide continued access across the Missouri River.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation and Iowa Department of Transportation are seeking community input to help inform a Decatur Bridge Feasibility Study evaluating options to improve the Missouri River crossing.

Help shape the future of the Decatur Bridge!

Complete this short survey to share your input with the project team and help inform the study process.

Survey results will be shared on the project website and at a public meeting planned for summer 2024.



Prefer to submit online? Use your phone camera to hover over the QR code, then click on the Decatur Bridge project website.

Decatur Bridge website: ndot.info/32395

About the Project

Identified as *Decatur Bridge*, the proposed project would evaluate options to improve the Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51) / Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) Missouri River crossing in Burt County, Neb. and Monona County, Iowa. The Decatur Bridge project planning and design would occur over three phases and multiple years. Construction will be dependent on available funding but could begin as early as 2029. Additional timeline details and a project email sign-up form are also available on the project website: ndot.info/32395.

Drop off completed surveys at any of the following locations by March 15:

- **Decatur City Hall**
913 S. Broadway
Decatur, NE 68020
- **Decatur Senior Center**
425 8th Street
Decatur, NE 68020
- **Onawa City Hall**
914 Diamond Street
Onawa, IA 51040
- **Onawa Community Center**
320 10th Street
Onawa, IA 51040
- **Onawa Public Library/
Chamber of Commerce**
707 Iowa Avenue
Onawa, IA 51040

How do you travel and why?

1. How often do you travel across the Decatur Bridge?

- ☐ Less than 6 times a year
- ☐ 6 to 12 times a year
- ☐ 1 to 4 times a month
- ☐ 4 or more times per week

2. What is the primary purpose of your trip? Select only the top 3.

- ☐ Work
- ☐ School/Education/Daycare
- ☐ Healthcare
- ☐ Personal errands (groceries, salon/barber, veterinary care)
- ☐ Entertainment (dining, shopping, etc.)
- ☐ Family/friends
- ☐ Other (describe)

3. How do you typically travel across the bridge? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Personal vehicle
- ☐ Carpool/Rideshare/Casino van
- ☐ Public transit/On-demand
- ☐ Large truck or semi
- ☐ Farm equipment
- ☐ Other (describe)

Existing Conditions

4. Do you have any of the following issues or concerns using the existing Decatur Bridge? Select all that apply.

- ☐ No issues
- ☐ Too narrow
- ☐ Driving surface/open grate
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Temporary closures during maintenance
- ☐ Large vehicles/farm equipment
- ☐ Visibility with entry or exit
- ☐ Traffic issues at either end of bridge
- ☐ Weather conditions and snow removal
- ☐ Other (describe)

5. How important is it the bridge be located at its existing location?

- ☐ Very important, it must remain where it is
- ☐ It could be shifted within ¼ mile of the existing bridge
- ☐ It could be moved up to 2 miles north or south
- ☐ It could be moved up to 10 miles north or south
- ☐ The bridge could be removed and the crossing closed

6. Are there any area developments planned or potential opportunities that may increase traffic to the area or impact a new bridge location or design? (Such as a new industrial facility, manufacturing or commercial development)

- ☐ None that I am aware of
- ☐ Yes (describe)

7. How far would you be willing to travel from the existing bridge to cross the river?

- ☐ The bridge must remain at the current location
- ☐ Within ¼ mile of the existing bridge
- ☐ Less than 5 miles north or south
- ☐ 5 to 10 miles north or south
- ☐ Farther than 10 miles north or south

8. Please share any information that helps explain your responses to the previous questions.

Closure Impacts

9. If the Decatur Bridge was temporarily closed, how severely would you be affected?

- ☐ 1=not affected
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5=severely affected

10. For how long would you be willing to detour if the bridge was temporarily closed?

- ☐ Not willing to detour
- ☐ Less than 6 months
- ☐ 6 months to 1 year
- ☐ 1 to 2 years

11. If the bridge was permanently closed, how severely would you be affected?

- ☐ 1=not affected
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5=severely affected

12. Please share any hardships you would experience if the current bridge was closed or significantly moved.

13. Are there any major events in the area held either annually or one-time? (i.e., festivals, boating or hunting events, etc.)

☐ None that I am aware of

☐ Yes (describe)

14. Please provide any additional thoughts you'd like to share with the project team.

Please share a bit about you. (* Indicates required response.)

15. Name:

16. Email: (Optional if you'd like to receive project updates.)

17. Zip codes (Please provide both below.)*

Where you live:

Most frequent destinations (zip codes only):

18. What is your interest in the Decatur Bridge project?*

- ☐ Resident near the project area
- ☐ Property owner near the project area
- ☐ Business owner
- ☐ Travel across the bridge weekly
- ☐ Travel across the bridge 2-3 times monthly
- ☐ Public representative (i.e. elected or agency staff)
- ☐ Other (describe)

19. Please select your age range below.

- ☐ 18 or below
- ☐ 19-29
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ 60 or above

20. Which category best describes you? Please select all that apply:

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Prefer not to disclose
- ☐ Not listed, please specify

21. How did you hear about this survey?

- ☐ Newspaper (print)
- ☐ Digital ad or website
- ☐ Social media (Facebook, Nextdoor, etc.)
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Word-of-mouth
- ☐ Other (describe)

Thank you for your input! Survey results will be shared on the project website and at a public meeting planned for summer 2024.



State Headquarters
1500 Nebraska Parkway
PO Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759
Communication Office: 402-479-4512
dot.nebraska.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Help Shape the Future of the Decatur Bridge by Participating in a Community-wide Survey by March 15

Feb. 1, 2024 (Lincoln, Neb.) – The Decatur Bridge, located in Burt County, is a historic landmark providing regional connectivity for more than 70 years. Ongoing maintenance of the aging bridge indicates it is time to determine the appropriate long-term solution to provide continued access across the Missouri River. The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) are seeking community input to help inform a Decatur Bridge Feasibility Study evaluating options to improve the Missouri River crossing.

Help shape the future of the Decatur Bridge – a community survey is available now through March 15, 2024, and the project team wants to hear from you.

To participate, visit the project website at ndot.info/32395. There are two ways to provide input:

1. **Take a simple, short survey** to share how frequently you use the Decatur Bridge, any issues you may have and how important it is for regional connectivity.
2. **Map issues and opportunities** by dropping pins onto an interactive map - select a pin, drag it onto the map, add a comment and repeat.

Print copies of surveys are available for pick up and drop off at the following locations before March 15:

- Decatur City Hall, 913 S Broadway, Decatur, NE 68020
- Decatur Senior Center, 425 8th St., Decatur, NE 68020
- Onawa City Hall, 914 Diamond St., Onawa, IA 51040
- Onawa Community Center, 320 10th St., Onawa, IA 51040
- Onawa Public Library/Chamber of Commerce, 707 Iowa Ave., Onawa, IA 51040

Identified as Decatur Bridge, the proposed project would evaluate options to improve the Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) Missouri River crossing in Burt County, Neb. and Monona County, Iowa. The Decatur Bridge project planning and design would occur over three phases and multiple years. Construction will be dependent on available funding but could begin as early as 2029. Additional timeline details and a project email sign-up form are also available on the project website: ndot.info/32395.

#NDOT#

Contact

Jeni Campana, (402) 479-4512

20240201-Comm-32395



Fw: Help shape the future of the Decatur Bridge by participating in a community-wide survey by March 15

From Hummel, Lisa K <lkhummel@burnsmcd.com>

Date Thu 11/7/2024 4:35 PM

To Hummel, Lisa K <lkhummel@burnsmcd.com>

From: Iowa DOT <iowaDOT@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 6:29 AM

To: Tuch, Mark J. <mjtuch@burnsmcd.com>

Subject: Help shape the future of the Decatur Bridge by participating in a community-wide survey by March 15



Iowa DOT News

[Help shape the future of the Decatur Bridge by participating in a community-wide survey by March 15](#)

02/01/2024 06:24 AM CST

Feb. 1, 2024 – The Decatur Bridge located in Burt County is a historic landmark providing regional connectivity for more than 70 years. Ongoing maintenance of the aging bridge indicates it is time to determine the appropriate long-term solution to provide continued access across the Missouri River. The Nebraska Department of Transportation and Iowa Department of Transportation are seeking community input to help inform a Decatur Bridge Feasibility Study evaluating options to improve the Missouri River crossing. Help shape the...

Iowa Department of Transportation

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This email was sent to mjtuch@burnsmcd.com using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: State of Iowa · 1007 E



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**The Onawa Democrat - Wonder & Son Publishing**

Monona County since 1890 with 6 Generations
of Family Pride

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The Decatur Bridge is a historic landmark providing regional connectivity for more than 70 years. Ongoing maintenance of the aging bridge indicates it's time to determine the appropriate long-term solution to provide continued access across the Missouri River.

Nebraska DOT and Iowa DOT are seeking community input to help inform a Decatur Bridge Feasibility Study evaluating options to improve the Missouri River crossing.

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Onawa Community Center 320 10th Street Onawa, IA 51040

Onawa Public Library/ Chamber of Commerce 707 Iowa Avenue

Onawa, IA 51040

Intro

Family Owned Newspaper Serving Onawa & Monona County Since 1890 with 6 Generations of Family Pride

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 Price Range · \$

 Rating · 4.4 (44 Reviews) 

Photos

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Onawa Community Center 320 10th Street Onawa, IA 51040

Onawa Public Library/ Chamber of Commerce 707 Iowa Avenue
Onawa, IA 51040



 15

5 

 Like

 Comment

Help Shape the Future of the Decatur Bridge— Participate in a Community-wide Survey

A community survey is available now through **March 15, 2024**, and the project team wants to hear from you!

SUBMIT ONLINE

OR

SUBMIT IN-PERSON



Visit the project website:

ndot.info/32395

Use your phone camera to hover over the QR code, then click to visit the project website and complete the survey.

There are two ways to engage and provide input online:

1. **Take a simple, short survey** to share how frequently you use the Decatur Bridge, any issues you may have and how important it is for regional connectivity.
2. **Map issues and opportunities** by dropping pins onto an interactive map—select a pin, drag it onto the map, add a comment and repeat.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Identified as *Decatur Bridge*, the proposed project would evaluate options to improve the Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) Missouri River crossing in Burt County, Neb. and Monona County, Iowa. The Decatur Bridge project planning and design would occur over three phases and multiple years. Construction will be dependent on available funding but could begin as early as 2029. Additional timeline details and a project email sign-up form are also available on the project website.

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**Onawa Public Library/
Chamber of Commerce**
707 Iowa Avenue
Onawa, IA 51040

Decatur Bridge: Community Survey Feedback Requested & Next Steps

From Hummel, Lisa K <lkhummel@burnsmcd.com>

Date Thu 1/25/2024 1:27 PM

Cc Nelsen, Lucas <lucas.nelsen@nebraska.gov>; dawn.knott <dawn.knott@nebraska.gov>; Felix, Jessica <jessica.felix@iowadot.us>; Schultz, Dakin <dakin.schultz@iowadot.us>; Winkelmann, Michelle L <mlwinkelmann@burnsmcd.com>; Decatur Bridge, STP-51-7(109), CN 32395 <DecaturBridge_STP-51-7_109_CN-32395@Burnsmcd.onmicrosoft.com>

Bcc ahadden@burgesshc.org <ahadden@burgesshc.org>; roads@burtcountyne.gov <roads@burtcountyne.gov>; cepersinger@gmail.com <cepersinger@gmail.com>; economicdevelopment@burtcounty.org <economicdevelopment@burtcounty.org>; cweaver@onawa.com <cweaver@onawa.com>; DPrice@thenicc.edu <DPrice@thenicc.edu>; doug.chafa@dnr.iowa.gov <doug.chafa@dnr.iowa.gov>; sheriff@burtcountyne.gov <sheriff@burtcountyne.gov>; janejudt@gmail.com <janejudt@gmail.com>; jparker-morris@theomahatribe.com <jparker-morris@theomahatribe.com>; chamber@onawa.com <chamber@onawa.com>; jcasady@onawa.com <jcasady@onawa.com>; mocoso@mononacounty.org <mocoso@mononacounty.org>; kpunke05@gmail.com <kpunke05@gmail.com>; lbeaudette@lyonsdecaturschools.org <lbeaudette@lyonsdecaturschools.org>; mayor@onawa.com <mayor@onawa.com>; skarinjr@outlook.com <skarinjr@outlook.com>; Mbsiecke@gmail.com <Mbsiecke@gmail.com>; leeann.warren@hotmail.com <leeann.warren@hotmail.com>; mark@popndocs.com <mark@popndocs.com>

 1 attachment (3 MB)

32395 Decatur Bridge_CAG1 Presentation_20240118.pdf;

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Decatur Bridge Community Advisory Group (CAG).

We had a great turnout last week with 22 community representatives for meeting #1. For those unable to join, a PDF of the presentation is attached to this email (also posted to the **project website**: ndot.info/32395)

Next steps – we are preparing to launch a community survey Feb. 1. Once live, it will be available on the project website. In addition to online, we will have hard-copy surveys available. Folks can pick up and drop off their completed surveys at any of these locations by March 15.

Hard-copy survey pickup/drop-off locations (Feb 1-March 15):

Decatur City Hall
Decatur Senior Center
Onawa City Hall
Onawa Community Center
Onawa Library/Chamber

Late next week, we will begin promoting the survey through news releases, hard-copy fliers, social media and other opportunities. I will be following up with materials for you to distribute to your networks.

If you have not already, please take a moment to review the draft simple survey and provide feedback by this Monday, Jan. 29 end of day:

<https://burnsmcd.mysocialpinpoint.com/decat-bridge/8sz3> (This is a draft; once live, the URL will be the project website.) Feel free to submit an online response. We will clear out any survey 'tests' prior to launch.

Updates that **have been made** since the hard copies were provided last week include:

- Question 3: Adding "Casino van" to the "carpool" option
- Question 4: Adding an option for "Driving surface/open grate"
- Adding an open comment opportunity to "Please share any hardships you would experience if the current bridge was closed or moved significantly."
- Zip code(s) – We've updated to request where folks **live** and where they **most frequently travel**
- Question 18: Update "travel across the bridge weekly" (remove "for work")
- We will make it clear that survey results will be made available on the project website in the spring

Thank you again and expect to hear from me again next week as we prepare for the survey launch and promotion!

Lisa Kay Hummel

Decatur Bridge Project – Community Engagement Lead

On Behalf of the Nebraska & Iowa Departments of Transportation

Office: 816-349-6821

lkhummel@burnsmcd.com

Decatur Bridge: CAG Meeting #1 Notes & More Survey Promotion

From Hummel, Lisa K <lkhummel@burnsmcd.com>

Date Fri 2/23/2024 2:22 PM

Cc Nelsen, Lucas <lucas.nelsen@nebraska.gov>; dawn.knott <dawn.knott@nebraska.gov>; Felix, Jessica <jessica.felix@iowadot.us>; Schultz, Dakin <dakin.schultz@iowadot.us>; Winkelmann, Michelle L <mlwinkelmann@burnsmcd.com>; Decatur Bridge, STP-51-7(109), CN 32395 <DecaturBridge_STP-51-7_109_CN-32395@Burnsmcd.onmicrosoft.com>

Bcc ahadden@burgesshc.org <ahadden@burgesshc.org>; roads@burtcountyne.gov <roads@burtcountyne.gov>; cepersinger@gmail.com <cepersinger@gmail.com>; economicdevelopment@burtcounty.org <economicdevelopment@burtcounty.org>; cweaver@onawa.com <cweaver@onawa.com>; DPrice@thenicc.edu <DPrice@thenicc.edu>; doug.chafa@dnr.iowa.gov <doug.chafa@dnr.iowa.gov>; sheriff@burtcountyne.gov <sheriff@burtcountyne.gov>; janejudt@gmail.com <janejudt@gmail.com>; jparker-morris@theomahatribe.com <jparker-morris@theomahatribe.com>; chamber@onawa.com <chamber@onawa.com>; jcasady@onawa.com <jcasady@onawa.com>; mocoso@mononacounty.org <mocoso@mononacounty.org>; kpunke05@gmail.com <kpunke05@gmail.com>; lbeaudette@lyonsdecaturschools.org <lbeaudette@lyonsdecaturschools.org>; mayor@onawa.com <mayor@onawa.com>; skarinjr@outlook.com <skarinjr@outlook.com>; Mbsiecke@gmail.com <Mbsiecke@gmail.com>; leeann.warren@hotmail.com <leeann.warren@hotmail.com>; mark@popndocs.com <mark@popndocs.com>

 2 attachments (2 MB)

Decatur Bridge - CAG1 Summary - 02222024.pdf; 32395 Decatur Bridge Survey Social Posts - Reminder 20240223.docx;

Decatur Bridge CAG members – attached are the summary notes from our first meeting last month (PDF attached). These notes will be added to the project website along with the presentation slides.

Community survey update – let’s make another promotional push.

Great news: We’ve received more than **900 online survey responses!**

Thanks so much for all the effort to get the word out to your networks. With the survey live through March 15, we want to make another promotional push. I’ve attached an updated Word document with some draft social media posting language – I’ve added a new graphic image and the original bridge image to accompany posts. But in short, the message we want to share is:

Have we heard from you? More than 900 people have completed a short survey to weigh-in on the future of the Decatur Bridge: ndot.info/32395 It’s not too late, provide your input by March 15!

+++

Looking forward – we are finalizing the meeting date and time for our late April CAG Meeting #2. We’re planning to hold this meeting on the Decatur side. We’ll send more details and a calendar invitation as soon as it’s booked/finalized. This meeting will again be in-person.

Have a wonderful weekend. More soon,

Lisa Kay Hummel

Decatur Bridge Project – Community Engagement Lead

On Behalf of the Nebraska & Iowa Departments of Transportation

Office: 816-349-6821

lkhummel@burnsmcd.com

From: Hummel, Lisa K

Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 10:07 AM

Cc: Nelsen, Lucas <lucas.nelsen@nebraska.gov>; dawn.knott <dawn.knott@nebraska.gov>; Felix, Jessica <jessica.felix@iowadot.us>; Schultz, Dakin <dakin.schultz@iowadot.us>; Winkelmann, Michelle L <mlwinkelmann@burnsmcd.com>; Decatur Bridge, STP-51-7(109), CN 32395 <DecaturBridge_STP-51-7_109_CN-32395@Burnsmcd.onmicrosoft.com>

Subject: Decatur Bridge: Community survey is LIVE! Now let's promote.

The Decatur Bridge community survey is LIVE on the project website and ready for you to promote to your networks! [Important details below:](#)

1. Attached is a “**Promo Flyer**” – this PDF can be emailed directly to your networks. **I’ve included some draft email language below.**
2. The Word document “**Social Posts**” – is for those on social media (Facebook, Nextdoor, etc.), and includes **two** draft posts you can copy and paste. The **images** to accompany these posts are also attached (labeled to accompany Post 1 and Post 2).
3. **Hard-copy surveys** should be available at the pickup/drop-off locations listed below:
 - **Decatur City Hall** 913 S. Broadway Decatur, NE 68020
 - **Decatur Senior Center** 425 8th Street Decatur, NE 68020
 - **Onawa City Hall** 914 Diamond Street Onawa, IA 51040
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 - **Onawa Public Library/Chamber of Commerce** 707 Iowa Avenue Onawa, IA 51040
4. **News releases** are also being distributed. I can share the official links once we have them upon request.

+++ *Below is draft language to share via email, etc.* ++++

The Decatur Bridge is a historic landmark providing regional connectivity for more than 70 years. Ongoing maintenance of the aging bridge indicates it’s time to determine the appropriate long-term solution to provide continued access across the Missouri River.

Nebraska DOT and Iowa DOT are seeking community input to help inform a Decatur Bridge Feasibility Study evaluating options to improve the Missouri River crossing.

A community survey is open for input through March 15 on the project website:
[ndot.info/32395ndot.info/32395]

The project planning and design would occur over three phases and multiple years. Construction will be dependent on available funding but could begin as early as 2029. Additional timeline details and a project email sign-up form are also available on the project website. Once complete, survey results will be shared on the project website and at a public meeting planned for summer 2024.

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Onawa City Hall 914 Diamond Street Onawa, IA 51040

Onawa Community Center 320 10th Street Onawa, IA 51040

Onawa Public Library/ Chamber of Commerce 707 Iowa Avenue Onawa, IA 51040

+++ *Many thanks to you all for your continued support getting the word out! Please reach out with any questions or needs.* ++++

Lisa Kay Hummel

Decatur Bridge Project – Community Engagement Lead

On Behalf of the Nebraska & Iowa Departments of Transportation

Office: 816-349-6821

lkhummel@burnsmcd.com

To: NDOT Environmental
From: Sarah Fisher, Public Involvement Specialist, NDOT
Date: 8 November 2024
RE: Public Involvement Summary Memo, STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

**Public Involvement Outreach for Community Advisory Group Meeting #2:
CN 32395, STP-51-7(109), Decatur Bridge**

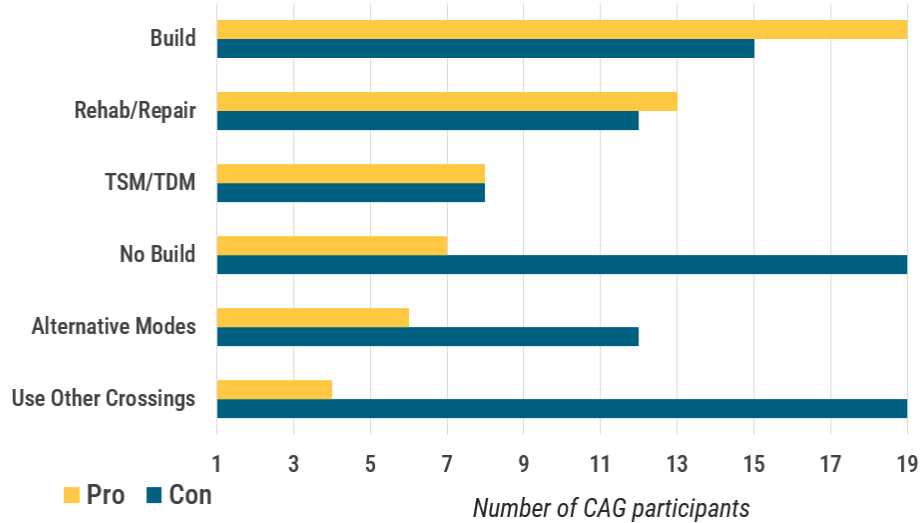
Based on an analysis of the project scope, two Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings and public notification in the form of an email invitation were used as outreach tools for the public involvement on this project. The second CAG meeting was held at the Decatur City Hall, 913 S Broadway, Decatur, Nebraska on Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM, with 21 stakeholders in attendance. The meeting notification included emails to approximately 30 community members representing a cross-section of local interests, representing both the Nebraska and Iowa sides of the project study area.

During the meeting, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) team, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), delivered a presentation that included a summary of key findings from the community survey, the draft purpose and need, performance areas and typical sections. The team facilitated a discussion around the proposed alignments/alternatives screening process and performance areas. Participants were then asked to complete worksheets to identify pros and cons for both the universe of alternatives and each of the nine initial build alternatives.

The universe of alternatives being considered includes Build Alternatives which would build a new bridge either along the current alignment or at a new location, Rehab/Repair of the existing bridge to extend its useful life, Transportation System Management (TSM) and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) which includes a set of low-cost strategies that would reduce travel demand and improve traffic flow, No Build which would “do nothing” except for regular maintenance until repairs were no longer feasible and the crossing would be closed, Alternative Modes of transportation not including a bridge crossing that could maintain connectivity, and Use Other Crossings with the closest options currently existing at Sioux City, Iowa and Blair, Nebraska.

A summary of the attendees’ comments and feedback collected from the discussion and worksheets is included on the following pages.

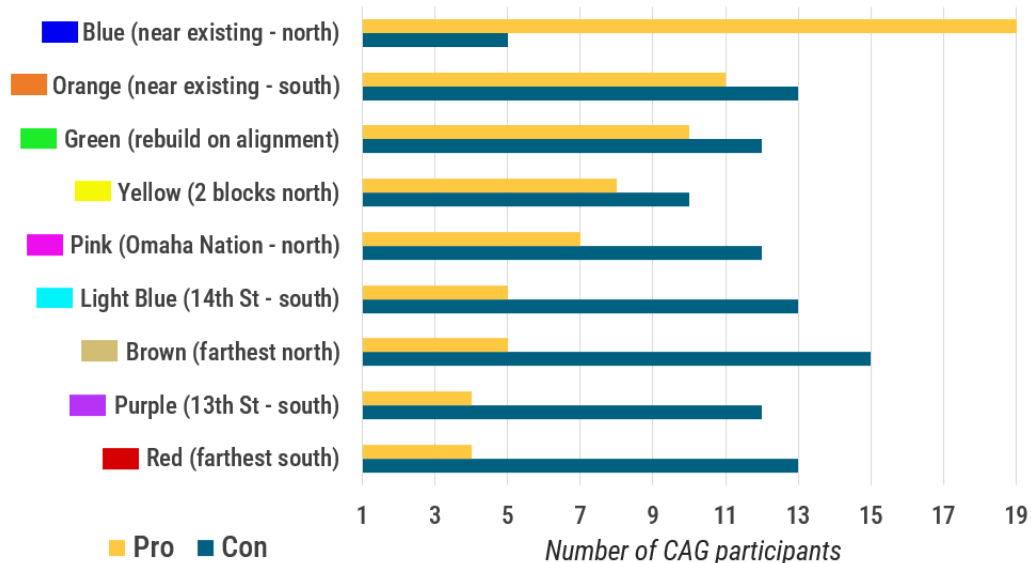
CAG #2 Universe Of Alternatives Pros/Cons



CAG participants generally identified more pros for the Rehab/Repair option citing it maintains access and the existing conditions along with lower project costs compared to building a new bridge. Identified cons included repairs alone are not sustainable or cost effective compared to investing in a new structure.

Every CAG participant identified cons for the No Build and Use Other Crossings Alternatives. Identified cons for No Build included continued deterioration and repair costs along with impacts on the local economy due to the eventual closure. For Use Other Crossings, CAG participants identified impacts on the local business economy due to reduced highway traffic and commerce in Decatur as well as the hardships resulting from the decreased access to emergency services, health care and employment. Some participants indicated the increased travel time and costs required with the out-of-distance travel would be devastating to the local communities.

CAG #2 Initial Build Alternatives Pros/Cons



CAG participants generally identified more positive elements, or pros, for the initial alternatives that would build a new bridge closest to the existing Decatur Bridge. The above chart shows the number of pros and cons received for each initial option. The Blue Alignment, just north of the existing bridge, received a pro comment from every CAG participant. Identified pros included fewer impacts on the local Decatur business economy (by maintaining highway traffic through town) and fewer impacts on properties and wetlands. Identified cons of the Blue Alignment included potential challenges of keeping the bridge open to traffic during construction and anticipated property impacts.

Cons identified for the other Build Alternatives included impacts to the local Decatur business economy due to the removal of highway traffic through town, impacts to the Decatur storm sewer infrastructure on the south side of the existing bridge, and the ability to maintain traffic during construction if a new bridge was rebuilt on the existing Green Alignment.

Pros identified for the other Build Alternatives included the ability to maintain traffic during construction with the existing bridge remaining open while a new bridge is being built, and decreased congestion through Decatur with better movements for large trucks and machinery. Some participants also noted that other alignment options result in less impacts on wetlands and existing recreational facilities.

Decatur Bridge CAG Meeting #2

Organizer Hummel, Lisa K <lkhummel@burnsmcd.com>

Meeting time This event occurred 6 months ago (Thu 4/25/2024 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM)

Location Village of Decatur City Hall - 913 S. Broadway, Decatur, NE 68020

My response Not yet responded

Required attendees Hummel, Lisa K, ahadden@burgesshc.org, roads@burtcountyne.gov, bappleton@bbbend.com, cepersinger@gmail.com, economicdevelopment@burtcounty.org, DPrice@thenicc.edu, doug.chafa@dnr.iowa.gov, sheriff@burtcountyne.gov, janejudt@gmail.com, jparker-morris@theomahatribe.com, chamber@onawa.com, jcasady@onawa.com, mocosso@mononacounty.org, kpunke05@gmail.com, lbeaudette@lyonsdecaturschools.org, mayor@onawa.com, skarinjr@outlook.com, Mbsiecke@gmail.com, leeann.warren@hotmail.com, mark@popndocs.com, marty.fonley@westmonona.org, mocoema@mononacounty.org, district4@burtcountyne.gov, mocodist3@mononacounty.org, schererj1@gmail.com, matt.connealy@gmail.com, marilyn52andersen@gmail.com, DecaturClerk@nntc.net, decaturrfd@yahoo.com, emiller@onawa.com

Optional attendees Winkelmann, Michelle L, dawn.knott, Felix, Jessica, Schultz, Dakin, Nelsen, Lucas, Tony Bui (tony.bui@nebraska.gov), Huebner, Samantha, Persinger, Charlie, Lindsey Beaudette, Kuehl, Brooklyn E (Brooke)

Message sent Thu 3/21/2024 3:11 PM

Please join us for the second and final Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting on **Thursday, April 25 from 1-4 p.m.** (*Public meetings will be held June 26 & 27*)

New location: This will be an in-person meeting held at the **Village of Decatur City Hall** (913 S. Broadway, Decatur, NE 68020)

Please accept or decline the invitation accordingly. Agenda to follow.

Lisa Kay Hummel

Decatur Bridge Project – Community Engagement Lead

On Behalf of the Nebraska & Iowa Departments of Transportation

Office: 816-349-6821

lkhummel@burnsmcd.com

This Thursday: Decatur Bridge CAG Meeting #2

From Hummel, Lisa K <lkhummel@burnsmcd.com>

Date Tue 4/23/2024 2:00 PM

To ahadden@burgesshc.org <ahadden@burgesshc.org>; roads@burtcountyne.gov <roads@burtcountyne.gov>; bappleton@bbbend.com <bappleton@bbbend.com>; cepersinger@gmail.com <cepersinger@gmail.com>; economicdevelopment@burtcounty.org <economicdevelopment@burtcounty.org>; cweaver@onawa.com <cweaver@onawa.com>; DPrice@thenicc.edu <DPrice@thenicc.edu>; doug.chafa@dnr.iowa.gov <doug.chafa@dnr.iowa.gov>; sheriff@burtcountyne.gov <sheriff@burtcountyne.gov>; janejudt@gmail.com <janejudt@gmail.com>; jparker-morris@theomahatribe.com <jparker-morris@theomahatribe.com>; chamber@onawa.com <chamber@onawa.com>; jcasady@onawa.com <jcasady@onawa.com>; mocoso@mononacounty.org <mocoso@mononacounty.org>; kpunke05@gmail.com <kpunke05@gmail.com>; lbeaudette@lyonsdecaturschools.org <lbeaudette@lyonsdecaturschools.org>; mayor@onawa.com <mayor@onawa.com>; skarinjr@outlook.com <skarinjr@outlook.com>; Mbsiecke@gmail.com <Mbsiecke@gmail.com>; leeann.warren@hotmail.com <leeann.warren@hotmail.com>

Cc Winkelmann, Michelle L <mlwinkelmann@burnsmcd.com>; dawn.knott <dawn.knott@nebraska.gov>; Felix, Jessica <jessica.felix@iowadot.us>; Tony Bui (tony.bui@nebraska.gov) <tony.bui@nebraska.gov>

 1 attachment (126 KB)

32395 STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge - Agenda CAG#2 04252024.pdf;

Sending a friendly reminder for our second and final Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting this coming **Thursday, April 25 from 1-4 p.m.**

New location: This will be an in-person meeting held on the **Second Floor** at the **Village of Decatur City Hall** (913 S. Broadway, Decatur, NE 68020). There is a chair lift accessible through the back parking lot.

Please accept or decline the calendar invitation accordingly. Agenda attached.

As a reminder, we'll be hosting community-wide public meetings June 26 & 27.

Lisa Kay Hummel

Decatur Bridge Project – Community Engagement Lead

On Behalf of the Nebraska & Iowa Departments of Transportation

Phone: 816-349-6821

lkhummel@burnsmcd.com

To: NDOT Environmental
From: Sarah Fisher, Public Involvement Specialist, NDOT
Date: 13 November 2024
RE: Public Involvement Summary Memo, STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

**Public Involvement Outreach Requirements for Public Information Open House Meeting:
CN 32395, STP-51-7(109), Decatur Bridge**

Based on an analysis of the project scope and a civil rights analysis, two public information open house meetings, a targeted mailer in the form of a postcard, a legal notice, news release, temporary highway signs, website, and 30-day comment period were used as outreach tools for public involvement on this project. Two public information open house meetings were held to accommodate participants in both Nebraska and Iowa. Due to flooding in the area during the initial scheduled meeting dates on June 26 and 27, 2024, the meetings were postponed. The first meeting was held at the Onawa Community and Recreation Center, 320 10th Street, in Onawa, Iowa on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, with approximately 57 attendees. The second public information open house meeting was held at Decatur City Hall, 913 S Broadway Street, in Decatur, Nebraska on Thursday, August 29, 2024, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, with approximately 81 attendees. The public notification involved mailing a postcard to a compiled distribution list of 745 property owners near the Decatur Bridge in Nebraska and Iowa, as well as potentially interested parties. Additionally, 325 public and private agencies in Nebraska and Iowa with potential interest in the project were also included in the distribution list, including the Nebraska Trucking Association. Since the public meetings were rescheduled from June to August, a follow-up postcard was distributed with updated meeting dates. An email notification was distributed to 176 contacts provided through the project website sign-up form and 37 CAG representatives. Legal notices were published in Nebraska and Iowa newspapers in both June and August due to the postponement. A legal notice was placed in a Nebraska Press Association (NPA) recognized newspaper, the *Lyons-Mirror Sun*, on Thursday, June 6, 2024, and Thursday, August 8, 2024. A legal notice was also placed in the *Onawa Democrat* on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, and Wednesday, August 14, 2024. Project information was placed on the NDOT website and the Decatur Bridge project website.

The initial comment period was June 5 to July 15, 2024. The comment period was extended through September 16, 2024, due to postponement of the public meetings. NDOT Public Involvement received four comments prior to meeting postponement. An additional 45 comments were received during the remainder of the comment period. An additional four comments were submitted after the comment period had concluded.

All 53 comments are summarized below:

Comment	Response
Resident stated they travel to Onawa for work, health care and recreation. Stated the project would result in financial and emotional impacts due to loss of employment, increased travel distance and cost. Stated preference for leaving bridge as is.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider potential hardships to residents, the community, and alignments adjacent to the existing bridge that would not add travel time or distance. Stated repairs alone would not address design

	deficiencies of existing bridge. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference for new bridge design to consider safe passage for bicycles and pedestrians. Suggested these non-vehicular connections would improve quality-of-life.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated safe passage for bike/ped traffic on the bridge will be considered. Stated that bike/ped linkages to areas beyond the bridge are not currently being considered. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated the bridge provides access to work, shopping and schools. Stated even short bridge closures affect many people.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider potential hardships on residents, the community, and alignments adjacent to the existing bridge that would not add travel time or distance. Stated DOTs are aware of the out-of-direction travel required during bridge closures and alternatives are being considered that would minimize closure duration. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated they drive across the bridge daily during the week for commercial use. Stated that without bridge access, their job cannot be performed.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated that DOTs are aware of the significance of the bridge to the local and regional economy and are evaluating alternatives that would support travel across the river. Stated DOTs are aware of the out-of-direction travel required during bridge closures and alternatives are being considered that would minimize closure duration. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference for blue or orange alignments. Stated the length of closure time required to build a new bridge on existing alignment would negatively impact the regional economy. Stated other alignment options would be cost prohibitive.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for blue or orange alignments. Stated DOTs are aware of the significance of the bridge to the economy and are evaluating alternatives that would support travel across the river. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated appreciation for the information provided to the public. Stated they use the crossing weekly for activities in Nebraska and visiting family.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference for blue and orange alignments. Stated removal and replacement on existing would be worst option for businesses and safety. Stated building a new bridge near existing would take less time.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue and orange alignments. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference for blue or orange alignments. Stated appreciation to the DOTs for the project.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue or orange alignments. Thanked for participation.

Resident stated preference for the blue alignment. Stated need to keep traffic through Decatur main street for local businesses.	combine with McCall 9/15/24 email (8B)
Resident stated need for a bridge.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated affection for bridges as well as Nebraska and Iowa.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference for light blue, then purple alignment for direct connection to existing highway. Stated existing bridge should remain in place until construction is complete.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team is considering new crossing locations that could require a short bridge closure. Stated the study team is considering alternatives that would keep the existing bridge open during construction. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to build immediately north of existing for the least impact on Decatur. Stated diverting travelers from Decatur's business district would have negative impacts on businesses, sewer plant, new homes and parks.	Appreciate input. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue alignment and potential hardships on the economy. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated need for a bridge as it supports the Decatur and Onawa economies and provides access to health care, shopping and employment. Stated existing bridge is too narrow but still operational.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated DOTs are aware of and will consider significance of the bridge to regional economy. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to build a new bridge as close to existing bridge as possible on north or south. Stated moving the bridge would affect jobs, health care and reduce traffic through Decatur.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue or orange alignments. Thanked for participation.
Resident requested the 13th Street / purple option be eliminated as it would impact their new home. Stated a new bridge near existing would not affect businesses.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider concern regarding the 13th Street / purple alignment potentially impacting property. Stated DOTs are aware of and will consider significance of the bridge to regional economy. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated concern for project impacting home.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider concern regarding the 13th Street / purple alignment potentially impacting property. Stated DOTs are aware of and will consider significance of the bridge to regional economy. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference for green or blue alignment.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the green or blue alignments. Stated rebuilding on alignment would require a closure of two or more years. Stated nearest

	crossings at Sioux City or Blair would be used to access homes and services across the river. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated moving the bridge would impact Decatur businesses, farmers and surrounding community.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for rebuilding near existing and potential hardships to the economy due to closure. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to build north of existing. Stated bridge closure would impact their business since they live in Decatur and work in Onawa.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue alignment and potential hardships to the economy due to an extended bridge closure. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to build a new bridge next to the existing bridge to support the area economy.	Appreciate input. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue or orange alignment. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to build a new bridge near existing. Stated diverting travelers around Decatur would severely impact the economy.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider potential hardships on residents, the community, and alignments adjacent to the existing bridge that would not add travel time or distance. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to keep the existing bridge open through construction. Stated preference to route traffic out of Decatur.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for routing traffic out of Decatur and alternatives that would maintain traffic through construction. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to build a new bridge next to the existing bridge as it would be better for traffic, businesses and cost.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for blue or orange alignments. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to keep the existing bridge where it is as long as possible. Stated any new bridge should honor the existing truss style. Suggested a solid bridge decking could be added to save money. Stated preference for new bridge to maintain traffic through Decatur on existing right of way.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team is considering rehabilitation with other options. Stated the existing condition and needed repairs may require permanent bridge closure in the future. Stated adding a solid deck would add weight and further limit vehicle loads. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to maintain traffic through Decatur business district. Stated preference for new bridge off existing alignment and for the existing bridge to remain open through construction.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider potential hardships to residents, community, and alternatives to keep the existing bridge open during construction. Stated alternatives that could require a short bridge closure are also being considered. Thanked for participation.

Resident inquired if the existing bridge could remain open to bike/ped traffic.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team is considering bridge rehabilitation. Stated improvements would be needed to support bike/ped use. Stated another entity would be required to take ownership and maintain the bridge. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference for the blue alignment as it would not interfere with the Decatur storm sewer, would reduce scour during times of high flow, and maintain traffic through Decatur to support local businesses. Stated traffic should not be slowed on the Nebraska side.	Appreciate input. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue alignment. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated in order of preference orange and blue alignments with minimal impact on private properties. Pink alignment where no private property would be impacted but potential farmland and wetland impacts. Yellow alignment with minimal impact to private properties but concerned with potential cost and impacts to Omaha Nation, wetlands and wildlife. Stated red alignment as least viable due to impacts to private property, gas line, DNR land, wetlands, farmland and traffic. Stated unacceptable options as green, purple and light blue due to impacts on the local economy due to lack of access and property relocations.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the orange or blue alignments, and potential hardships to residents and the community. Stated the team recognizes alignments may support different traveler needs and will consider alternatives that keep the bridge open through construction. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated there is no interference between bridge highway traffic and local traffic. Stated the environment has adapted to the current bridge location and there could be costly impacts for alternatives further away. Stated concern for northern alternatives due to high hills and desire to preserve the "High Banks." Stated concern for creek stabilization if a new bridge is built further south. Stated the bridge keeps Decatur's community vibrant. Stated preference to build a new bridge near existing either north or south. Requested the steel used for the new bridge not be made in China.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue or orange alignments, along with the information provided regarding local terrain, environment, community, and potential hardships. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated support for the project. Stated high importance of the bridge to Decatur, Onawa and the surrounding region. Stated desire for new bridge construction to be completed quickly.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team is considering the importance of the bridge to the local community when reviewing alternatives to improve the river crossing. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated concern for private property along existing highway needed to deliver the project.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated consideration of potential impacts

Stated opposition to selling any of their property as there are other options.	to their property when reviewing alternatives. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated support for the project and benefit of the bridge to the local economy. Stated the light blue alignment provides direct connection to Highway 51 for motorists and heavy trucks. Stated preference for the blue alignment due to less cost, property acquisition, wetland impacts, and disruption to the Decatur sewer treatment facility. Suggested removing and reconfiguring the existing road under the bridge to reduce construction cost.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team recognizes alignments may support different traveler needs. Stated potential hardships to residents and the community are being considered. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to keep the bridge south or north to accommodate destinations.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue or orange alignment. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated need for the bridge to access places in Iowa including health care, employment, family and recreation. Stated preference to move the bridge north and keep the existing bridge open through constructed.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue alignment, potential hardships to residents and the community, and alternatives to keep the existing bridge open during construction. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference for a new bridge next to existing. Stated importance of access to Onawa for health care and medication. Thanked DOTs for consideration.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated potential hardships to residents and the community are being considered as well as alignments that would not add travel time or distance. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference for a new bridge just north of existing. Stated need for the bridge to access employment, health care, pharmacy and groceries weekly. Stated if the bridge was moved it would negatively impact the aging population of Decatur and surrounding community.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue alignment and potential hardships for residents and the community. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to build a new bridge north of existing and maintain traffic through construction. Stated the southern options would impact wildlife area and disrupt recent investments. Stated they use the bridge daily for half the year.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue alignment, potential impacts to the natural environment, and potential hardships to residents and the community. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated family uses the bridge daily to access Onawa for employment, goods and services. Requested the existing bridge be placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a walking bridge. Stated preference to build a new bridge on an alignment that goes through town and to maintain traffic on the existing bridge	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Acknowledged travel challenges when the existing bridge is closed. Confirmed eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Stated the study team is considering rehabilitation of the existing bridge along with other options that would maintain traffic during construction. Stated several improvements would

through construction. Stated use of other river crossings adds 40 minutes one way.	be required to allow bike/ped use and another entity would be required to take ownership and maintain the bridge. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated concern for the southern alignments that would require property relocation.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated potential hardships for residents and the community are being considered. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference for the blue alignment.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue alignment. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated need for the bridge to access health care and pharmacy. Stated preference to build a new bridge next to existing similar to Blair.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for a new bridge next to existing or south of Decatur. Stated potential hardships for residents and the community are being considered. Thanked for participation.
Resident requested the bridge stay in Decatur. Stated they live in Onawa and use the bridge to travel to Decatur almost daily.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference to build a new bridge that remains through Decatur. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated support for bridge improvements. Stated the Decatur economy would be severely impacted if the bridge were moved from 7th Street. Stated concern that the red, light blue, and purple alignments would increase speed limits and referenced the Wahoo bypass.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for an alignment connecting to 7th Street and potential hardships for residents and the community. Stated that the speed limit on a new bridge would remain the same. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to build a new bridge directly north or south and keep the existing bridge open to traffic through construction.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue or orange alignment and alternatives that keep the existing bridge open to traffic during construction. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated support for the project. Requested the existing historical bridge be converted for pedestrians. Stated preference for the new bridge to be 500-feet north of existing or second choice 80 feet on either side.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider first preference for a new bridge 500-feet north of existing and second for alignments immediately north or south. Stated rehabilitation of the Decatur Bridge is being considered with other options, including alternatives to keep the existing bridge open to traffic during construction. Stated several improvements would be required to allow bike/ped use and another entity would be required to take ownership and maintain the bridge. Thanked for participation.

Resident stated preference to build a new bridge north next to existing. Stated concern for other alignments resulting in increased speeds and dangerous highway crossings for Decatur residents. Requested their property and village valuation not be impacted by the project.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue alignment, concerns with increased speeds, unsafe intersections and property valuation impacts in Decatur. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated they own land north of existing bridge. Stated concern with alignment options interfering with their irrigation system and creating economic hardship. Stated concern for land value decreasing. Stated preference for building a new bridge near the existing bridge. Appreciated the information provided during the public meetings.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider potential impacts to irrigated land north of Decatur and their preference for the blue or orange alignments. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated the Decatur public meeting was informative. Stated preference for the blue alignment.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for the blue alignment. Thanked for participation.
Local farmer stated concern with losing the local connection between Nebraska and Iowa. Stated preference for IA-175 and Highway 51 route connection.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for an alignment that connects IA-175 to N-51. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated preference to build a new bridge on existing alignment or within 80 feet of existing.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference for a new bridge on the existing alignment or just north or south of existing. Thanked for participation.
Resident stated they depend on the bridge daily to access Onawa for businesses and health care. Stated concern for the local economy if the bridge is moved farther away. Stated preference to build a new bridge on or next to existing.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider preference to build a new bridge on or just north or south of existing. Stated potential hardships on residents and the community are being considered. Thanked for participation.
Agency representative stated they reviewed the project for potential impacts and provided comments.	Appreciate input. Stated purpose and need of project. Stated the study team will consider alternatives that support the purpose and need of the project and avoid or minimize impacts to the environment. Stated the project will use established processes and procedures. Thanked for participation.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) are hosting two public information open house meetings regarding the proposed *Decatur Bridge* project which would improve the Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51) / Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) Missouri River crossing in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Two meetings will be held to provide information regarding the project, currently in the study phase, and to receive the public's input. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the project and discuss with the project team. No formal presentation is planned, and both meetings will present the same information.

The *Decatur Bridge* project planning and design would occur over three phases and multiple years. Construction would be dependent on available funding but could begin as early as 2029.

The public is being encouraged to comment on the proposed project.

Comments will be collected through July 15, 2024, and should be submitted to Sarah Fisher, NDOT Public Involvement P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759 or sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov.

SCAN ME!



ndot.info/32395

Meeting information will be available on the project website after the meetings at ndot.info/32395. For those without internet access, information may be obtained at NDOT Headquarters, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, NE 68502 or by contacting: Kevin Domogalla, NDOT District 3 Engineer 402-370-3470.

Please join us!

Both meetings will present the same information.

ONAWA MEETING OPTION:

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Onawa Community and
Recreation Center - Kelly Hall
320 10th St., Onawa, IA

DECATUR MEETING OPTION:

Thursday, June 27, 2024

5 - 7 PM

Decatur City Hall
913 S. Broadway St., Decatur, NE



Nebraska Department of Transportation
c/o Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759 | Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PROJECT CONTACTS:

Sarah Fisher

NDOT Public Involvement

402-479-3832

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Kevin Domogalla

NDOT District 3 Engineer

402-370-3470

kevin.domogalla@nebraska.gov

Jessica Felix

Iowa District 3 Engineer

712-274-5833

jessica.felix@iowadot.gov

*NDOT will make every reasonable accommodation to provide accessible meeting facilities for all persons. Appropriate provisions for the hearing and visually challenged or persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) will be made if NDOT is notified by **June 19, 2024**.*

PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

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SCAN ME!



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Please join us!

Both meetings will present the same information.

ONAWA MEETING OPTION:

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Onawa Community and
Recreation Center - Kelly Hall
320 10th St., Onawa, IA

DECATUR MEETING OPTION:

Thursday, August 29, 2024

5 - 7 PM

Decatur City Hall
913 S. Broadway St., Decatur, NE



Nebraska Department of Transportation
c/o Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759 | Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PROJECT CONTACTS:

Sarah Fisher

NDOT Public Involvement

402-479-3832

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

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NDOT District 3 Engineer

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Jessica Felix

Iowa District 3 Engineer

712-274-5833

jessica.felix@iowadot.us

*NDOT will make every reasonable accommodation to provide accessible meeting facilities for all persons. Appropriate provisions for the hearing and visually challenged or persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) will be made if NDOT is notified by **August 21, 2024**.*



Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

Very Dissatisfied

Somewhat Dissatisfied

Neutral
○

Somewhat Satisfied

Very Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(Fold here)



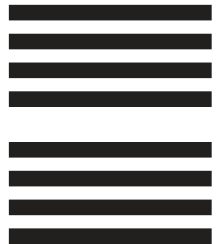
NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 1181 LINCOLN NE

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

ATTN: **Public Involvement**
NEBRASKA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
PO BOX 94759
LINCOLN, NE 68509-9983



(Fold here)

(Tape closed - Do not staple)

From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 6:01:23 PM

Form Results

Project

[#pageName]

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov>[@Url]

Full Name

Patricia L Johnson

Email

patti.johnson9@gmail.com

Address

1860 HWY 75

City

Decatur

State

Nebraska

Zip

68020

Comment

I cant get survey to load. I work in Onawa, see the dr in onawa, go to the hospital and take my grandkids to the pool in onawa. Thiis would impact me finacially and emotionally. I would loose my job. I couldnt afford to see my dr. due to the distance i would have to travel. We would have no access to the interstate, my dr., or my dentist. I would not be able to go to my favorite cafe, the stores in Onawa or my church. Leave the bridge as is Please. Thank you



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Patricia L Johnson
1860 HWY 75
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Patricia L Johnson,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study. Alternatives are being considered that would provide a new bridge on alignments adjacent to the existing bridge without adding travel time or distance to access services in Onawa. Because of the condition of the existing bridge and the types of repairs needed to keep it serviceable, leaving the existing bridge in place would not address the design deficiencies of the existing bridge.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024 3:53:26 PM

Form Results

Project

[#pageName]

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov>[@Url]

Full Name

William Mueller

Email

wmueller@alum.mit.edu

Address

420 W 8th St

City

Decatur

State

Nebraska

Zip

68020

Comment

It would be tremendous if the design for the new bridge considered a safe passage for bicycles and pedestrians. This would greatly enhance life in Decatur by providing non-vehicular access to the riverfront and wildlife areas on the Iowa side. A bike route between Decatur and Onawa would also be a singular benefit.



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

William Mueller
420 W 8th St
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear William Mueller,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your suggestion to provide safe passage for bicycle and pedestrian traffic on the bridge. Providing pedestrian/bicycle linkages to areas beyond the bridge are not being considered at this time.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 2:44:56 PM

Form Results

Project

[#pageName]

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov>[@Url]

Full Name

Katie

Email

katie.paulsen@ihs.gov

Address

City

State

Alabama

Zip

Comment

The bridge links us to work, shopping, schools.... if its even shut down for a short time- it affects so many people!!!!



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Katie Paulsen
Alabama

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Katie Paulsen,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study. Alternatives are being considered that would provide a new bridge on alignments adjacent to the existing bridge without adding travel time or distance to access services in Onawa. The study team has heard from many people noting the adverse, out-of-direction travel required when the bridge is closed for short periods. Alternatives are being considered that would minimize the amount of time the crossing would be closed during construction.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: [Bui, Tony](#) on behalf of [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
To: [Fisher, Sarah](#)
Subject: Fwd: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Sunday, July 7, 2024 8:58:23 PM

From: noreply@nebraska.gov <noreply@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2024 2:23:53 AM
To: NDOT, Public Involvement <ndot.PublicInvolvement@nebraska.gov>
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge

Form Results

Project

[#pageName]

Project URL

[https://dot.nebraska.gov\[@Url\]](https://dot.nebraska.gov[@Url])

Full Name

Gene Marshall

Email

gmarshall925@gmail.com

Address

715 12th St

City

Onawa

State

Iowa

Zip

51040

Comment

I use the bridge every night 5 days a week for commercial use. I

deliver to O'Reilly stores across northern Ne. Without the bridge I couldn't run my route in DOT allowed time. Basically without use of the bridge. My job cannot be done.



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Gene Marshall
715 12th St
Onawa, IA 51040

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Gene Marshall,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

NDOT recognizes the role the bridge plays in the local and regional economy and is evaluating alternatives that would provide a new bridge that would support travel across the river for residents and business purposes. The study team has heard from many people noting the adverse, out-of-direction travel required when the bridge is closed for short periods. Alternatives are being considered that would minimize the amount of time the crossing would be closed during construction.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Cc: bmccall@mccallauctions.com
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 12:41:19 PM

Form Results

Project

Decatur Bridge

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/decat-ur-bridge/>

Full Name

Brent McCall

Email

bmccall@mccallauctions.com

Address

814 17th Street

City

Onawa

State

Iowa

Zip

51040

Comment

Attending the Onawa, IA information meeting 8/28/2024, there are 2 options that I see. The blue or orange options of building directly north and south of the existing bridge. Tearing down the existing and building would be too much of an economic impact to the regional area to not have a bridge during that time period. All other options were be cost prohibited due to the infrastructure needed to make happen.

How satisfied are you with this project?

Somewhat satisfied



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Brent McCall
814 17th Street
Onawa, IA 51040

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Brent McCall,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment. NDOT recognizes the role the bridge plays in the local and regional economy and is evaluating alternatives that would provide a new bridge that would support travel across the river for residents and business purposes.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

STP- 51- 7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

We appreciate the process your boards are choosing to inform the public, the taxpayers, about the proposed project of the Decatur Bridge - And not just going ahead, it seems, as seen by Omaha's Downtown Project, w/o consideration of residents & business owners' views - (and Truckers, etc.) -

The Video explained things very well! The Maps were very helpful Visual Aids -

Mainly we use it for dining options. In Decatur & Tekamah NE - Visiting Relatives in Arcadia NE - Exercise Class, weekly in Decatur -

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Mitch and Vanda Carrier

Address:

609 7th Street

City, State, Zip:

Omaha, Iowa

51040

Phone:

712-870-1795

Email:

mitch.carrier1994@gmail.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Mitch and Wanda Carrier
609 7th Street
Onawa, IA 51040

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Mitch and Wanda Carrier,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Blue and orange are best options.
Both for local impact and for cost.

Removal and replacement of current bridge would
be the worst option both for business and
safety.

Placing the new bridge near the current
bridge would help to move the project forward on
a quicker time line.

The Nebraska Department of
Transportation (NDOT),
the Iowa Department of
Transportation (Iowa DOT) and
the Federal Highway
Administration (FHWA)
appreciate your input. Your
comments, questions, and
suggestions will be reviewed
by appropriate personnel.
Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☒

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Matt Connealy

Address:

2995 Old Hwy 118

City, State, Zip:

Decatur NE 68020

Phone:

402 616 3349

Email:

matt.connealy@gmail.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Matt Connealy
2999 Old Hwy 118
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Matt Connealy,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51- 7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

• For many reasons, the new bridge should be built on one or the other side of the current bridge (the blue or the orange route)

• Thank you Nebr. DOT and Iowa DOT for tackling this project and bringing the bridge up-to-date.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel.

Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☒

Name: (Please Print)

Judy Connealy

Address:

2999 Old Hiway 118

City, State, Zip:

Decatur, NE 68020

Phone: 402-307-0172

Email: schererj1@gmail.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Judy Connealy
2999 Old Hiway 118
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Judy Connealy,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

After observing the Map - the best
solution would be the blue line. We
need to keep traffic thru main street so
our businesses in Decatur do not suffer.

The Nebraska Department of
Transportation (NDOT),
the Iowa Department of
Transportation (Iowa DOT) and
the Federal Highway
Administration (FHWA)
appreciate your input. Your
comments, questions, and
suggestions will be reviewed
by appropriate personnel.
Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☒

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Russ. Loretha McCall

Address:

PO Box 277

City, State, Zip:

Decatur NE

68020

Phone:

712-420-3004

Email:

mcalls@mcallsauctions.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Russ and Loretta McCall
PO Box 277
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Russ and Loretta McCall,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County Nebraska, and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, the NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your concern regarding potential impacts to your irrigated land north of Decatur. Your preference to build a new bridge either north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment will also be considered.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Need to have a bridge

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print) _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear resident,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County Nebraska, and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51- 7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

I love bridges.

Nebraska & Iowa are my 2 favorite states!

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel.
Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☒

Name: (Please Print)

John Q. Citizen

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

John Q. Citizen

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear John Q. Citizen,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Prefer light blue route due to current H. way alignment,
and Purple

Current structure should remain on line
until proposed construction completed

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☒

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

GARY MOORE

Address:

25294 Co HWY L20

City, State, Zip:

Soldier IA 51572

Phone:

Email: gdmoores25294@gmail.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Gary Moore
25294 Co Hwy L20
Soldier, IA 51572

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Gary Moore,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team is considering new river crossing locations, some adjacent to the existing bridge, that could require the existing crossing to be closed for a short period of time to connect the new crossing to the existing roadway network. If a new bridge is built off the existing alignment, the design team will consider alternatives that would keep the existing bridge open to traffic until the new crossing is complete.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

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Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

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dot.nebraska.gov

STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

In my opinion the bridge should be rebuilt immediately to the north of the present structure - this would have the least impact on our small town -

Else where proposed would divert travelers from our "business district" which would ruin what business we have - also destroy our sewer plant - Several of the newer houses in town and our recreational parks

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☒

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

MarJean Hightree

Address: 300 E 11th St

City, State, Zip: Decatur NE 68020

Phone: 712.898-1610 Email: mhightree1@gmail.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

MarJean Hightree
300 E 11th St
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear MarJean Hightree,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment. Hardships on the local community and regional economy are being taken into consideration as the study team makes its decision.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

the Bridge Project is a very needed Asset. The Bridge is 75 plus years old but still in OK shape. the Bridge Built in the 1950 is the only way to connect the Commerce to both towns is a plus to both states. Our closest Hospital is only 6 miles away the Intertown is 5 miles away giving us a way to go to shopping. Jobs. & Income.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat Satisfied
☐

Very Satisfied
☒

Name: (Please Print)

Wynne High Tree

Address:

200 East 11th St.

City, State, Zip:

Decatur Ne 68020

Phone:

712-898-1614

Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Wayne Hightree
300 East 11th St
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Wayne Hightree,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

Hardships on the local community and regional economy are being taken into consideration as the study team makes its decision.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
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Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

As close to the existing bridge as possible.
on the north side, or south side if possible
any further away would effect jobs, health care,
and traffic coming through Decatur and to Omaha.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☒

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print) Della Kellogg
Address: 450 W. 11th St.
City, State, Zip: Decatur NE 68020
Phone: 402 349 5396 Email: none



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Della Kellogg
450 W. 11th St.
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Della Kellogg,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Please disregard 13th St. option. Our home was
just built 3 1/2 years ago on 1312 S. Broadway.

NOT PURPLE!

Keep in existing area! Won't effect
businesses!

The Nebraska Department of
Transportation (NDOT),
the Iowa Department of
Transportation (Iowa DOT) and
the Federal Highway
Administration (FHWA)
appreciate your input. Your
comments, questions, and
suggestions will be reviewed
by appropriate personnel.
Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Bruce & Tracy Nathan
Name: (Please Print)

Address: 1312 S Broadway

City, State, Zip: Decatur NE 68020

Phone: 402-870-1925 Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Bruce and Tracy Nathan
1312 S Broadway
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Bruce and Tracy Nathan,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your concern regarding potential impacts to your property along the 13th Street, purple alignment. Hardships on the local community and regional economy are being taken into consideration as the study team makes its decision.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Please don't put it on
our house I Love it
please & thank you

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very Dissatisfied Somewhat Dissatisfied Neutral Somewhat Satisfied Very Satisfied

Name: (Please Print) Jersey Nathan (Im 12!)

Address: 1312 S Broadway St

City, State, Zip: Decatur NE 68020

Phone: Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Jersey Nathan
1312 S Broadway St
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Jersey Nathan,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your concern regarding potential impacts to your property along the 13th Street, purple alignment. Hardships on the local community and regional economy are being taken into consideration as the study team makes its decision.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Route Green or blue.
Take out the Bridge is Okay with me

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☒

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Sean Conneally

Address:

2725 Old Hwy 118

City, State, Zip:

Decatur, NE. 68020

Phone:

402 349-5680

Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Sean Connealy
2725 Old Hwy 118
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Sean Connealy,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge in place on the green alignment or north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment. Replacement of the Decatur Bridge on the existing alignment would require the crossing to be closed to traffic for possibly two years or more. During that time, residents and business owners would be required to use the existing river crossings at Sioux City, Iowa or Blair, Nebraska to access homes and services in both Decatur and Onawa.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
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PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51- 7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Moving the Bridge out of it's original spot will hurt Decatur's small businesses, and just ~~even~~ the community in general. Our farmers also ~~are~~ use the bridge to keep them going as well. We need this bridge to keep Decatur alive not just Decatur but other small towns around.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied

Somewhat
Dissatisfied

Neutral

Somewhat
Satisfied

Very
Satisfied

Name: (Please Print)

Jackie Anderson

Address:

481 W 9th St

City, State, Zip:

Decatur NE 68020

Phone:

402-349-5266

Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Jackie Anderson
481 W 9th St
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Jackie Anderson,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge in the location of the existing bridge. Potential hardships to the local and regional economy will also be considered if a bridge was not available in Decatur.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

I believe Moving the bridge To the North would be a better idea. My concern is that Closing down the bridge will effect My bussness. Since I live in Decatur and Work in Omaha. but I do agree with replacement of the bridge.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☒

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Robbin Harrison

Address:

451 W 9th St

City, State, Zip:

Decatur NE 68020

Phone:

712-635-4562

Email:

—



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Robbin Harrison
451 W 9th St
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Robbin Harrison,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment. Potential hardships to the local and regional economy will also be considered if the existing bridge was not available for an extended period of time during construction.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

next
to Please keep the area's
economy thriving by
keeping the bridge location
where it currently exists

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print) _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear resident,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

The best option for us and our town is to keep the bridge close to where it is right now.

If traffic was to be routed around town, our town would eventually die out. A great percentage of the travelers stop at our businesses.

Most small towns don't have what we have, don't take that away from us.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Jeana McCulloch

Address:

613 N. Broadway

City, State, Zip:

Decatur NE 68020

Phone:

712-420-3134

Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Jeanea McCulloch
613 N. Broadway
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Jeanea McCulloch,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study. Alternatives are being considered that would provide a new bridge on alignments adjacent to the existing bridge without adding travel time or distance for travelers.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

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Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

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dot.nebraska.gov

STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Do not shut down current Bridge until
New bridge is complete

Any decision if acceptable but
would prefer route out of Decatur town
being preferred

The Nebraska Department of
Transportation (NDOT),
the Iowa Department of
Transportation (Iowa DOT) and
the Federal Highway
Administration (FHWA)
appreciate your input. Your
comments, questions, and
suggestions will be reviewed
by appropriate personnel.
Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☒

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Daryl Reicks

Address:

1102 15th St

City, State, Zip:

Omaha

Ia

51040

Phone:

712-420-1522

Email:

reicksdja@gmail.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Daryl Reicks
1102 15th St
Onawa, IA 51040

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Daryl Reicks,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to route traffic out of Decatur. If a new bridge is built off the existing alignment, the design team will consider alternatives that would keep the existing bridge open to traffic until the new crossing is complete.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

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STP- 51- 7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
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P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

The best option for a new bridge is
to go next to existing bridge

for ease of traffic
for business in the connecting towns
for lower expense on bridge by
tying in to existing road

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Chad McCulloch

Address:

Box 227

City, State, Zip:

DECATUR NE 68020

Phone:

712 420 0092

Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Chad McCulloch
PO Box 227
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Chad McCulloch,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
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sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

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STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

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402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

The Decatur Bridge has to stay where it is*. That said, the 1953 bridge, if it can be safely maintained, should stay in place as long as possible. If the 1953 bridge cannot be safely maintained, any new structure should "honor" the truss style of the 1953 bridge. Perhaps the solid deck should be replaced to "protect" the 1953 sub-structure. With the 1953 bridge condition now "better than average" maintain it and save taxpayer money.

* Any future Decatur bridge will run through the town on the existing right-of-way.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☒

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Rev. Gary Fugman

Address:

1506 Riverview Drive

City, State, Zip:

Decatur NE 68020

Phone:

402 349 1953 Email: fugman@abbnebraska.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Rev. Gary Fugman
1506 Riverview Drive
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Rev. Gary Fugman,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team is considering rehabilitation of the Decatur Bridge along with other options. Because of the condition of the existing bridge and the types of repairs needed to keep it serviceable, leaving the existing bridge in place may only support travel for a short period of time before the bridge may need to be closed to traffic. Replacing the open grate deck with a solid deck would add weight to the bridge, further limiting the vehicle loads the bridge could accommodate.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

I am interested in keeping traffic thru
Decatur business. Don't want new bridge
where existing one is and not closing present
one during project. present bridge must stay
open during project at new bridge.

The Nebraska Department of
Transportation (NDOT),
the Iowa Department of
Transportation (Iowa DOT) and
the Federal Highway
Administration (FHWA)
appreciate your input. Your
comments, questions, and
suggestions will be reviewed
by appropriate personnel.
Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☒

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print) DALE WOLF

Address: P.O. BOX 318

City, State, Zip: DECATUR, NE

Phone: 402-3495412 Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Dale Wolf
P.O. Box 318
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Dale Wolf,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study. The study team is considering new river crossing locations, some adjacent to the existing bridge, that could require the existing crossing to be closed for a short period of time to connect the new crossing to the existing roadway network. If a new bridge is built off the existing alignment, the design team will consider alternatives that would keep the existing bridge open to traffic until the new crossing is complete.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Can they use the old bridge for walking ^{bridge} or
bicycles?

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel.
Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☒

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Rene Larson

Address:

P.O. Box 274, 430 W. 10th St

City, State, Zip:

Decatur, NE 68020

Phone:

Email:

N/A



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Rene Larson
P.O. Box 274
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Rene Larson,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team is considering rehabilitation of the Decatur Bridge along with other options. A solid deck, railings, lighting, and other improvements to support bike/pedestrian use would be needed that would add weight to the bridge. Another entity outside of either DOT would be required to take ownership of the bridge and would be required to maintain it.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

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STP- 51- 7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
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Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

The Decatur Bridge should be built on the carteline you call Blue 80 feet North of present location.

1. This would allow clearance from city storm sewer line
2. Being north of the mouth of Elm Creek would be a benefit due to high flows causing scour at piers and from debris when creek has high flow it carries quite a few trees.
3. This town depends on traffic to support its businesses. It is critical it is not moved or that traffic is slowed down on the Nebraska approach

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very Dissatisfied Somewhat Dissatisfied Neutral Somewhat Satisfied Very Satisfied

Depend on alignment

Name: (Please Print) Larry Murphy

Address: 7015 Country Club Road

City, State, Zip: Omaha, NE 68152

Phone: _____ Email: larrylmurphy@aex.net



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Larry Murphy
7015 Country Club Road
Omaha, NE 68152

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Larry Murphy,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

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The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Cc: quinnebaugh@outlook.com
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 2:47:34 PM

Form Results

Project

Decatur Bridge

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/decaturn-bridge/>

Full Name

Ronni Ward

Email

quinnebaugh@outlook.com

Address

1951 County Road 39

City

Decatur

State

Nebraska

Zip

68020

Comment

Here are my choices for alternate bridge locations from first choice to last choice: First Choice: The Orange option just South close to the existing bridge. Least amount encroachment on private property. It will cross over into the DNR area. Second Choice: The Dark Blue option just north close to the existing bridge. Minimal impact on housing and private property. Third Choice: The Pink Option North just outside of town (240th St.). No houses or private

property would be impacted. Drawback is farmland would be impacted, also this option location is the widest part of the river crossing. Could potentially affect the wetlands. Fourth Choice: The Yellow option North of Decatur. Minimal impact on houses and private property. Draw back is part goes through the Indian Reservation and would cross over three bodies of water possibly requiring three separate bridges to be made and potential impact on wetlands and wild life. Fifth Choice, least viable option in my opinion: The Red option has impact on private property, there appears to be a vacant lot it would run through. Potential issues is the gas line that runs through the area, may impact the DNR land, wetlands and private farmland and potentially devalue an empty lot and create an increase in traffic where houses are currently located. Unacceptable Options: The Green option of rebuilding where the old bridge is, is unacceptable, it could be years before construction would be complete, this would isolate Decatur and surrounding areas from business opportunities, health and emergency care and family care etc. The Purple 13th Street and Light Blue 14th Street would remove people from their homes. Even if they were paid market value they would be hard pressed to find another decent house to afford in the surrounding area where the housing inventory is low, plus mental stress and disruption in family life.

How satisfied are you with this project?

Neutral



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Ronni Ward
1951 County Road 39
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Ronni Ward,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team recognizes different alignments may support different traveler needs and will consider your preference to build a new bridge south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment or north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment. Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study. If a new bridge is built off the existing alignment, the design team will consider alternatives that would keep the existing bridge open to traffic until the new crossing is complete.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

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PHONE 402-471-4567

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Comments on Decatur Bridge

Present highway traffic from the bridge does not now and has never interfered with our local city traffic; and local city traffic does not now and has never interfered with highway traffic. Decatur's bridge traffic does not go through the main business district. However, two Missouri River bridge traffic routes do go through their main streets. South Sioux City has bridge traffic route through town as does Blair.

Environmental issues are resolved with the present bridge due to its longevity and due to the environmental issues adapting to the present location. Wet lands and present bridge location are in harmony. Other route locations (excepting the immediate north and south proposed routes) would require extensive modifications and would be very costly.

Two routes proposed routes are north of Decatur – 1.35 miles and .5 miles. The hills north of Decatur are extremely high. These hills would have to be torn down to make them usable for the traffic. Also, Hwy 75 north of Decatur would have to be repaired or replaced. In addition, a location north of Decatur in the area of the two north proposed routes, is called the "High Banks". This area is mentioned in the Lewis and Clark Journals. Names from the past are on the "High Banks". The names and the "High Banks" need to be preserved. The excessive cost of tearing down hills and remaking that part of Hwy 75 would be prohibitive.

My home and yard abuts the creek that runs through part of Decatur. I live on the east side of the creek. Over the years I have lost 10 feet of my property to the creek. If the bridge were to be built south, in and past Decatur, the creek would have to be continuously stabilized to accommodate a bridge going over that creek. With the bridge being built just to the north or south of the present bridge, no traffic will have to pass over the creek.

Decatur is a small town that is vibrant and alive. We have no vacant houses, because as soon as a house is empty it is purchased. Thanks to the river and the bridge, Decatur is an entertainment center. People come for boating, water sports, hunting, fishing, camping, good eating, many cabins that are full practically all year, a marina, a basketball court designed by Eric Crouch, a splash park. In the summer the population nearly doubles. Decatur was voted by World Maps as a Most Charming River Town in Nebraska.

On a summer, Saturday evening, my husband and I took a drive around to all the towns in the county. The towns had 7 - 0 - 9 - and 4 vehicles on their main streets. When we got back to Decatur, we counted 56 vehicles with more coming all evening. The bridge and the river keep our businesses alive – they are the life-blood of Decatur.

According to the maps, it looks as if Decatur residents will be allowed quick access to Onawa's pharmacy, hospital, doctors, physical therapy. Without the 7 mi./ 7 min. trip to Onawa's medical facilities, we would have to travel 45 min to an hour to a hospital. The bridge has helped save many lives. When the bridge was closed due to a flood, Onawa's businesses lost 50% of their customers.

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2024

STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

RECEIVED

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

SEP 04 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Location for the new Decatur Bridge should be one of the two locations nearest the present bridge, either the one to the north or the one to the south. These two locations are best because:

- the locations are least expensive
- the locations have the least environmental impact
- the locations are best for Decatur and Onawa businesses and their futures
- the locations are best for the health and safety of Decatur residents.

PS. - Please do not use steel made in China.

I will need to see the finalized location

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☒

Somewhat Satisfied
☐

Very Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Bonnie Hennig

Address:

1323 S. Broadway St.

City, State, Zip:

Decatur, NE 68020

Phone:

402.349.5542

Email:

bonnie@nntc.net



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Bonnie Hennig
1323 S Broadway St
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Bonnie Hennig,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment. Information you provided regarding the local terrain, environmental issues, community amenities, and potential hardships to the local economy will also be considered.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

*This work really needs done. New build or rehab,
whatever makes the most sense, socially and financially
will work for me.*

*You can't underestimate the importance of this bridge,
in this place, to Decatur, Omaha and the surrounding region.*

*It took over 30 years to get this one built and with
private money to boot. Lets hope it doesn't take that
long to get it replaced.*

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2024

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☒

Name: (Please Print)

Mark Jackson

Address:

PO Box 10

City, State, Zip:

TEKOMAH, NE 68061

Phone:

402-533-3494

Email:

Mark.a.jackson1959@gmail.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Mark Jackson
PO Box 10
Tekamah, NE 68061

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Mark Jackson,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your comment regarding the importance of the Decatur bridge to the local community as they review feasible alternatives for an improved river crossing.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

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EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Concerned that you may be looking
at using some of the DLD property along the
existing highway -
We are very much opposed to selling
any of our property -
I feel there are other options!

Jack R Peterson
DLD Corp. member!

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2024

The Nebraska Department of
Transportation (NDOT),
the Iowa Department of
Transportation (Iowa DOT) and
the Federal Highway
Administration (FHWA)
appreciate your input. Your
comments, questions, and
suggestions will be reviewed
by appropriate personnel.

Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☒

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

JACK R PETERSON

Address:

1109 MONTAGUE ST

City, State, Zip:

DUNLAP, IA. 51529

Phone:

402-658-8432

Email:

None



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Jack R. Peterson
1109 Montague St
Dunlap, IA 51529

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Jack R. Peterson,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your concern regarding potential impacts to the DLD property along the existing alignment as they review feasible alternatives for an improved river crossing.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Of course, we all resist change to one degree or another, but change is definitely needed in the case of this bridge. It has served its purpose well for all these years and provides a vital link in Nebraska's middle eastern flank with Iowa. Personally, my wife and I travel this highway often crossing from our home near Tekamah into Iowa on trips to Wisconsin via Highway 20.

From a strictly "travelling-through" perspective, the light blue route is the most desirable for the motorist, whether in a light vehicle or a heavy truck, especially if this project were coupled with modification to the joining with Highway 51 which included a sizable round-about there.

But in the interest of local economics and the City of Decatur, I would favor the blue route. This would likely be the most reasonable cost wise, as it would not necessitate a completely new path for the roadway, the least amount on new ground acquisition, and new wetlands/environmental intrusions. It would also continue to benefit the local community with through-traffic and the consequent commerce which that provides.

This blue route also would not disturb the present Decatur Sewer Treatment plant. As a suggestion, the road under the bridge which services the businesses, etc. that are north of the bridge along the west bank of the river could be removed, and a road brought to them from the west as an extension of present 5th Street in Decatur. This would eliminate some bridge construction expense and complexity.

This bridge is vital to our surface transportation infrastructure both locally and nationally. In my perspective, as deeply involved in aviation infrastructure, I hope the best decision will be made which honors both local and national needs.

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2024

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat Satisfied
☐

Very Satisfied
☒

Name: (Please Print) MARK VAN DER HART, KTOE JOINT ZONING BOARD, CHAIRMAN

Address: 475 CR 35

City, State, Zip: TEKAMAH NE 68061

Phone: 402 699 0621 Email: mark@candracautomotive.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Mark Van Der Hart
475 CR 35
Tekamah, NE 68061

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Mark Van Der Hart,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team recognizes different alignments may support different traveler needs. Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

Want to keep it South or north as I go to
Green Lantun & the cemetery

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2024

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel.

Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☒

Name: (Please Print)

JUANITA Ueding

Address:

618 5th St

City, State, Zip:

ONAWA IA 51040

Phone:

712-423-0285

Email:

retiredju@gmail.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Juanita Veding
618 5th St
Onawa, IA 51040

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Juanita Veding,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

We really need our bridge to lower Decatur, work family, sports & other things. I think moving it North a little ways is the best. And keep the old bridge while the new one is being built.

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2024

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☒

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Brenda Sears

Address:

611 W 10th St.

City, State, Zip:

Decatur NE 68020

Phone:

402 870 0615

Email:

bsears0615@gmail.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Brenda Sears
611 W 10th St
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Brenda Sears,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment. Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study. If a new bridge is built off the existing alignment, the design team will consider alternatives that would keep the existing bridge open to traffic until the new crossing is complete.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP- 51- 7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

I would like the bridge to stay close to where it is currently located, preferably a new bridge right beside the current bridge.

It is important to have the bridge here, I go to the doctor in Omaha IA + get my medicine from Omaha as well.

Thank you for considering my comments. I am a long time resident of the community and have used this bridge for many years and appreciate the convenience.

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2024

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Joan Saxton

Address:

1308 S. 4th Ave.

City, State, Zip:

Decatur, Neb 68020

Phone:

402-348-2582

Email:

ksaxton@yahoo.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Joan Saxton
1303 S 4th Ave.
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Joan Saxton,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study. Alternatives are being considered that would provide a new bridge on alignments adjacent to the existing bridge without adding travel time or distance to access services in Onawa.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

I would like to see a new bridge built beside the old bridge, to the north side. Having the bridge remain in Decatur NE is vital to the village and residents who depend on that bridge to get to jobs, healthcare, pharmacy, groceries. I personally go to Onawa, Sioux City & Dakota Dunes weekly and depend on the bridge to get to doctor appointments, pharmacy needs & groceries. If the bridge ~~being~~ ^{was} moved away it would be detrimental to the aging population in Decatur and surrounding community.

In short, please consider leaving the bridge in Decatur and constructing a new bridge to the north side of current location. Thank you.

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2024

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☒

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print) Luann Saxton

Address: 1303 S. 4th AVE

City, State, Zip: Decatur NE 68020

Phone: 402-630-1563 Email: LKSAXTON@YAHOO.COM



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Luann Saxton
1303 S 4th Ave.
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Luann Saxton,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment. Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Cc: greg.heisterkamp@gmail.com
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Sunday, September 8, 2024 6:15:02 PM

Form Results

Project

Decatur Bridge

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/decat-ur-bridge/>

Full Name

Greg Heisterkamp

Email

greg.heisterkamp@gmail.com

Address

810 So. Shannon Dr

City

Sloan

State

Iowa

Zip

51055

Comment

Many choices. I like the idea of 80 feet north of existing bridge. The three choices south of the bridge 13th street, 14th street, and south by Hardsteel, must go through terrain that was made into a water fowl area. 3.2 Million was spend on that area by DNR. Much dirt would be needed to be hauled in. Using the 80ft north of current bridge choice, the current bridge could not be torn down while building the new. I use the bridge approximately 6+ times a week

during April thru October. Thank you.

How satisfied are you with this project?

Very satisfied



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Greg Heisterkamp
810 S Shannon Dr.
Sloan, IA 51055

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Greg Heisterkamp,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment and your concern regarding impacts the three most southern alignments would have on the natural environment. Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Cc: aljones1113@gmail.com
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 11:06:28 AM

Form Results

Project

Decatur Bridge

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/decaturo-bridge/>

Full Name

Allison Jones

Email

aljones1113@gmail.com

Address

1103 P Street

City

Tekamah

State

Nebraska

Zip

68061

Comment

My husband travels this bridge from Decatur to the coal plant near Salix, IA daily, twice a day and sometimes more if he gets called into work. We live in Tekamah, so this is the most convenient way for him to get to work. We also access Onawa very often for good and services. I am wanting to see the current bridge be placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a walking bridge. That being said, I am for an option of a new bridge being built, as long as we

have access to the old one until the new one is complete. Otherwise, we have to travel to South Sioux City or Missouri Valley to get to Iowa. Both of those options add an additional 40 minutes both ways to his commute. As far as which option is best, I think a path through the town of Decatur is best so this little town does not get bypassed. I would hate to see another small Nebraska town go by the wayside once again.

How satisfied are you with this project?

Somewhat dissatisfied



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Allison Jones
1103 P Street
Tekamah, NE 68061

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Allison Jones,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

As part of the study, NDOT recognized the travel challenges incurred when the existing Decatur Bridge is closed to traffic, requiring adverse and out-of-direction travel. The Decatur Bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The study team is considering rehabilitation of the Decatur Bridge along with other options. A solid deck, railings, lighting, and other improvements to support bike/pedestrian use would be needed that would add weight to the bridge. Another entity outside of either DOT would be required to take ownership of the bridge and would be required to maintain it. If a new bridge is built off the existing alignment, the design team will consider alternatives that would keep the existing bridge open to traffic until the new crossing is complete.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Cc: jarmstro77@gmail.com
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 2:11:07 PM

Form Results

Project

Decatur Bridge

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/decaturo-bridge/>

Full Name

Jane Armstrong

Email

jarmstro77@gmail.com

Address

1352 East 14th street

City

Decatur

State

Nebraska

Zip

68020

Comment

The high bank south of the bridge is where our property is located (.64 acre). We purchased this land in 1991. It was then and probably still is the only land: 1-out of the flood plane 2- not on leased property 3-city sewer and water 4-on a paved road It would be very difficult, if not impossible to find a similar property. We have spent quite a bit of money hauling broken concrete to help stabilize the bank. Please do not consider the south .36, .4 and .64 options as

you will not be able to find similar properties for us and you will be destroying one of the nicest areas in Decatur.

How satisfied are you with this project?

Somewhat satisfied



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Jane Armstrong
1352 East 14th Street
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Jane Armstrong,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

RECEIVED

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

SEP 12 2024

Looks like most logical crossing is the blue line, 80' north of present bridge. Truckers and town folks are used to it there. Very little change.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel.

Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☒

Somewhat Satisfied
☐

Very Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Address:

City, State, Zip

Phone: 712-259-5903

Email: arug@untc.net



461 W. 10th St



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Pat Ruge
PO Box 293
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Pat Ruge,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

RECEIVED

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

SEP 12 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

We attended the meeting in Decatur which gave lots of information. This bridge is vital to the communities for traffic flow back & forth. The doctor offices, hospital and pharmacy are very important otherwise we will be a desert like western Nebraska.

Our suggestion is building next to old bridge like what was done on the Blair bridge or do to the south part of town for the minimum of issues. ~~Don't~~ This is a small town with a traffic hub so if it will keep people here great otherwise some will just leave which is already a problem.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☒

Somewhat Satisfied
☐

Very Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Jim & Sylvia Thomas

Address:

1446 39 Road

City, State, Zip:

Decatur NE 68020

Phone:

Cell 712-259-3471

Email:

thomas-farms@outlook.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Jim and Sylvia Thomas
1446 39 Road
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Jim and Sylvia Thomas,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge on an alignment either next to the existing bridge or south of Decatur. Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

RECEIVED

SEP 13 2024

LEAVE THE BRIDGE IN DECATUR. I LIVE IN ONAWA AND
GO TO THE DECATUR SENIOR CENTER ALMOST EVERY DAY FOR LUNCH

The Nebraska Department of
Transportation (NDOT),
the Iowa Department of
Transportation (Iowa DOT) and
the Federal Highway
Administration (FHWA)
appreciate your input. Your
comments, questions, and
suggestions will be reviewed
by appropriate personnel.
Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

DEAN HINKEL

Address:

1017 11th ST. APT. 306

City, State, Zip:

ONAWA IA 51040

Phone:

Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Dean Hinkel
1017 11th St., Apt. 306
Onawa, IA 51040

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Dean Hinkel,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge on an alignment in Decatur.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

RECEIVED

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

SEP 13 2024

I was born & raised in Decatur. I moved away for college. Seven years ago my husband and I purchased my grandparents home & have been staying there every weekend - our intent is to retire there in the next 10 years, located in Decatur.

Changes to the bridge are clearly needed. Updates are necessary. For the Decatur community to continue to grow - it is imperative that the bridge approach remain on 7th Street. Bypassing Decatur would be a detriment to the village. Economically it will kill the few businesses we have that are already struggling in this economy.

I also wonder what impact we would see should we move to the Red, Light Blue or Purple routes. The main concern would be increased speed limit. As seen by the Wahoo bypass - this has been deadly for so many in their community.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☒

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print) Natalie Pounds
Address: 331 East 10th St
City, State, Zip: Decatur, NE 68020
Phone: 402-540-1816 Email: natsue87@nebr.com



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Natalie Pounds
331 East 10th St
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Natalie Pounds,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge on an alignment that directly connects to 7th Street in Decatur. Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study. The speed limit on a new bridge and the connecting roadways in both Iowa and Nebraska would remain the same as it is today.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov



STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

RECEIVED

SEP 13 2024

I believe it's best to leave the current bridge in place while the new bridge is being built.

Location^{of} the new bridge, in my opinion, should be 80' N or 80' South.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☒

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print)

Robert P. Sparks

Address:

P.O. Box 198

City, State, Zip:

Decatur, NE. 68020

Phone:

712-420-3140

Email:

1/9



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Robert P. Sparks
P.O. Box 198
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Robert P. Sparks,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment. If a new bridge is built off the existing alignment, the design team will consider alternatives that would keep the existing bridge open to traffic until the new crossing is complete.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Cc: jpmohr13@gmail.com
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Saturday, September 14, 2024 4:18:56 PM

Form Results

Project

Decatur Bridge

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/decaturn-bridge/>

Full Name

Patricia Mohr

Email

jpmohr13@gmail.com

Address

1514 Riverview Dr

City

Decatur

State

Nebraska

Zip

68020

Comment

I am a current resident of Decatur and live just south of the bridge. I've got a gorgeous view of the Decatur bridge and would hate to lose it. I understand the need to replace the existing bridge to handle vehicle traffic. Wherever they put the new bridge I do hope they consider keeping the existing historical bridge and convert it into a pedestrian bridge. That being said, my first preference for the replacement would be 500' north of the existing bridge. Otherwise,

my second choice would be 80' on either side of the existing bridge.
Patty Mohr

How satisfied are you with this project?

Neutral



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Patricia Mohr
1514 Riverview Dr.
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Patricia Mohr,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your order of preference to first build a new bridge 500 feet north of the existing bridge and second to build a new bridge just north or south of the existing bridge. The study team is considering rehabilitation of the Decatur Bridge along with other options. A solid deck, railings, lighting, and other improvements to support bike/pedestrian use would be needed that would add weight to the bridge. Another entity outside of either DOT would be required to take ownership of the bridge and would be required to maintain it. If a new bridge is built, the design team will consider alternatives that would keep the existing bridge open to traffic until a new crossing is complete.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Cc: elarms59@yahoo.com
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Sunday, September 15, 2024 6:22:22 AM

Form Results

Project

Decatur Bridge

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/decaturn-bridge/>

Full Name

Elmer Armstrong

Email

elarms59@yahoo.com

Address

1352 East 14th Street

City

Decatur

State

Nebraska

Zip

68020

Comment

Bridge should be built North, next to current bridge. A maximum of 2 homes would be needed for construction. Existing highway connections could be used. Other proposed routes would create dangerous highway crossings for residents of Decatur, with new bridge and surfacing, vehicle speeds will increase making crossing new highway risky. Our property is out of the floodplain with beautiful view and river access, all city utilities, we and our

neighbors would like to maintain our village valuation.

How satisfied are you with this project?

Somewhat dissatisfied



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Elmer Armstrong
1352 East 14th Street
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Elmer Armstrong,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment. Your concerns that other proposed alignments could increase vehicular speeds, create new unsafe intersections and impact property valuations in Decatur will also be considered.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 94759
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PHYSICAL ADDRESS

1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567

EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

From: [Russ McCall](#)
To: [Fisher, Sarah](#)
Subject: replacement of Decatur NE bridge
Date: Sunday, September 15, 2024 10:40:42 PM

You don't often get email from mccalls@mccallauctions.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

We are landowners north of Decatur NE bridge. We have noticed that one of the location possibilities for the new bridge would interfere with our irrigation system on about 500 acres of bottom land. Placing a bridge there would definitely be a economic issue for us. The value of the land would also decrease. Please take this into consideration when making your decision.

We feel the best solution is to keep the new bridge near the existing bridge which would continue to benefit Decatur.

Thank you for the meetings in both Onawa and Decatur NE. It was very informative.

Russ & Loretta McCall
Decatur NE



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Russ and Loretta McCall
PO Box 277
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Russ and Loretta McCall,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County Nebraska, and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, the NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your concern regarding potential impacts to your irrigated land north of Decatur. Your preference to build a new bridge either north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment or south of the existing bridge on the orange alignment will also be considered.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

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From: noreply@nebraska.gov
To: [NDOT, Public Involvement](#)
Cc: ward223@reagan.com
Subject: Comment Inquiry for Decatur Bridge
Date: Monday, September 16, 2024 3:07:14 PM

Form Results

Project

Decatur Bridge

Project URL

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/decatur-bridge/>

Full Name

Cannie Harold Ward, Jr

Email

ward223@reagan.com

Address

1951 County Road 39

City

Decatur

State

Nebraska

Zip

68020

Comment

The meeting on August 29th in Decatur was very informative. I just want to emphasize that of all the possible alternatives presented, building a new bridge just north of the existing bridge (blue route) is by far the best. Thank you.

How satisfied are you with this project?

Somewhat satisfied



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Cannie Harold Ward, Jr
1951 County Road 39
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Cannie Harold Ward, Jr,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge north of the existing bridge on the blue alignment.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

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STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
NDOT Public Involvement
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

As a farmer who owns farms land along 175
near the project area I see first hand the amount
of traffic that uses the bridge. It would be a tragedy
to lose that connection between Iowa + Nebraska. The proposed
routes will not impact me personally but as a practical and
logistical matter to me the route that connects 175 directly
to Highway 51 seems the most logical.

Thanks for the info and the opportunity to comment.

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2024

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☒

Name: (Please Print) David Hausman

Address: 24289 Filbert Ave

City, State, Zip: Onawa, Ia 51040

Phone: 712-420-2154 Email: dhausman@onawave.net



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

David Hausman
24299 Filbert Ave.
Onawa, IA 51040

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear David Hausman,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge on an alignment that connects IA-175 directly to N-51.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

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STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

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IT NEEDS TO BE REBUILT WHERE IT IS OR CLOSE
TOO. IT WITH IN 80 FEET

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2024

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☒

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print) JACK HUFFMAN

Address: 620 W 7TH ST

City, State, Zip: DECATUR NE 68020

Phone: 402 348 5159 Email: JACKHUFFMAN@TAT700



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Jack Huffman
670 W 7th St
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Jack Huffman,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge in the same location or just north or south of the existing bridge.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

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STP- 51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Please submit your written comments by September 16, 2024

Return to: Sarah Fisher
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Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov
402-479-3832 Office
402-479-3989 Fax

We live in a small community and we depend on that bridge everyday. We use the businesses in Osawa, Ia, the hospital and the drug store. I feel if you move the bridge farther away will stop the traffic coming into town which will make us like a "Ghost Town". We do not want to lose the businesses that serve our community to other towns in the area. Why would anyone want to move ~~here~~ into our town, as it is we bus our kids to another town because we did not have enough kids in school. Just build the bridge on or beside the that exists now.

Thank You

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2024

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciate your input. Your comments, questions, and suggestions will be reviewed by appropriate personnel. Thank you for your participation.

What is your overall satisfaction with the proposed project?

Very
Dissatisfied
☐

Somewhat
Dissatisfied
☐

Neutral
☐

Somewhat
Satisfied
☐

Very
Satisfied
☐

Name: (Please Print) Helen K. Huppman

Address: 670 W. 7th St

City, State, Zip: Decatur, Ne 68020

Phone: Email:



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Helen K. Huffman
670 W 7th St.
Decatur, NE 68020

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Helen K. Huffman,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider your preference to build a new bridge in the same location or just north or south of the existing bridge. Potential hardships to residents and the Decatur community are being considered in the study.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
Public Involvement Specialist
Nebraska Department of Transportation
402-479-3832
sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

Department of Transportation

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From: [Renteria, Mitchell G](#)
To: [Fisher, Sarah](#)
Cc: [Greiner, Matthew](#); [Hinz, Erika](#); [Trenne, Ben](#); [Pitts, Luke](#); [NGPC EnvReview](#); [Rolland, Ruby](#); [Stansberry, Brooke](#)
Subject: Decatur Bridge; STP-51-7(109); 2024-0002785; CN32395 USFWS Comments
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 10:57:59 AM

You don't often get email from mitchell_renteria@fws.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning Sarah,

Based upon the provided materials for the Decatur Bridge (2024-0002785) Feasibility Study and August 29, 2024, Public meeting, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing the following comments.

For consistency and streamlining, the Service would encourage this project to utilize the established processes and procedures that have been developed with the Federal Highway Administration and the Nebraska Department of Transportation per our agency Programmatic Agreement for ESA Section 7 consultation. These procedures include compliance with not only ESA, but also the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Utilizing these established procedures should assist the project in identifying species of concern potentially within the action area as well as other wildlife that may be impacted/or benefit from certain parts of the action. The Service can provide further comments once an assessment of impacts from the universe of alternatives have been discussed.

At this time, the Service would identify the largest impact potential to be in relation to suitable habitat removal that could affect listed bats or bats that have a potential to become listed by the time of construction as well as impacts to the pallid sturgeon due to in channel construction. Furthermore, removal of forested/grassland habitats could be of concern in relation to migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and therefore, should be addressed in consultation documents and the developing environmental assessment.

In relation to the universe of alternatives proposed in the August 29, 2024, public meeting and on the NDOT website, the Service recommends the selection of the best alternative that supports the purpose and need of the project, but also avoids and minimizes impacts to environmental resources to the greatest extent practicable including impacts to wetlands/water resources and threatened or endangered species. If unavoidable impacts are to occur, the standard process of compensation for such impacts should be assessed in coordination with the resource agencies.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this project. As further details or narrowing of the alternatives being carried forward occurs, the Service will be able to discuss and recommend avoidance and minimization measures more specifically for impacts to public trust resources including listed species and their habitats. Please continue to coordinate as new information becomes available.

Thank you and have a great day!

Mitch Renteria
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Nebraska Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9325 B South Alda Road
Wood River, Nebraska 68883
Cell: 720-930-8734
Office/Teams: 308-251-6848
Mitchell_Renteria@fws.gov

Duty Station:
Nebraska Department of Transportation
1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502



Jim Pillen, Governor

November 8, 2024

Mitch Renteria
Nebraska Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9326 B South Alda Road
Wood River, NE 68883

RE: STP-51-7(109) Decatur Bridge; CN 32395

Dear Mitch Renteria,

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appreciates your input concerning the proposed improvements to the existing crossing of Nebraska Highway 51 (N-51)/Iowa Highway 175 (IA-175) over the Missouri River commonly referred to as the Decatur Bridge in Burt County, Nebraska and Monona County, Iowa.

Based on the analysis conducted and in consideration of the input received from stakeholders and the public, NDOT and Iowa DOT have determined the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a resilient river crossing connecting Decatur, Nebraska/N-51 and Onawa, Iowa/IA-175 that maintains access to regional commerce, employment, education, health care, and recreation facilities; maintains accessibility to and by emergency services; and provides infrastructure to support current and future travel demand. The project is needed to maintain connectivity for Decatur and Onawa residents with services on both sides of the river, improve the infrastructure condition to address the existing bridge condition and design deficiencies and improve resiliency against flooding to address forecasted flood frequency and intensity, infrastructure stability and system reliability.

The study team will consider alternatives that support the purpose and need of the project and avoid or minimize impacts to environmental resources as the study continues. As this is a federally aided project, this project will use the established processes and procedures that have been developed with FHWA and NDOT per the agency Programmatic Agreement for ESA Section 7 consultation.

Thank you for your participation. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fisher
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Nebraska Department of Transportation
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sarah.fisher@nebraska.gov

Vicki Kramer, Director

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