<u>Highway35</u>

Corridor Study and Environmental Impact Statement Public Information Meeting
Scoping Newsletter
June 2002

WELCOME

Thank you for taking the time to get involved in the scoping process associated with the Nebraska Highway 35 corridor improvement study.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Provide the public and various State and Federal agencies with an overview of the study process.
- Provide information on the general area of impact associated with corridor alternatives.
- Obtain input from the public and agencies regarding concerns/issues associated with the various corridor alternatives.
- · Provide information on the study schedule.

Study Background

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR), in cooperation with the Federal Administration (FHWA), is studying impacts/benefits of providing a four-lane divided highway between Norfolk and South Sioux City, The proposed project study area Nebraska. includes Madison, Stanton, Wayne, Dixon and Dakota Counties and is adjacent to Thurston County.

The proposed action is to improve a 70-mile corridor of Nebraska Highway 35 (N-35) that extends from the US Highway 275 / Nebraska Highway 35 / Nebraska Highway 24 intersection in Norfolk to South Sioux City. The study area is shown in the figure on Page 2.

Study Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Nebraska Highway 35 (N-35) project is to provide a four-lane improved roadway connection between Norfolk and South Sioux City. The facility would also offer improved access between northeast Nebraska and other regional and national destinations.

The proposed N-35 project is intended to:

- Improve mobility and accessibility within and through the region
- Improve safety
- Provide a cost-effective transportation solution
- Provide a transportation solution that minimizes environmental impacts

The proposed N-35 project is needed to complete a transportation system connection for the region. The role that the NE 35 corridor plays in the region is predicted to change as the result of upgrading to four-lane expressways the following roadways:

- US 81 between Norfolk and the Kansas State Line. South of the state line, Kansas is also improving US 81 to a four-lane expressway.
- US 75 and State Highway 60 from Sioux City, Iowa to Minneapolis, Minnesota
- US 20 between Sioux City, Iowa and Chicago, Illinois
- US 151 between Dubuque, Iowa and Madison, Wisconsin

Upgrading the N-35 corridor to a four-lane divided highway would provide enhanced system continuity in the region.

