

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE MEETING
STP-66-7(119) *N-66 Connection in Louisville; C.N. 22795*

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) will hold a public information open house meeting regarding the proposed elimination of the discontinuous section of Nebraska Highway 66 (N-66) in Louisville between the intersection of West 5th Street and Main Street on the west side of town to the intersection of Walnut Street and 5th Street/Koop Avenue near the town center.

Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025
Time: 5 - 7 p.m.
Location: Louisville Public Schools, 202 West 3rd Street, Louisville, NE 68037

Identified as ***N-66 Connection in Louisville***, the proposed project would start at the N-66/Nebraska Highway 50 (N-50) and 5th Street intersection and extend east to the N-66 and Maple Street intersection. Work would occur to realign Walnut Street north of 2nd Street by the Ash Grove Cement Company. Additionally, the project would include the proposed closure of three at-grade Union Pacific Railroad crossings: the consolidation of two crossings on Walnut Street into a single crossing, the crossing at 6th Street in Louisville, and the crossing at Mill Road about three miles south of town.

The purpose of the proposed project is to preserve the transportation asset, improve the reliability of the transportation system and perpetuate the mobility of the traveling public. The need for this project is the circuitous route which currently allows heavy traffic through the downtown streets of the town.

Proposed improvements would consist of constructing a new roadway and pedestrian facilities between Main Street and Walnut Street, including a new bridge spanning Mill Creek. It would also include closing three at-grade railroad crossings and removing two sidetracks in order to construct a signalized at-grade railroad crossing along the new segment of 5th Street/N-66. The Walnut Street and 2nd Street intersection would be realigned. A signalized railroad crossing would be installed on Walnut Street near Ash Grove Cement Company. A southbound left-turn lane and northbound right-turn lane would be added on N-66/N-50 at the intersection with 5th Street. The existing roadway would be resurfaced and rehabilitated.

The proposed project would require the acquisition of additional property rights, which could include new right-of-way (ROW), control of access (CA), permanent easements (PE) and/or temporary easements (TE). Residential relocations are anticipated. If your property is impacted by this project, you will be contacted by a representative once the design footprint has been established. Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction but may be limited at times due to phasing requirements.

The majority of this project would be constructed primarily under traffic with lane closures controlled by appropriate traffic control devices and practices; however, a detour would be required, and temporary traffic signals may be used during construction to accommodate the work. The intersection/curve between N-66 and Walnut Street would temporarily close to facilitate attaching the new road section to the existing system. A detour would be provided utilizing Walnut Street, 4th Street and Maple Street for approximately one month. Access to the properties on 5th Street between Main Street and the new bridge would be limited for up to three

months to accommodate construction. Walnut Street by Ash Grove Cement Company would also temporarily close. No detour would be provided. The realignment work on Walnut Street – which would close access to N-50 – would not take place simultaneously with the N-66/5th Street work. Since 4th Street lacks sidewalks, a pedestrian detour would be provided utilizing 3rd Street and Maple Street. A detour for truck traffic would be provided utilizing US-34, N-50 and N-66.

Historic properties have been identified but no impacts are anticipated. Work would be required in the waterway. Wetland and/or other water resource impacts are anticipated and would be mitigated as required.

Construction could begin as early as fall of 2026 and be completed in late fall of 2027.

This meeting is being held to provide information regarding the proposed project and to receive public input. Those interested are invited to attend and present relevant comments and questions. Design information will be displayed and NDOT personnel will be present to answer questions and receive comments. The information “open house” format allows the public to come at any time during the advertised hours, gather pertinent information about the project, speak one-on-one with project personnel and leave as they wish. No formal presentation is planned for this meeting.

NDOT will make every reasonable accommodation to provide an accessible meeting facility 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 May 22, 2025.

The public is being encouraged to make suggestions or express concerns regarding this proposed project. Comments will be collected through June 16, 2025. Written comments or requests should be submitted to: Sierra Luhn, NDOT Public Involvement Specialist, PO Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759; sierra.luhn@nebraska.gov; voice telephone 402-479-3103; fax 402-479-3989.

Information regarding the proposed project is available at www.ndot.info/22795. For those without internet access, information may be obtained through the contact above or at NDOT Headquarters: 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, NE 68502.

For more information, contact: Thomas Goodbarn, NDOT District 2 Engineer, at thomas.goodbarn@nebraska.gov or 402-595-2534.