



## Mississippi Drive Improvements City Council/Public Hearing October 15th, 2015



**Welcome** to the Public Hearing for the Mississippi Drive improvements project sponsored by the City of Muscatine. The purpose of this hearing is to present the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Section 4(f) Statement for the project study area and gather feedback from the public about the project and the documents.

The Mississippi Drive Improvements Project is an improvement effort with a long history in this community. In 2010 the City of Muscatine, Iowa DOT, and the FHWA authorized an Environmental Study and Preliminary Engineering/Design for the Mississippi Drive corridor from Main Street to Norbert F. Beckey Bridge in Muscatine. One of the City of Muscatine's goals is to revitalize Mississippi Drive to relieve flooding, improve aesthetics along the riverfront, and make the corridor friendlier to pedestrians. Another goal of the city is to improve the safety of Mississippi River Drive at the Green Street Intersection. The Environmental Study involves the Environmental Assessment document under review tonight. In 2012, the City requested Stanley Consultants to prepare a Draft and Final Section 4(f) Statement. The Section 4(f) Statement documents the impacts of the proposed improvements of Mississippi River Drive on the TeStrake Building (also known as the Puritan Ice Company Building). In 2014, the City asked Stanley Consultants to provide architectural photo documentation of the Puritan Ice Company to support the Section 4(f) Statement. The Draft Section 4(f) Statement will also be reviewed tonight.

### Public Hearing Format

The Public Hearing will be conducted using a City Council Meeting format beginning at 7:00 pm with a short public presentation. Interested individuals may express their views and ask questions.

The City encourages participants to express your views concerning the proposed project in one or more of the following ways:

- Individual discussions with the project team in attendance.
- Individual oral statements during the formal statement period immediately following the project presentation.
- Written statements submitted at the hearing, using the form provided.
- Written statements submitted after the hearing. Those received by the end of the EA comment period (November 2nd, 2015) will become part of the public hearing transcript.

### Environmental Assessment

The Mississippi River Drive Improvements Project has been undergoing evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Draft Section 4(f) Statement were recently completed and are being presented at this public hearing.

The EA analyzes the anticipated impacts of improving the corridor. The proposed improvements would provide a travel lane in both directions with several left-turn variations throughout the corridor including a two-way left-turn lane, a mountable center median, channelized left-turn lanes with non-mountable medians, and an alternative configuration for the Carver Corner intersection. The EA focuses on key issues of concern along the proposed route, including (but not limited to) property impacts and acquisition of right-of-way, traffic noise, trail impacts, wetland impacts, and historical and archaeological impacts.

## Mississippi Drive Improvements

The Mississippi Drive corridor traverses 1.6 miles of Downtown Muscatine. Key features of the proposed improvements include the following:

- Proposing a road diet of a 5 lane roadway to a 3 lane roadway with a two-way left-turn lane in some areas to help make the corridor more pedestrian friendly.
- Proposing an alternate configuration to the intersection of Green Street and Mississippi Drive.

## Environmental Considerations

The EA and Draft Section 4(f) Statement were completed in September 2015.

In addition, the EA and Draft Section 4(f) Statement are available for review at the following locations:

Stanley Consultants 225 Iowa Avenue Muscatine, IA 52761 (563) 264-6600	City of Muscatine City Hall 215 Sycamore Street Muscatine, IA 52761 (563) 264-1550
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The potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the Preferred Alternative were evaluated in the EA/Draft 4(f) Statement and are summarized in the following table:

Resource	Potential Impact
New Right-of-Way (acres)	0 (Mississippi Drive Improvements), 3.8 (Carver Corner Intersection)
Wetlands (acres)	None
Floodplains	No substantial impact to FEMA 100-year floodplain elevation, but could involve filling for the raising of road profile
Parklands and Recreational Areas	None
Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	Temporary Impact During Construction, Improved Pedestrian Safety After
Transportation	Flood detour occurrence reduced for corridor
Economic	Access for development in downtown Muscatine
Wildlife habitat	None
Threatened and Endangered Species	No impact to Federally listed species
Historic Sites or Districts	Impacts to Historic Site; MOA developed to mitigate adverse effects

**Changes to the Running River Trail – Hershey Avenue Access Trail** – The existing Running River Trail will have improved pedestrian safety at the intersection of Green Street and Mississippi River Drive after the proposed intersection realignment is completed.

## Project Schedule

Following is a summary of the project schedule. All tasks ahead of tonight's Public Hearing have been completed. Final decision documentation and preliminary design documents will be produced following tonight's proceedings.

## Project Schedule (continued)

Data Collection/Preliminary Agency Coordination	Late 2010 – Early 2011
Public Information Meeting #1	Mid 2011
Preliminary Roadway Improvement Alternatives Development	Mid 2011 – Late 2011
Public Information Meeting #2	Late 2011
EA/4(f) preparation and agency review	Early 2012 – Mid 2015
Public Hearing	October 2015
FONSI and Final 4(f)	Estimated 3 - 5 month duration

## Right-of-Way

As part of the proposed improvements, additional right-of-way will be required. The following paragraphs provide information regarding the right-of-way process followed by the Iowa DOT. Please keep in mind that specific detailed right-of-way needs have not been identified at this time.

Iowa DOT policy provides for appraisal of property and/or property rights needed for each project. Professional techniques and methods are used to determine "just compensation" in accordance with federal and state constitutions, laws, and regulations. Appraisals are prepared to assure fair treatment for both the property owner and the public.

After completing the appraisal, a right-of-way agent contacts each owner to explain the plans and appraisals and negotiate the contract for the required right-of-way. If agreement cannot be reached through negotiations, the property may be acquired by the laws of eminent domain.

The State of Iowa's acquisition and relocation program is conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-646), as amended by the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987. Relocation resources are provided to all residential and business relocates, without discrimination.

If you are required to move as a result of a roadway construction project, whether an owner or tenant, you are eligible for relocation assistance advisory services. You may be eligible for moving assistance, supplemental replacement housing payments, and reimbursement for certain expenses incurred in purchasing replacement housing.

## Contact Us

Now is an appropriate time to provide input which will be added to the public record and we encourage you to do so. There are several options available:

- *At this Public Hearing: formal statements following the project presentation or written comments (please use the attached Comment Form).*
- *Written correspondence. Mail to: Barbara Veal, P.E., Stanley Consultants 225 Iowa Avenue, Muscatine, Iowa 52761*
- *Email: [VealBarbara@StanleyGroup.com](mailto:VealBarbara@StanleyGroup.com)*

***Thank you for your participation!***



# City of Muscatine

## Citizen Comments

### Mississippi Drive Improvements

I ( do  do not  )

**desire a response.**

Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Written statements received by November 2, 2015, will be included in the public meeting summary.**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The information which you give may be printed and/or distributed. You are not required to provide any information, unless you request a response to your comments.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_