

APPENDIX E

**PUBLIC MEETING/OPEN HOUSE RECORD
DECEMBER 11, 2008**

SD Department of Transportation
Public Meeting/Open House Summary

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

The following individuals represented the South Dakota Department of Transportation:

Kevin Tveidt
Deputy Secretary

Joel Jundt , Director
Division of Planning & Engineering

Tim Bjorneberg, Program Manager
Office of Project Development

Mike Behm, Asst. Director
Division of Planning & Engineering

Terry Keller
Engineer Supervisor

Mark Leiferman, Program Manager
Office of Road Design

Kevin Goeden, Program Manager
Office of Bridge Design

John Foreman
Pierre Region Engineer

Jim Hyde
Pierre Area Engineer

Rick Gordon
Engineering Supervisor

Steve Hoff
HDR

Andy Jackson
ROW Supervisor

Andy Vandel
Transportation Planning Engr.

Alice Whitebird
Environmental Sr. Scientist

June Hansen, Specialist
Civil Rights Program

A combination Notice of Public Meeting/Open House and Notice of Approval of Environmental Assessment for Public Availability was published in the Capital Journal on December 1, and December 8, 2008 (Figure 1).

On December 11, 2008, the Public Meeting/Open House was held at the Kings Inn in Pierre, SD. The purpose of the meeting was to update the public on the proposed project's preferred alternative. Discussions were held on the pros and cons of the five options considered. The rationale for choosing Option D as the preferred alternative (construct a grade separated overpass at Polk Avenue – Figure 2) was also discussed. An artist's rendition of the overpass was displayed at the meeting. (See Figure 3.) The project's Environmental Assessment was made available to the public.

Sixty-eight (68) people attended the meeting. Ten (10) written comment letters were received and DOT responses to comments were provided. (See attached letters.)

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

Overview of Informal Verbal Comments Received at the Public Meeting

- Various comments and concerns were expressed regarding funding of the proposed project:
 - What will the City do if it doesn't get the additional funding it is seeking? Mayor Gill responded that the City would continue to look for other funding sources.
 - What can the existing \$6 million earmarked funds be used for if additional funding does not come through?
 - If the additional funding does not come through, can the \$6 million be used to create a whistle free zone through Pierre?
- Concern was expressed about what effect the new overpass would have on drainage at the end of Polk. DOT and City staff responded that drainage would remain the same or improve with this project
- Concerns expressed about replacing existing approaches. Some businesses need more than one approach to allow delivery trucks to enter and exit.
- The preferred alternative will be safer and better for traffic flow and will benefit economic development in Pierre
- Will Wells Avenue continue to be a five lane section or will it be re-stripped?

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
 Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

SIGN-IN

Name: (PLEASE PRINT)	Address: (PLEASE PRINT)
1. Tim Bjornberg	802 N Madison Pierre SD
2. Brock Wallman	112 Marie Rd. Pierre S.D.
3. Marc Hoelscher	909 Cambridge Dr.
4. Eric Severson	1813 E Park
5. Katie Duenwald	424 S Taylor
6. Andy Vandell	SDDOT
7. Bob Granga	
8. Don + Nina Fromm	1109 E. Dakota
9. John Forman	104 S. Garfield
10. Jim Hyde	104 S. Garfield
11. Kevin Goeden	112 Capitol Hill Dr.
12. Tom Pearson	982 East Sioux
13. BECKI POTRZEBA	1315 E Wells Ave.
14. Mark Leiferman	SDDOT
15. Carmen Zeigler	229 N Madison Ave.
16. John Childs	City of Pierre
17. SCOTT CARBONNEAU	CITY OF PIERRE
18. Jason Bernth	1020 East Sioux Ave
19. Ryan Huke	2401 E Humboldt
20. Stan OLSON	306 S. Pawnee Pierre
21. Mike Kogelman	2107 Antelope st
22. Rick Kaiser	208 N-ADAMS PIERRE
23. Jeddie Adamski	29550 206th St Pierre
24. T. Schaefer	815 EAST WELLS AVE. PIERRE
25. Bob Ten Eyck	703 Bridgview "

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
 Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

SIGN-IN

Name: (PLEASE PRINT)	Address: (PLEASE PRINT)
1. Terry Keller	700 E. Broadway Pierre
2. Leon Schochenmaier	222 E Dakota, Pierre,
3. Alice Whitebird	SDDOT
4. Richard Smith	307 S. Van Buren Ave -
5. Gary Bartels	710 W. Dak. Pierre
6. Will Smith	327 Jackson Ave Pierre
7. Tony Mangr KCCA	909 N. Euclid Pierre
8. Kevin Tveit	700 E. Broadway Pierre
9. Mike Belin	" "
10. Chad Feyer	209 S. Adams Pierre
11. Rick Gordon	DOT 104 S. Garfield Ave. Pierre
12. Marnie Tessier (Otto)	909 E. Erskine Pierre
13. Phyllis Hoyer	202 S. Washington, Pierre
14. Jody Wegner	330 E. Sioux Pierre
15. Ron Puskapile	115 N. Hwy Pierre
16. Rhonda Puskapile	" " "
17. Carey Smalley	218 W. Sioux Pierre
18. Andy Jackson	DOT ROW
19. Bill Johnston	103 Rockford Rd Pierre
20. Bob Parsons	Box 609 Pierre
21. Vern Bump	823 W 3rd Pierre
22. Mike Mueller	310 S. Polk Ave
23. Holly Hony	1450 E. Sioux
24. Joel Jurd	
25. CRAIG SMITH	DIERKE

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
 Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

SIGN-IN

Name: (PLEASE PRINT)	Address: (PLEASE PRINT)
1. Mary + Kevin Savaris	403 S Polk
2. Phyllis SARDIE	424 So. Polk
3. Mark Williams	1011 East Sioux
4. Rene McMichere	Pierre
5. Colleen Weiss	110 Lakeside Lane
6.)	
7. Saleem, Norman	
8. Tom Males	302 Jambesen Dr., Ft. Pierre
9. Rusty Westall	104 N Tyler Pierre
10. Kainer Westall	104 N Tyler Pierre
11. MARK Rilling	24657 LAkeview Place Pierre
12. Larry + Hazel Melvin	1011 Wells Ave Pierre
13. John Hansen	SDDOT
14. Steve Hoff	HDR
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PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

SIGN-IN

Name: (PLEASE PRINT)	Address: (PLEASE PRINT)
1. Ron Woodburn	623 N. Jackson, Pierre
2. Brett Wheelhouse	916 woodridge Dr. Pierre
3. JJ Linn	1325 E SIOUX
4. Tara L. Adamski	1801 E. Wells Ave Pierre
5. IMRAN SALEM	815 E. WELLS AVE
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PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

SIGN-IN

Name: (PLEASE PRINT)	Address: (PLEASE PRINT)
1. Lu + Vennie Heibel	1120 E. Park Pierre
2. Eileen Grant	1814 Bunting Place Pierre
3. [Signature]	2001 E. Humboldt Ave
4. NATHY L. WEISS	110 Lakeside Ln Pierre
5. Nick Osterkamp	1209 E. Sioux Ave Pierre
6. Larry Iverson	2006 E Franklin Pierre
7. Gary WATZEL	Box 546 Pierre
8. Don Zell	Pierre
9. LARRY MILLS	6095 Yucca Dr Pierre SD 57501
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WRITTEN COMMENTS

Public Information Meeting

December 11, 2008

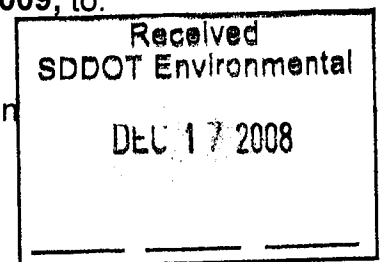
EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

We are concerned with the proposed redesigned NE corner of Washington and Wells Ave. The traffic entering Washington from Westbound Wells Ave will be at an increased speed because of the angle of the corner. There are 2 residences in the 200 block of S. Washington with driveways very close to the corner and we are concerned about backing onto Washington when vehicles would be coming around that corner at increased speeds. There are also a lot of pedestrians crossing at this intersection going to the Fresh Start - Checkers convenience store. We would like to suggest an all-way stop at this intersection when it is redesigned.

Name: Casey : Phyllis Hoffrezer Date: 12/13/08
Address: 208 S. Washington, Pierre, SD 57501

Comments should be submitted by **January 2, 2009**, to:

Terry Keller, Engineer Supervisor
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-2586



WRITTEN COMMENTS

Public Information Meeting

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

(Comments regarding Hospice Thrift Store property -1150 E. Sioux

Option # 3 - removes both access points and puts retaining wall directly in front of building. Thrift store has a large volume of donor and customer traffic daily. This option also blocks in the AMR building. That building was constructed for them & would be a financial hardship for hospice to renovate for other use. Should they be forced to relocate.

all options impact our customer parking which is already insufficient

option #4 - has the least impact on our property and it appears on most others as well. Loss of onstreet parking is a concern - and depending on the amount of easement we could also lose our front parking - loss of 10-15 spots total.

Name: Haley Hong Date: 12/17/08

Address: Countryside Hospice Inc 200 E. Dakota Suite 1

Pierre SD
57501

Comments should be submitted by January 2, 2009, to:

Terry Keller, Engineer Supervisor
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-2586

WRITTEN COMMENTS

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December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

I am hopeful we (city) can find funds to assist in building the Proj in less than 15 yrs.

TEHV -
Excellent format and presentation on this Proj. I feel the proposed concept is workable. It was good to have a citizens committee input. A trucker visited w/me regarding concern w/the grade from the separation to the signal. Concern - Ability to stop on a 3.5%+ grade.

Good Job

Name:

LARRY L. WEISS

Date:

12/17/08

Address:

150 Wakeside Ln

PIERRE

Comments should be submitted by January 2, 2009,

Received
SDDOT Environmental
DEC 18 2008

Terry Keller, Engineer Supervisor
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-2586

Tom P. Maher

From: Tom P. Maher [tpm.maherlaw@midconetwork.com]
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2008 8:54 AM
To: 'Keller Terrence (Terry.Keller@state.sd.us)'
Cc: 'Darren & Lana Chase (chase@mncomm.com)'; 'JJ Linn (jj@linnrealestate.com)'; 'Rick & Sharon Kaiser (ferleyjewelers@qwest.net)'; 'Terry & Katie Johnson (ktjohnson@pie.midco.net)'; 'Terry Johnson (tjohnson.us@midconetwork.com)'; 'Tom & Kristie Maher (Home) (maher@pie.midco.net)'; 'Tom P. Maher (tpm.maherlaw@midconetwork.com)'
Subject: Pierre S-Curve Overpass Project
Contacts: Keller Terrence

To: Terry Keller, SDDOT Engineer Supervisor
From: Orion Partnership, LLP (residential property at Sioux & Jackson)
Date: December 22, 2008
Re: Pierre S-Curve Overpass Project (EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY)

As landowners and residents we prefer an overpass that begins in the area of Polk and Wells and ends before Sioux's intersection with Harrison. It makes very good sense, because the railroad and the city property necessary for the overpass is not fully developed yet, as a result it will significantly reduce impacts on the real estate in the area. Also, we agree that it is the better of the alternative overpass plans because the elevation of the current highway in the area of Polk is higher, than at the Harrison intersection or elsewhere between Harrison down to the current S-curve. A design at Polk should require less dirt work, because the highway is higher relative to the existing rail.

Much of landowners' concern relates to uncertainties. Uncertainty as to what the impact of the project will be upon their property, their business, and the traffic flow in the community. There should be a review to determine whether a signal light is necessary at the new intersection of Washington and Sioux. Changing Sioux from a city street to a primary state highway will also require work and resources, regards impacts on landowners and safety issues, as both sides of Sioux are by and large developed with both commercial properties and residential housing throughout the length of the project. Naturally, when the time is right, we would like to here more information as to how this project will specifically impact our property. At this point, we understand it's still in the planning and "options" stage.

If the "Polk Overpass" option is determined the best route, when can landowners expect to be informed about how this proposed project will impact their property? Will there be updates, once a route and design is selected?

We understand that the railroad may desire eliminate crossings. There's only three crossings along the entire project area. The crossings at Washington and Monroe should not be eliminated. As landowners and users of the roads, we know that this RR crossing on Monroe and Washington serves an important benefit to surrounding properties and the residents commuting from one side of Pierre to the other. The overpass, of course, "eliminates" a crossing and provides the additional benefit of providing a primary mode of getting to the other side of the tracks without a "crossing". We urge DOT to keep these secondary crossings in the plan. The crossings at Washington and Monroe allow for reasonable access of the public to the businesses on the "Miracle Mile", such as Chekkers, Kum & Go, and others.

Again, our hats off to whoever came up with moving the overpass east; in our views, this very much benefits the project. For the foregoing reasons, we believe that maintaining crossings at Washington and Monroe is and overall benefit and that the "Polk Overpass" option is much better than a no build, or the other presented scenarios.

Orion Partnership, LLP
P.O. Box 1201

Pierre, SD 57501

JJ Linn, Jr.
Rick Kaiser
Tom P. Maher
Darren Chase
Terry Johnson

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Public Information Meeting

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

In the Environmental Assessment it states:

4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

The purpose of this project is to improve safety, reduce delays for the traveling public and reduce noise for residents and businesses along the DM&E Railroad corridor in Pierre.

Since the study was first started DM&E has been bought out by Canadian Pacific and there have been numerous press releases that have stated that Canadian Pacific is unsure if they will proceed with the railroad expansion proposed by DM&E. The question then becomes why would we want to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on an overpass before we even know if Canadian Pacific will move ahead on the project? In the Assessment it refers to the increase rail traffic as the reason for the "Purpose and Need for the Action" as stated above. Shouldn't we make sure that this reason still exists before we move ahead?

Without the increase in rail traffic it seems to me that option A in the Environmental Assessment would more than meet the objective as stated above. By installing the whistle free crossings and doing the S-curve realignment safety would improve at all of the crossings, it would reduce delays to the traveling public as the trains would be allowed to come through town at a higher rate of speed, and would reduce noise for residents and businesses as the crossings would be whistle free. I have heard talk about improving emergency vehicle response times, but if the rail travel is not increased greatly, as originally proposed by DM&E, then I certainly don't see why this would be an issue? If the current trains are moving at nearly 50 MPH there shouldn't be any problems with lengthy delays at crossings. This method would also be the least costly alternative, it would not adversely effect any business owners (six will need to be relocated not to mention the movement of the main flow of traffic that will reduce the visibility of many more businesses currently located on Wells Avenue, this will adversely effect more than just the convenient stores and fast food businesses as addressed in the Assessment), and would not require the acquisition of right-away from a private land owner.

I do not feel that taxpayer dollars should go to the proposed preferred alternative, Option D, based on the above stated reasons. DOT's own officials stated at the public meeting held on 12/11/2008 that this project was very low on there priority list based on their current funding problems. That raises the question as to why the project is moving forward? Even if the City is able to secure funding directly from the Federal Government, do we really think building an over-pass for additional coal trains, which may or may not ever come through town, is the best use of taxpayer dollars?

I am in agreement with the City and SD DOT that if the rail traffic from Wyoming is to become a reality and there will be nearly 37 trains with 100-140 freight cars attached, an overpass would appear to be a possible option. There do however appear to be some problems with the location of the proposed overpass.

Per the Environmental Assessment, a stop light will be installed at the intersection of Sioux and Harrison. The road will still have a downward sloop at this stop light which will make it extremely difficult for the traveling public as well as truck drivers to stop at this stop light during the winter months. We all know that Pierre's roads have a tendency for staying very slick for extended periods of time after each snowfall. One alternative to this would be to no longer make Harrison a through street and eliminate the stop light all together. This would also allow the overpass to be shifted slightly to the west and would eliminate the need

to acquire the right-away to the east as well as it would no longer require the existing businesses located on that property to relocate.

Another alternative would be to move the overpass location to the existing truck by-pass. I don't know the logistics of how that would work but I didn't see the possibility explored in the Environmental Assessment and was wondering why it wasn't considered?

Name: Mike Kogelmann

Date: 12/23/2008

Address: 2107 Antelope Street, Pierre SD 57501

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Public Information Meeting

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

I am definitely NOT in favor of the preferred option. I do not believe anything needs to be done at this time. I think that the money could be put to better use on other crumbling infrastructure. However, if it is determined this project must go forward, I would more than suggest that the location of the overpass be shifted to the West far enough to not affect any buildings on Wells Avenue. I believe the overpass would be as unsafe as the current "S" curve intersection. Also, I do not see any need to affect any of the property owners' values for no real gain. There have been at least 11 other individuals who have expressed their thoughts that this project is not necessary at this time.

Name: Tara L. Adamski Date: 12/29/2008

Address: 1801 E. Wells Ave. Suite 3, Pierre

Comments should be submitted by **January 2, 2009**, to:

Terry Keller, Engineer Supervisor
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-2586

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Public Information Meeting

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

We oppose the new overpass at the end of Polk Street. There are children living on this street and Polk already has a traffic issue; cars speed up and down the street all hours of the day and night, and this will only get worse with the overpass. We saw nothing at the meeting to address the noise problem that will be increasing. Already there is noise from traffic and the trains that already set down there and idle for hours. Plus the trains have gotten heavy and longer in the past years that make your house vibrate, which it didn't do before. In the winter or for that matter any other time of year with people speeding and over driving road conditions there could be more accidents on the overpass. These vehicles could crash into a residential neighborhood.

The storm sewer on Polk cannot handle the water that comes down the street now in a heavy rain; it floods the park and the front yards of some of the homes at the end of the street. If you elevate the grade of the street to meet the overpass this will make the problem worse.

With the overpass at the end of Polk what will this do to the property values? I cannot believe that it will make this an area that people would want to buy a home in. The decision to place an overpass at the end of Polk should not be based solely on cost. Just because it is cheaper does not make it the best. And how can it be cheaper with the impact it will have on the businesses on Sioux Avenue and the cost of constructing a new 4 to 5 lane highway along Sioux. We think the better choice would be option 2 the "S" curve span or the no build whistle free option.

Name: Mary + Kevin Sarvis Date: 12-31-08
Address: 403 S. Polk Pierre, SD 57501

Comments should be submitted by **January 2, 2009**, to:

Terry Keller, Engineer Supervisor
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-2586

Mary Sarvis

KS

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Public Information Meeting

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

Whenever it rains hard & heavy the water comes up half way ^{up} in the front yard. The storm sewer on Park couldn't take it. So it flooded up my side and on the highway. The park too. People ^{will be} speeding along the highway and there could be a lot more accidents on the bypass if ~~you do it~~. Park street has a lot of traffic several times a day.

How much of the Parks will be used up along Wells? The distance now is livable. But if we lose the Park Area the noise will be louder and closer. The Trains Park right south of us and Idle all nite long as it is now. The vibration from them now makes the house vibrate at times.

Is the By Pass going to flow thru. or have stop lights. This could change property value one way or another. or will this become a big Commercial corner for gas stations & Quick stops.

Name: Phyllis Jarvis / Steve Jarvis Date: _____
Address: 424 So. Park Pierre, S.D. 57501

Comments should be submitted by **January 2, 2009**, to:

Terry Keller, Engineer Supervisor
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-2586

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Public Information Meeting

December 11, 2008

EM 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6 HUGHES COUNTY
Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, SD

I am writing these comments regarding the two Fresh Start Convenience Stores on Wells Ave, where I am a stockholder and District Manager for. These proposed changes would greatly affect these stores. If these changes would take place & the hi-way gets re-routed, my 2 stores will be greatly financially damaged. We rely on out of town traffic for a large portion of our sales. Re-routing traffic away from the stores would be devastating to my sales.

We will retain an attorney regarding this matter. These stores were purchased with the hi-way running right by them & if that does not continue to happen we will definitely seek legal action.

Name:

Carey Smalley

Date:

1-2-09

Address:

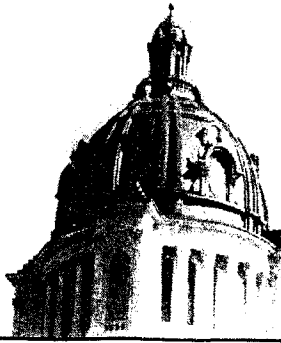
Fresh Start Convenience Stores

1515 E Wells Pierre, SD 57501

Comments should be submitted by **January 2, 2009**, to:

Terry Keller, Engineer Supervisor
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-2586

Figure 1



Capital Journal

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of South Dakota, County of Hughes

Virginia Jones of said county, being, first duly sworn, on oath, says: That he/she is the publisher or an employee of the publisher of the Capital Journal, a daily newspaper published in the City of Pierre in said County of Hughes and State of South Dakota; that he/she has full and personal knowledge of the facts herein stated, that said newspaper is a legal newspaper as defined in SDCL 17-2-2.1 through 17-2-2.4 inclusive, that said newspaper has been published within the said County of Hughes and State of South Dakota, for at least one year next prior to the first publication of the attached public notice, and that the legal/display advertisement headed Notice of Public Information Meeting / Open House & Notice of Approval of Environmental Assessment For a printed copy of which, taken from the paper in which the same was published, and which is here-to attached and made a part of this affidavit, was published in said newspaper for two successive week(s) to wit:

December 1 2008
December 8 2008
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Notice of Public Information Meeting/Open House and Notice of Approval of Environmental Assessment for Public Availability

PROJECT EM 2014(11)229 PCN 0076 HUGHES COUNTY
 Railroad Crossing Improvements in Pierre, South Dakota

Date: December 11, 2008
 Time: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
 Place: Kings Inn Hotel and Conference Center
 220 S. Pierre Street
 Pierre, South Dakota

Notice is given that the SD Department of Transportation (SDDOT) and the City of Pierre will hold an open house style public meeting to discuss the above project's proposed construction alternatives and impacts. A snort presentation will take place at 6 pm. Afterward, SDDOT and City staff will be available with displays to discuss the proposed project and answer your questions.

Notice is also given that the Federal Highway Administration has approved the project's Environmental Assessment (EA) for public availability. This document discusses the railroad crossing improvements in Pierre including the construction of a grade separated railroad crossing at Polk Avenue and realignment of the S-Curve.

Copies of the EA are available for review at the City of Pierre Public Works Office 223 E. Dakota Avenue, the SD Department of Transportation Office of Project Development, 760 E. Broadway Avenue, and at the SD Dakota Department of Transportation Pierre Region Office, 104 S. Garfield Avenue, Building A, in Pierre South Dakota. The EA may also be reviewed on the SDDOT webpage at <http://www.sddot.com/ps/progdev/environment.asp>. Copies of the document may be requested by writing to Terry Keller, Engineering Supervisor, at the address below.

Comments on the Environmental Assessment should be submitted by January 2, 2009, to Terry Keller, Engineering Supervisor, South Dakota Department of Transportation, 700 East Broadway Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-2586.

Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this public information meeting/open house is being held in a physically accessible place. Please notify the SDDOT ADA Coordinator within 48 hours of the public information meeting/open house if you have special needs for which this agency will need to make special arrangements. The telephone number for making special arrangements is 855-773-1540 or 1-800-877-1112 (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf).

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota this 11th day of November 2008
 SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 Tim Bjorneberg PE Project Development Engineer

_____ 20____
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That the full amount of the fee charged for the publication of this public notice is the sole benefit of the publisher or publisher thereof has been made with any other person to any person whomsoever; that the fees charged

for the publication of this public notice inures to the benefit of the division of the Department of Transportation and no fee is to be paid for the publication of this public notice.

\$ 353.98.

Signed: Virginia Jones

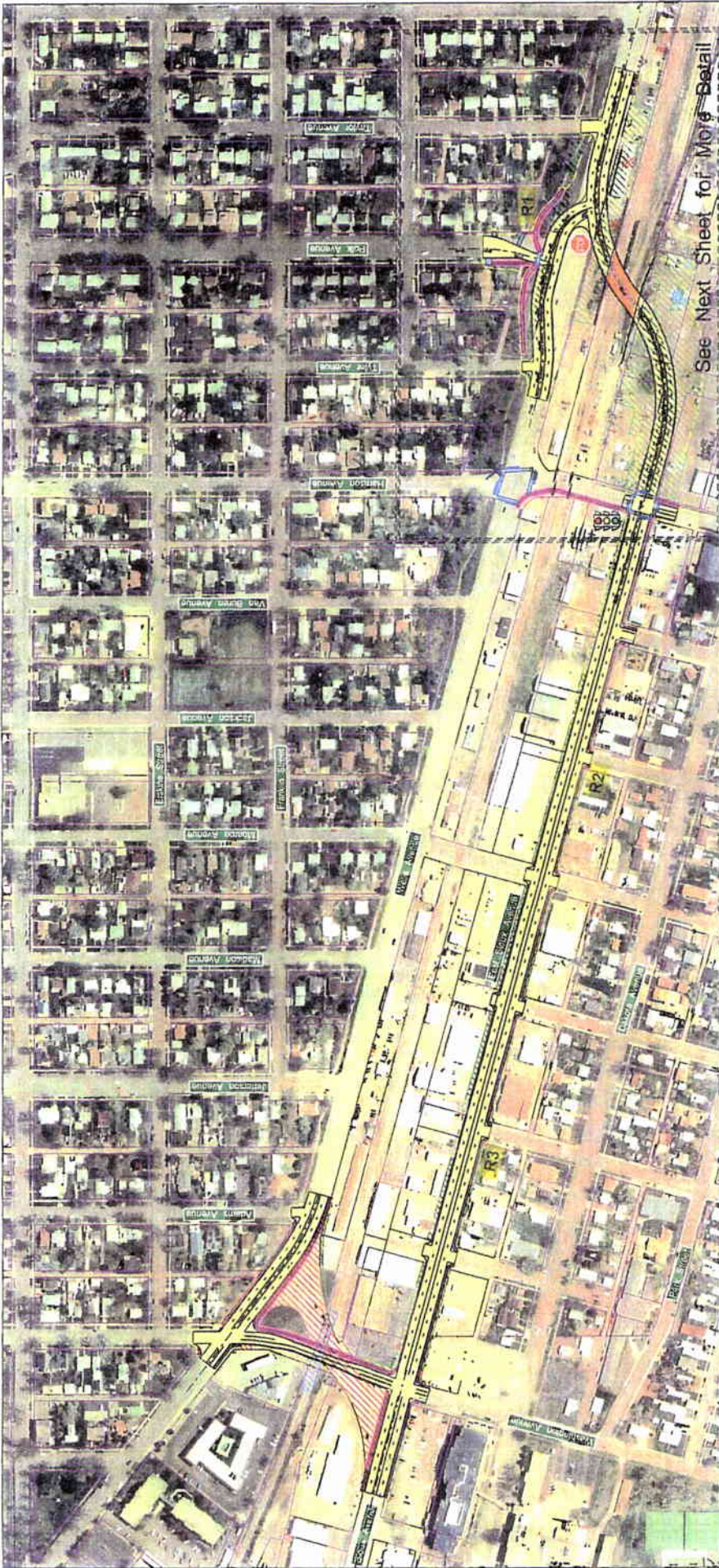
subscribed and sworn to before me this 6 day of January 2009

Thayer Baker

Notary Public in and for the County of Hughes, South Dakota.
 My Commission expires 2-19, 2009.

ONLY COPY AVAILABLE

Figure 2



LEGEND

- Existing Property Line
- Proposed Property Line
- Work Limit Line
- Shoo Fly Alignment
- Proposed Retaining Wall
- 4 Quadrant/Pedestrian Gates

- Proposed Construction
- Proposed Bridge Construction
- Proposed Approach
- Proposed Sidewalk
- Additional Right-of-Way
- Eliminate Access/Road
- Relocated At Grade RR Crossing

Overpass at Polk Avenue

Option D - S-Curve
 Pierre/DM&E - Railroad Crossings
 Project NH 2014(11)229 PCN 00T6

Drawn by: S. Miller
 Date: 11/17/06
 Checked by: S. Hoff
 Date: 11/17/06
 Rev: 15105 Dates:
 05/28/08 - 07/22/08

Figure 3





Department of Transportation

Division of Planning/Engineering

Office of Project Development

700 E Broadway Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586 605/773-3721

FAX: 605/773-6608

June 8, 2009

Casey & Phyllis Hoftiezer
202 S. Washington St.
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Pierre S-Curve Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Casey and Phyllis:

Thank you for providing comments after the public meeting held on December 11, 2008, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) and preferred alternative presented to the public. South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) appreciates your active participation and providing input.

Your concern regarding future speeds at the corner where you reside is a genuine one with proposed modifications at the Washington/Wells intersection. While I can't speak for the City of Pierre, I am not aware of any proposed changes to the current speed limit near your residence on Washington and traffic analysis of this reconfigured intersection will likely warrant stop signs or other controls similar to what you have suggested. With the anticipated future traffic, pedestrians and cyclists will need that protection, also.

Thank you again for your participation in this process. If you have questions, contact me at 605-773-3721 or via email at terry.keller@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,



Terrence G. Keller

Environmental Supervisor

Cc: Environmental file



Department of Transportation

Division of Planning/Engineering

Office of Project Development

700 E Broadway Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586 605/773-3721

FAX: 605/773-6608

June 9, 2009

Mr. Bob Parsons
Box 609
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Pierre S-Curve Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Mr. Parsons:

Thank you for providing comments after the public meeting held on December 11, 2008, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) and preferred alternative presented to the public. South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) appreciates your active participation and that you agree with the preferred alternative. We also understand your position regarding the potential for additional coal trains or other train traffic to increase in this area. Your points regarding affordability and federal debt are also duly noted, although this agency can't respond to those comments.

Thank you again for your participation in this process. If you have questions, contact me at 605-773-3721 or via email at terry.keller@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

Terrence G. Keller
Environmental Supervisor



Department of Transportation

Division of Planning/Engineering

Office of Project Development

700 E Broadway Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586 605/773-3721

FAX: 605/773-6608

June 9, 2009

Holly Hoing
Countryside Hospice, Inc.
200 E. Dakota, Suite 1
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Pierre S-Curve Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Ms. Hoing:

Thank you for providing comments after the public meeting held on December 11, 2008, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) and preferred alternative presented to the public. South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) appreciates your active participation and providing input.

Your concern regarding access and parking is a very genuine one, with all the options. The preferred option (fig. 4) will still impact your facility. As you know, widening the existing East Sioux Avenue by 10-20 feet to accommodate 5 lanes will mean acquiring additional land on each side of the alignment. The proposed alignment may not remain straight in order to minimize the impacts to landowners. On street parking may not be allowed once this becomes a state highway.

During the design phase of this project, you will be contacted and asked for your input and coordination with our design team to minimize any adverse impacts to your property. Also, personnel from SDDOT Right of Way Office will work with you and will comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.

Since this project is not currently programmed for construction in the 5-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), additional funding sources would need to be identified in order to advance this project to construction.

Thank you again for your participation in this process. If you have questions, contact me at 605-773-3721 or via email at terry.keller@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,


Terrence G. Keller

Environmental Supervisor



Department of Transportation

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Office of Project Development

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Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586 605/773-3721

FAX: 605/773-6608

June 9, 2009

Tom P Maher
Orion Partnership, LLP
P.O. Box 1201
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Pierre S-Curve Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Mr. Maher:

Thank you for providing comments after the public meeting held on December 11, 2008, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) and preferred alternative presented to the public. South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) appreciates your active participation and providing input.

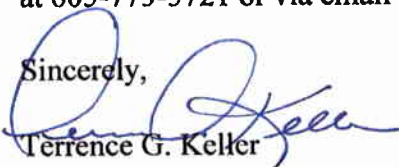
The intersection at Washington and Sioux will be evaluated to determine warranting of a signal. None of the other existing intersections along Sioux or Wells will be eliminated from the street network. As the design of this project proceeds landowners will be contacted regarding the proposed alignment of Sioux Avenue as a five lane section.

During the design phase of this project, you will be contacted and asked for your input and coordination with our design team to minimize any adverse impacts to your property. Also, personnel from SDDOT Right of Way Office will work with you and will comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.

Since this project is not currently programmed for construction in the 5-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), additional funding sources would need to be identified in order to advance this project to construction.

Thank you again for your participation in this process and your positive support of the proposed location of an overpass at Polk Street and Wells. If you have questions, contact me at 605-773-3721 or via email at terry.keller@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,



Terrence G. Keller
Environmental Supervisor



Department of Transportation

Division of Planning/Engineering

Office of Project Development

700 E Broadway Avenue

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FAX: 605/773-6608

June 9, 2009

Mike Kogelmann
2107 Antelope Street
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Pierre S-Curve Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Mr. Kogelmann:

Thank you for providing comments after the public meeting held on December 11, 2008, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) and preferred alternative presented to the public. South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) appreciates your active participation and providing input.

The purpose and need for this project remains the same as stated in the Environmental Assessment (EA). However, when the project might proceed to construction is undetermined at this time. You are correct in that this project would not favorably compete with other statewide SDDOT priorities for perhaps the next 10-20 years.

This portion of the project development is only to achieve environmental clearance so that design can proceed and some day perhaps construction, as well. Since this project is not currently programmed for construction in the 5-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), additional funding sources would need to be identified in order to advance this project to construction.

The intersection at Sioux and Harrison will be evaluated to determine warranting of a signal. Design and safety standards will be incorporated throughout this corridor. None of the other existing intersections along Sioux or Wells will be eliminated from the street network.

All of the options you mentioned in your letter were reviewed and the preferred option was selected based upon a matrix of traffic and safety impacts.

During the design phase of this project, you will be contacted and asked for your input and coordination with our design team to address any adverse impacts to your property. Also, personnel from SDDOT Right of Way Office will work with you and will comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.

Thank you again for your participation in this process and your positive support of the proposed location of an overpass at Polk Street and Wells. If you have questions, contact me at 605-773-3721 or via email at terry.keller@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terrence G. Keller". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Terrence G. Keller

Environmental Supervisor



Department of Transportation

Division of Planning/Engineering

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700 E Broadway Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586 605/773-3721

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June 9, 2009

Tara Adamski
1801 E. Wells Avenue, Suite 3
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Pierre S-Curve Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Ms. Adamski:

Thank you for providing comments after the public meeting held on December 11, 2008, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) and preferred alternative presented to the public. South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) appreciates your active participation and providing input.

The purpose and need for this project remains the same as stated in the Environmental Assessment (EA). However, when the project might proceed to construction is undetermined at this time. This project would not favorably compete with other statewide SDDOT priorities for perhaps the next 10-20 years.

This portion of the project development is only to achieve environmental clearance so that design can proceed and some day perhaps construction, as well. Since this project is not currently programmed for construction in the 5-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), additional funding sources would need to be identified in order to advance this project to construction.

Shifting the overpass west to Harrison Ave. was considered, but that impacts additional landowners and it was felt that keeping Harrison Ave. and the rest of the street network in tact was the best alternative. Safety and traffic operations are primary considerations that will be incorporated into the future design of this project.

During the design phase of this project, you will be contacted and asked for your input and coordination with our design team to address any adverse impacts to your property. Also, personnel from SDDOT Right of Way Office will work with you and will comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.

Thank you again for your participation in this process and your positive support of the proposed location of an overpass at Polk Street and Wells. If you have questions, contact me at 605-773-3721 or via email at terry.keller@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

Terrence G. Kelley
Environmental Supervisor



Department of Transportation

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700 E Broadway Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586 605/773-3721

FAX: 605/773-6608

June 9, 2009

Mary & Kevin Sarvis
403 S. Polk Street
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Pierre S-Curve Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Mary & Kevin:

Thank you for providing comments after the public meeting held on December 11, 2008, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) and preferred alternative presented to the public. South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) appreciates your active participation and providing input.

Your concern regarding increased traffic and speed on Polk Street due to the proposed overpass location will be addressed during design, although it is unclear why highway traffic will increase on a local street. It is anticipated that traffic will increase at about the same rate over the next twenty years, with or without this project. Traffic noise impacts on Polk Street residences will receive further analysis during design, however.

The drainage issues along Polk Street will be addressed in design, along with other infrastructure and utility issues. The proposed project, including any grade changes, will not adversely impact the storm water drainage, and will likely improve with storm sewer design changes to the existing system.

The purpose and need for this project remains the same as stated in the Environmental Assessment (EA). However, when the project might proceed to construction is undetermined at this time. This project would not favorably compete with other statewide SDDOT priorities for perhaps the next 10-20 years.

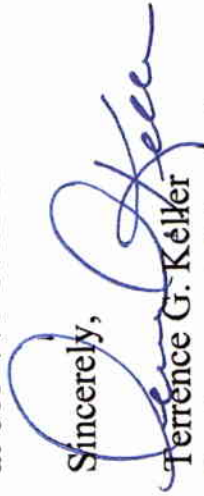
This portion of the project development is only to achieve environmental clearance so that design can proceed and some day perhaps construction, as well. Since this project is not currently programmed for construction in the 5-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), additional funding sources would need to be identified in order to advance this project to construction.

The no-build option and all the other options were considered, but they did not meet the purpose and need for the project. Safety and traffic operations are primary considerations that will be incorporated into the future design of this project.

Personnel from SDDOT Right of Way Office are available to discuss impacts to property owners and discuss the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.

Thank you again for your participation in this process and your positive support of the proposed location of an overpass at Polk Street and Wells. If you have questions, contact me at 605-773-3721 or via email at terry.keller@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terrence G. Keller". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and "K".

Terrence G. Keller

Environmental Supervisor



Department of Transportation

Division of Planning/Engineering

Office of Project Development

700 E Broadway Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586 605/773-3721

FAX: 605/773-6608

June 9, 2009

Phyllis & Steve Sarvis
424 S. Polk Street
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Pierre S-Curve Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Phyllis & Steve:

Thank you for providing comments after the public meeting held on December 11, 2008, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) and preferred alternative presented to the public. South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) appreciates your active participation and providing input.

Your concern regarding increased traffic and speed on Polk Street due to the proposed overpass location will be addressed during design, although it is unclear why highway traffic will increase on a local street. It is anticipated that traffic will increase at about the same rate over the next twenty years, with or without this project. The train operations noise on their siding is not an issue this project will impact.

The drainage issues along Polk Street will be addressed in design, along with other infrastructure and utility issues. The proposed project, including any grade changes, will not adversely impact the storm water drainage, and will likely improve with storm sewer design changes to the existing system. Similarly, any walk/bike route disturbances will be mitigated during design to maintain the continuity of these paths.

The purpose and need for this project remains the same as stated in the Environmental Assessment (EA). However, when the project might proceed to construction is undetermined at this time. This project would not favorably compete with other statewide SDDOT priorities for perhaps the next 10-20 years.

This portion of the project development is only to achieve environmental clearance so that design can proceed and some day perhaps construction, as well. Since this project is not currently programmed for construction in the 5-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), additional funding sources would need to be identified in order to advance this project to construction.

The no-build option and all the other options were considered, but they did not meet the purpose and need for the project. Safety and traffic operations are primary considerations that

will be incorporated into the future design of this project. Signalization at any location will need to meet warrants.

Personnel from SDDOT Right of Way Office are available to discuss impacts to property owners and discuss the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.

Thank you again for your participation in this process and your positive support of the proposed location of an overpass at Polk Street and Wells. If you have questions, contact me at 605-773-3721 or via email at terry.keller@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terrence G. Keller". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Terrence G. Keller

Environmental Supervisor



Department of Transportation

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Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586 605/773-3721

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June 10, 2009

Carey Smalley
Fresh Start Convenience Stores
1515 East Wells Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Pierre S-Curve Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Ms. Smalley:

Thank you for providing comments after the public meeting held on December 11, 2008, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) and preferred alternative presented to the public. South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) appreciates your active participation and providing input.

The purpose and need for this project remains the same as stated in the Environmental Assessment (EA). However, when the project might proceed to construction is undetermined at this time. This project would not favorably compete with other statewide SDDOT priorities for perhaps the next 10-20 years.

This portion of the project development is only to achieve environmental clearance so that design can proceed and some day perhaps construction, as well. Since this project is not currently programmed for construction in the 5-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), additional funding sources would need to be identified in order to advance this project to construction.

Personnel from SDDOT Right of Way Office are available to discuss impacts to property owners and discuss the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act should you have questions of this type.

Thank you again for your participation in this process and your positive support of the proposed location of an overpass at Polk Street and Wells. If you have questions, contact me at 605-773-3721 or via email at terry.keller@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

Terrence G. Keller
Environmental Supervisor