

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR

US HIGHWAY 18/US HIGHWAY 218/IA HIGHWAY 27 CORRIDOR
From COUNTY ROAD B-35 to 0.8 MILES WEST of LIBERTY STREET

Floyd County, Iowa

NHSX-018-6(85)--3H-34

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has determined that this project will have no significant impact on the human and natural environment. This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) which has been independently evaluated by FHWA and determined to adequately and accurately discuss the purpose and need, environmental issues, and impacts of the proposed project and appropriate mitigation measures. It provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. FHWA takes full responsibility for the accuracy, scope, and content of the attached EA.

6/28/2017
Date

Michael LaPelle
For FHWA

Description of the Proposed Action

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) is proposing to improve the U.S. 18/U.S. 218/Iowa 27 corridor from County Road B-35 north to 0.8 miles west of Liberty Street, near the City of Floyd, in Floyd County, Iowa. Improvements will include an interchange at County Road T-44 near Floyd along with frontage road improvements for access control along the corridor.

Environmental Assessment Availability

The Environmental Assessment (EA) was signed on June 28, 2016 and distributed to selected federal, state, and local resource agencies for review and comment. A notice of the public availability of the EA and notification of a public hearing on November 9, 2016, was published in the Charles City Press on October 19, 2016 and October 26, 2016. Notice of the public hearing was also included on the Iowa DOT website at www.iowadot.gov/pim.

Review and Comment Period

Following publication and distribution of the EA, a review and comment period was established for receipt of comments on the EA. The review and comment period closed on March 15, 2017 (Appendix A – Agency Coordination Letters and Comments). A public hearing for the project was held at the Floyd Community Center located at 706 Fairfield Street in Floyd, Iowa on November 9, 2016. The public hearing used an open forum format with a formal presentation. A written record of this meeting has been prepared and is available upon request.

Agency Comments

There were no comment letters received on the EA from regulatory agencies.

Public Hearing Date and Summary

A public hearing was held on November 9, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Floyd Community Center located at 706 Fairfield Street in Floyd, Iowa. The purpose of the meeting was to present the Proposed Alternative and to gather feedback from the public on Proposed Alternative and the EA. The hearing was conducted using a combined open forum and formal presentation format. The hearing began with an open session during which attendees could express their views and ask questions in an informal setting. A formal presentation, followed by a question and answer session, was held after the open forum session. Approximately 104 people attended the public hearing. Overall, there was general support for the project, however, there were several comments related to access locations, property impacts, and the ROW/acquisition

process. Other comments received related to safety concerns and emergency response time. A transcript of this hearing is included by reference as a separate document to the FONSI and is available upon request.

New Information

No changes to the Proposed Alternative has occurred since the publication of the EA and public hearing. However, there was one omission in the EA and two changes that need to be discussed. These updates are described below.

The EA omitted one total acquisition of a rural owner-occupied residential property. This property is located on the west side of the highway and south of Packard Avenue (refer to the updated Figure 5-2). Due to the proposed alternative having Priority II access control limiting access along this section of the highway corridor, the rural residential property will be left with no access to either the highway or the frontage roadway system. In total, the proposed alternative could potentially require the total acquisition of one commercial property and two rural owner-occupied residential properties.

Under the Economic section of the EA, it was discussed that there were three businesses that operate within the Study Area and two known business developments that were proposed in the Study Area. One of the known business developments has been established and is currently open for business. This is a truck stop located at the northeast intersection of U.S. 18/U.S. 218/Iowa 27 and County Road T-44 (refer to the updated Figure 5-2). In total, there are now four businesses that operate within the Study Area that include two truck stops, an automobile dealership, and a modular/manufactured home seller along with three billboard locations.

The Purpose and Need section of the EA describes the transportation system problems that exist in the Study Area and the needs for the proposed action. One of the needs is Traffic Safety since the crash rate on this segment of highway is above the statewide average. It discusses the crash data along the project corridor and also at the intersection of U.S. 18/U.S. 218/Iowa 27 and County Road T-44. Although the crash rate has not changed significantly, it is important to note that there have been two fatal crashes at the County Road T-44 intersection. One crash, resulting in one fatality, occurred after the EA was signed and prior to the public hearing. During review of this 2016 accident, it was determined that a previous 2008 crash, recorded in the crash history incorrectly as a major injury, had resulted in one fatality.

Basis for Finding of No Significant Impact

The EA evaluated resources present in the project area for effects as they may occur related to the proposed improvements to the U.S. 18/U.S. 218/Iowa 27 corridor in Floyd County. The EA documents the absence of significant impacts associated with construction of the proposed project. The following resources were evaluated in detail: Land Use, Economic, Parkland and Recreational Areas, Right-of-Way, Relocation Potential, Construction and Emergency Routes, Transportation, Historical Sites or Districts, Archaeological Sites, Cemeteries, Wetlands, Surface

Waters and Water Quality, Floodplains, Threatened and Endangered Species, Woodlands, Farmlands, Noise, Contaminated and Regulated Materials, and Utilities.

This FONSI documents compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all other applicable environmental laws, Executive Orders, and related requirements.

Special Conditions for Location Approval

The following conditions were identified for approval and will be implemented during the design process prior to construction:

Right-of-way requirements will be minimized to the extent possible during final design. Relocations will be conducted in accordance with the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and Iowa Code 316, the “Relocation Assistance Law”. Relocations will be made available to all affected persons without discrimination.

A Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Iowa DNR will be required for any unavoidable stream impacts.

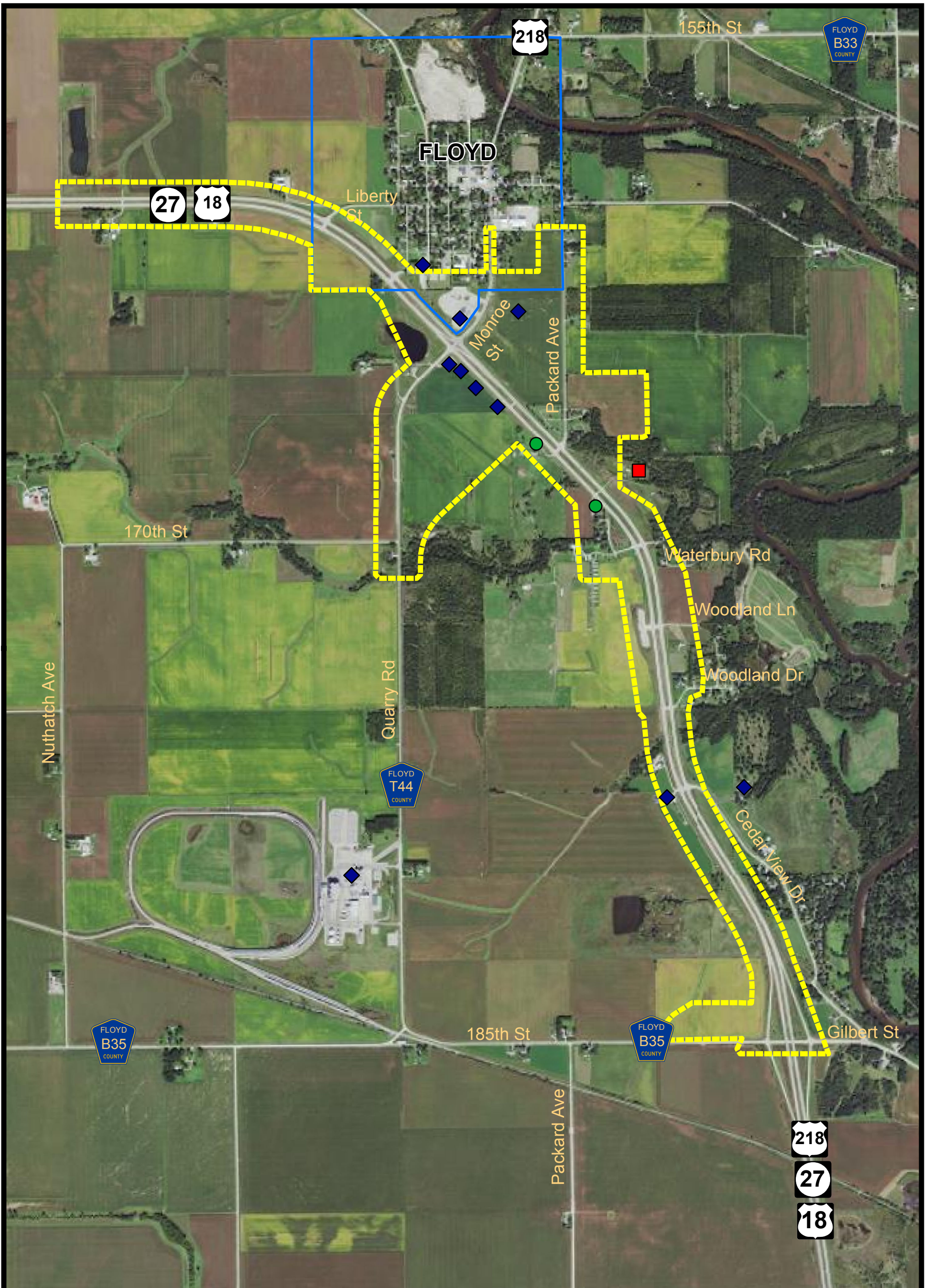
A Section 404 permit from USACE will be required for stream and wetland impacts. A permit application and a wetland mitigation plan will be submitted to USACE for approval.

An Iowa DNR Floodplain Development Permit will be required and applied for during final design.

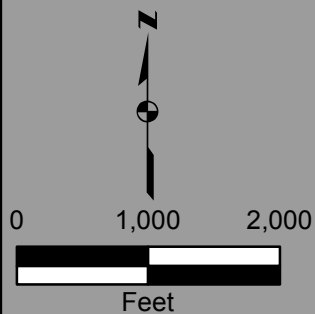
A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general stormwater discharge permit for construction will be required from the DNR. Iowa DOT will require the contractor to comply with measures outlined in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Trees will be cut after October 1 and before March 31 per Iowa DOT Specifications. And impacted woodlands will be mitigated.

Construction activities will be coordinated with public utilities to avoid potential conflicts and to minimize planned interruptions of service.



Created September 2015
2015 NAIP Aerial



- Known Business Developments
- ◆ Business Locations
- Residential Location
- Project Study Area
- Corporate Limits

**FIGURE 5-2:
Potentially Affected
Businesses & Residences**

NHSX-018-6(85)--3H-34
US18/218/IA27 Hwy Improvement
and Interchange
Floyd County, Iowa