

## Public Involvement

This is the first of at least three public meetings planned for the project. These meetings are intended to gather data and information from the public and provide periodic updates to the public on the progress of the EIS. Specifically, the purpose of today's meeting is to solicit participation from the public and interested parties regarding the purpose and need for the project and a reasonable range of alternatives.

We hope that this open house is informative and useful to you. Thank you for your interest in the proposed Little Missouri River Crossing EIS.

Please mail your comments to:  
Jennifer Turnbow, Project Manager  
128 Soo Line Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
[jennifer.turnbow@kljeng.com](mailto:jennifer.turnbow@kljeng.com)

Written statements will be included in the official transcript if received by March 26, 2007.

## Coordination Plan

A Coordination Plan has been created to identify the process that will be used for public and agency participation in, and comment on, the EIS at varying levels of development. The Coordination Plan is available for public viewing at [www.billingscountynd.gov](http://www.billingscountynd.gov) and at the following locations:

Federal Highway Administration  
1471 Interstate Loop  
Bismarck, ND

Kadrmass, Lee & Jackson  
677 27th Avenue East  
Dickinson, ND

Billings County Courthouse  
495 4th Street  
Medora, ND

**Kadrmass  
Lee &  
Jackson**  
Engineers Surveyors  
Planners

**NDDOT**  
North Dakota  
Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

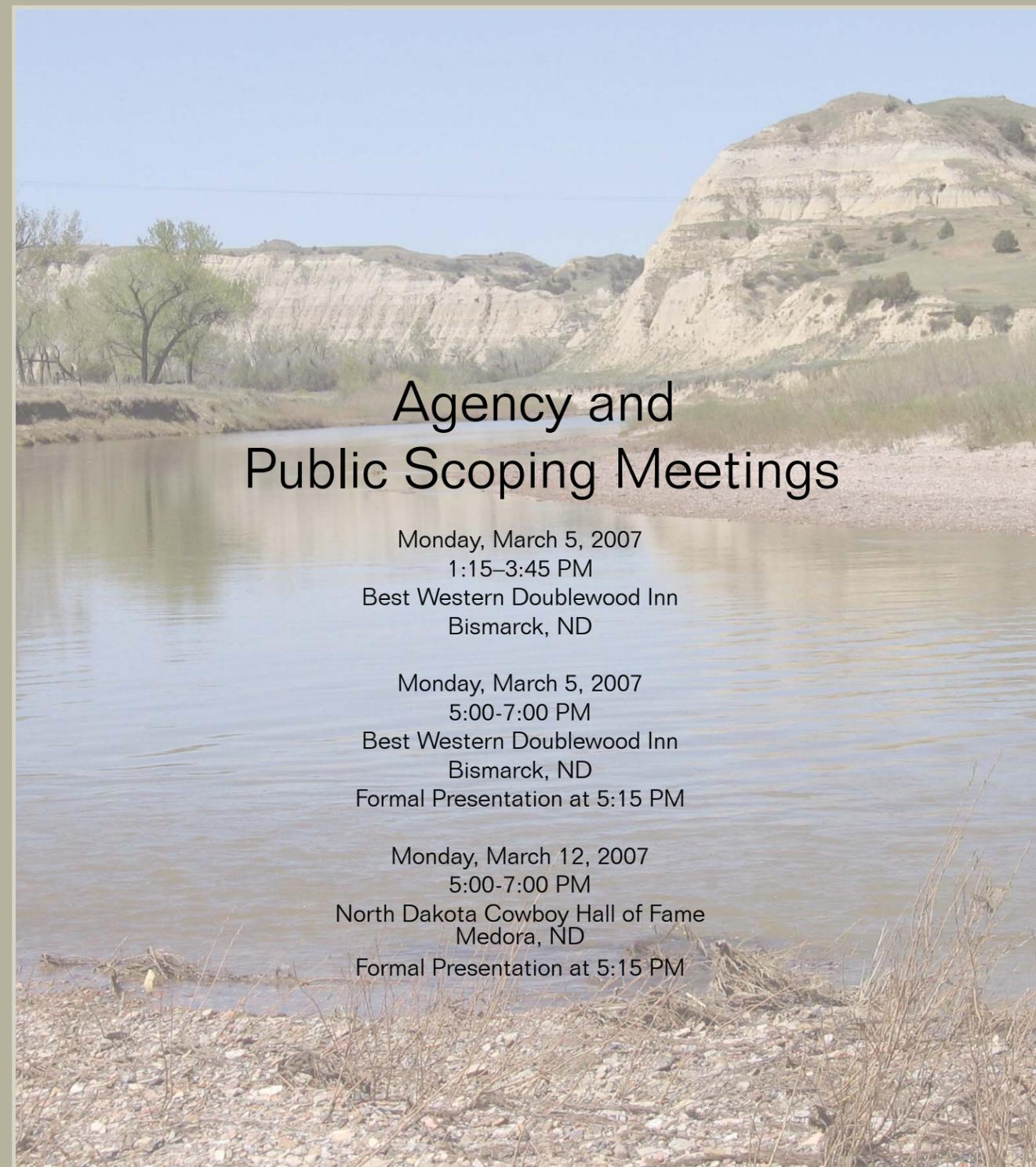


Billings County, ND

# LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FHO-02-04(001) PCN # 16970

BILLINGS COUNTY, ND



## Agency and Public Scoping Meetings

Monday, March 5, 2007  
1:15–3:45 PM

Best Western Doublewood Inn  
Bismarck, ND

Monday, March 5, 2007  
5:00–7:00 PM

Best Western Doublewood Inn  
Bismarck, ND  
Formal Presentation at 5:15 PM

Monday, March 12, 2007  
5:00–7:00 PM

North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame  
Medora, ND  
Formal Presentation at 5:15 PM

## Project Background and Description

The Federal Highway Administration, North Dakota Department of Transportation, and Billings County are working as joint lead agencies to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the assistance of Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson. The EIS will analyze a proposed new river crossing over the Little Missouri River in Billings County, North Dakota.

The project study area limits are the northern border of the Billings County line, western border of ND Highway 16, eastern border of US Highway 85, and southern border of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. National Park Service properties (Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the Elkhorn Ranch) are excluded from the project study area.

## Purpose and Need

The project proposed within the study area is considered necessary to provide system linkage between ND Highway 16 and U.S. Highway 85 and for a variety of socioeconomic demands, such as emergency management services, industry, agriculture, and recreation.

## Environmental Impact Statement Process

The EIS will be developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508. In accordance with Section 6002 of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the Notice-of-Intent initiating the EIS process was published in the Federal Register (Vol. 71 No. 197 page 60228) on October 12, 2006.

An EIS is a document that clearly documents the following items:

- The purpose and need for the project
- Consideration of a reasonable range of alternatives
- The affected environment
- The potential impacts resulting from the alternatives under consideration
- Compliance with other applicable environmental laws and executive orders
- The process used for development of the EIS
- Input received from agencies, interested parties, and the public

## Tonight's Meeting

The EIS process will include numerous opportunities for federal, state, local, and tribal agencies; interested parties, and the general public to provide input on the project. This scoping meeting is the first in a series of at least three public meetings planned for this phase of the project. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit input regarding the purpose and need for the project as well as a reasonable range of alternatives. Subsequent meetings will focus on specific alternatives under consideration as well as potential impacts resulting from those alternatives.

## Purpose and Need

The first step in the EIS process is to determine the purpose and need for the project. Identification of the purpose and need is the most important part of the EIS process, because it explains why the project is necessary and worthwhile and what the project is intended to accomplish. The purpose and need lays out why the proposed action, with its inherent environmental impacts, is being pursued. The purpose and need for the project may and should evolve and be refined as information is developed and more is learned about the project and the corridor. The purpose and need defines what can be considered a reasonable range of alternatives and drives the process for consideration of alternatives, in depth analysis, and ultimate selection of a preferred alternative.

## Alternatives Under Consideration

Once the project purpose and need are established, the next step in the EIS process is to identify a reasonable range of alternatives. Project alternatives must be developed to meet the project purpose and need at an acceptable cost and level of environmental impacts relative to the benefits that are expected to be derived from the project. All reasonable alternatives must be rigorously explored and objectively evaluated.

## Proposed Project Milestones

The following milestones have been identified in the EIS process:

- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ Public Alternatives Workshop      | July—August 2007            |
| ■ Draft EIS                         | September 2007—October 2007 |
| ■ Public Hearing                    | January—February 2008       |
| ■ Final EIS, Notice of Availability | March—April 2008            |
| ■ Record of Decision                | May—June 2008               |