

Little Missouri River Crossing Environmental Impact Statement

Project # FHO-02-04(001)

PCN # 16970

Billings County, North Dakota
Agency Scoping Meeting
March 5, 2007



Project Description

- FHWA, in cooperation with the NDDOT and Billings County, will prepare an EIS on a proposal to provide a roadway by either upgrading and/or new construction to a proposed river crossing over the Little Missouri River in Billings County, North Dakota

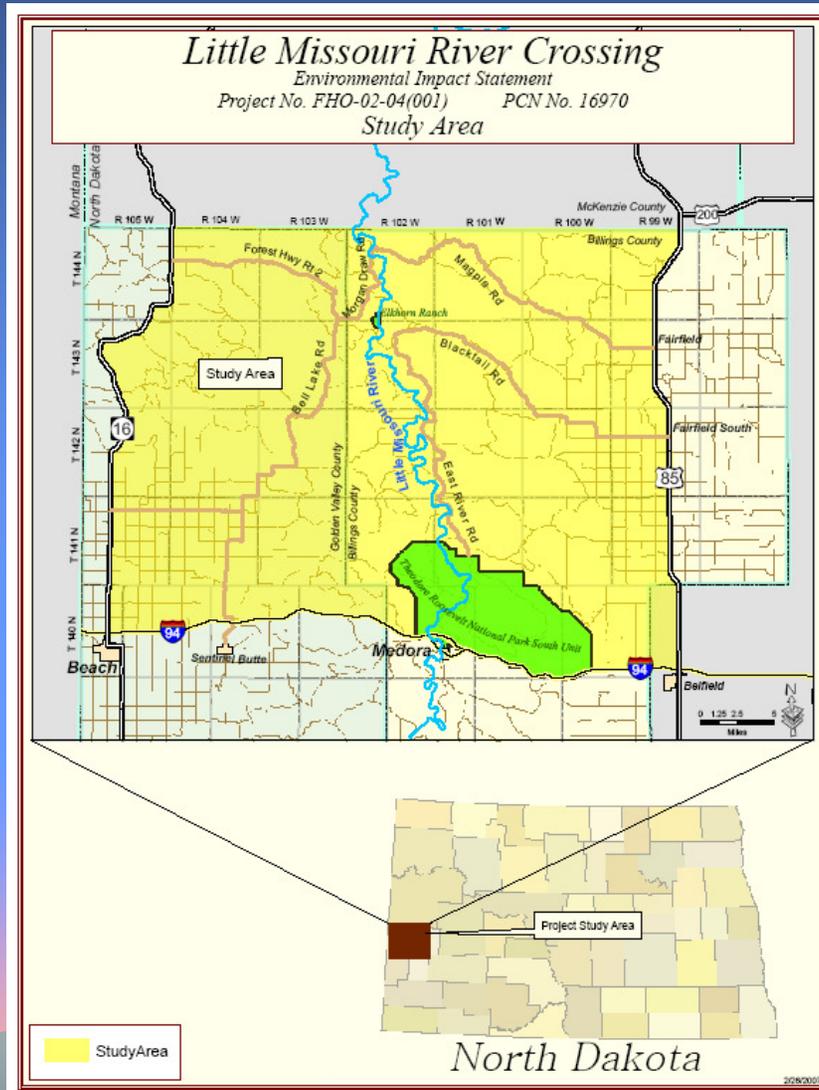


Study Area

- Northern border of Billings County line
- Western border of ND Highway 16
- Eastern border of US Highway 85
- Southern border of Theodore Roosevelt National Park



Study Area Map



Purpose of this Meeting

- To solicit participation from agencies regarding the purpose and need for the project and a reasonable range of alternatives



Coordination Plan

- Has been established to satisfy requirements of Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU
- Is to identify the environmental review process for public and agency participation in, and comment on, the EIS at varying levels of development



Notice of Intent

- In accordance with Section 6002, the NOI initiating the EIS process was published in the Federal Register on October 1, 2006



Environmental Impact Statement Process

- The EIS will be developed in accordance with the following:
 - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended
 - Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508.
 - A Coordination Plan was established to satisfy requirements of Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU



Environmental Impact Statement Process

- 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



Environmental Impact Statement Process, continued

- The potential impacts resulting from the alternatives
- 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



Coordination Plan

- All participating and cooperating agencies received the Coordination Plan enclosed within the solicitation of views letter dated February 20, 2007



Coordination Plan Public Viewing Locations

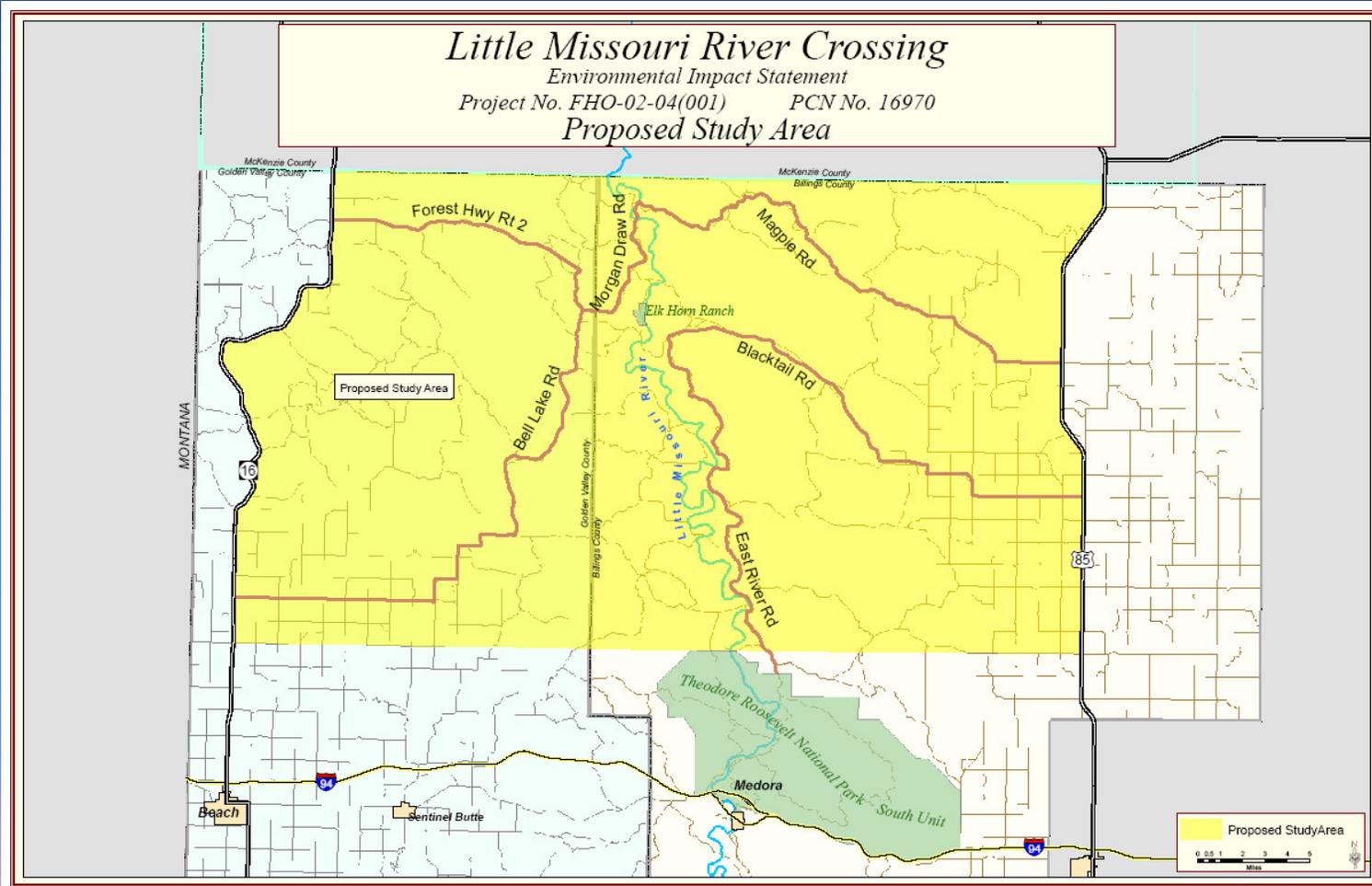
- www.billingscountynd.gov
- Federal Highway Administration
1471 Interstate Loop
Bismarck, ND
- Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, Inc.
677 27th Avenue East
Dickinson, ND
- Billings County Courthouse
495 4th Street
Medora, ND

Proposed Study Area

- North limit: Unchanged
- South limit: Northern border of the South Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- East limit: Unchanged
- West limit: Unchanged



Proposed Study Area Map



Purpose and Need

- First step in EIS process
- Explains why project is necessary
- Explains what project is supposed to accomplish
- May evolve and be refined as information is developed about the project



Purpose and Need

- Defines what can be considered a reasonable range of alternatives
- Drives the process for consideration of alternatives, in depth analysis, and ultimate selection of a preferred alternative



Need for the Proposed Project

- Distance of approximately 85 highway miles between public, all weather crossings
 - Northern all weather crossing located approximately 15 miles south of Watford City
 - Southern all weather crossing located in Medora



Need for the Proposed Project

- System Linkage
 - ND Highway 16 and US Highway 85
- Transportation Demand
 - County's STIP
- Roadway Deficiencies
 - Existing or new roadway to meet NDDOT guidelines/standards



Need for the Proposed Project

- Social Demands/Economic Development
 - Agriculture
 - Emergency management services
 - Industry
 - Recreation/Tourism
 - Schools



Need for the Proposed Project

- Open Discussion



Purpose of the Proposed Project

- To provide system linkage between ND Highway 16 and US Highway 85



Purpose of the Proposed Project

- Open Discussion



Alternatives Under Consideration

- Project alternatives must meet the project purpose and need
- Project alternatives must be developed 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



Alternatives Under Discussion

- Open Discussion



Major Milestones

- Defining Methodologies for Alternatives Analysis
 - March-April, 2007
- Agency/Public Alternatives Workshop
 - July-August, 2007
- Draft EIS, Notice of Availability (45-day comment)
 - September-October, 2007



Major Milestones

- Preferred Alternatives/Level of Design Detail
 - November-December, 2007
- Public Hearing
 - January-February, 2008
- Final EIS, Notice of Availability
 - March-April, 2008
- Record of Decision
 - May-June, 2008



Thank you!

Questions?

