

PUBLIC NOTICE

Tama County Highway Department has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program funding through Iowa's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (IHSEMD) as a sub-recipient.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Sub-Applicant: Tama County Highway Department

Project Title: 754818 Bridge on Abbott Avenue, PA-07-IA-4784-PW-00036

Location of Proposed Work:

- Abbott Avenue crossing Raven Creek
- GPS Coordinates: 41.93863, -92.76568

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:

This project will perform work in a Zone A Special Flood Hazard Area, the area of 1% annual chance of flood risk, per Tama County FIRM panel 19171C0400D, dated 10/7/2021 and Marshall County FIRM panel 19127C0300C, dated 11/16/2011. The bridge straddles the county line, but is within the same floodplain of Raven Creek.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Tama County Highway Department proposes to use FEMA Public Assistance Grant funds to replace the 43 FT long by 23 FT wide concrete deck bridge with a 150 FT long by 30 FT wide concrete deck bridge with an open span beneath. The flood eroded the underlying embankments from the original bridge, so a longer bridge is required for adequate replacement. The new bridge is being designed to meet current Iowa Dept. of Transportation standards.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (No Action): The no-action alternative would not be appropriate because it would leave Abbott Avenue without a crossing over Raven Creek. Traffic would be required to use stream crossing at Zeller Avenue to the west or B Avenue to the east.

Alternative #2 (Repair In-Kind): The original span of the bridge is infeasible, due to the heavy embankment scour. The original bridge dated from the 1940s, and design standards have been updated in the intervening 80 years.

Alternative #3 (Mitigation): This is the option being pursued by this grant. The original bridge was destroyed by the flood, and a new design has been selected, expanding both the length and width of the bridge. The increased span will allow better flow for Raven Creek, protecting the new bridge from future high-flow events.

Comment Period:

This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA PA program. All comments received can be submitted online, via email, to FEMA at fema-r7-ehp-publiccomment@fema.dhs.gov. Please use the subject line: **“DR-4784-PW-036, Floodplain Comment.”**

Interested persons may also submit comments and questions in writing, or request a map of this specific project, by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 7900 Hickman Road, Windsor Heights, Iowa, 50324. Written comments should be sent with the subject line **“DR-4784-PW-036, Floodplain Comment”** to the above address within 15 days of the date of posting.

All comments are due by no later than 15 days of the posted date of this notice.

POSTED ON (insert date):

End of Notice