

# FAQs

## What is the purpose of this study?

The Northeast Industrial Access Planning Study aims to understand existing and future transportation issues in the Northeast Industrial Area—including primary, secondary and local roads—by engaging area businesses, freight industry professionals and local residents.

The study will provide recommendations to benefit area communities by increasing freight transportation efficiency, alleviating road congestion and increasing capacity for future economic growth.

## What is the study area?

The Northeast Industrial Access Planning study will examine existing roadway usage and routes connecting the Northeast Industrial Area and highways US 63, US 218, US 20 and I-380.

## What will this study produce?

The Northeast Industrial Access Planning Study will produce freight transportation solutions and alternatives to access the Northeast Industrial Area. Possible solutions will range from no construction to a full bypass. Alternatives will include cost estimates and will be identified through, and based on, surrounding community and business input, traffic flow analysis and public feedback.

## What types of information will the study examine?

The Northeast Industrial Access Planning Study will examine issues regarding:

1. **Traffic**
  - a. Traffic volume (current and forecasted)
  - b. Truck traffic
  - c. Rail traffic
2. **Freight**
  - a. Freight movements (current and forecasted)
  - b. Use of secondary road system for freight movement
  - c. Opportunities for multi-modal connections (*combining modes of transportation for freight movement, such as trucks and rail*)
3. **Access**
  - a. Opportunities for improved access to industrial area
4. **Safety**
  - a. Recent crash data
  - b. Opportunities to mitigate crashes in high-incident locations
5. **Economic Development**
  - a. Existing business needs
  - b. Future growth opportunities
  - c. Infrastructure required to support growth

## What types of improvements will the study examine?

The Northeast Industrial Access Planning Study will examine improvements in the areas of:

1. **Freight Shipment and Delivery Efficiency**
  - a. Opportunities for incorporating multi-modal approaches (*combined modes of transportation*) to freight movement
  - b. Opportunities to build transload facilities (*a designated area for transferring freight from one mode of transportation to another*)
  - c. Opportunities to build intermodal facilities (*accommodations for transferring freight between modes of transportation without handling the freight itself*)
2. **Reducing Congestion**
  - a. Junction of I-380 and US 20
  - b. Evansdale area
  - c. Downtown Waterloo at junction of US 218 and US 63
3. **Reducing Impact on County Roads**
  - a. Alternative to using county roads to bypass downtown Waterloo

## What is the study schedule?

The Northeast Industrial Access Planning Study will span approximately 12 to 15 months.

## Who initiated the study?

The study is a collaboration between the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments, City of Evansdale, City of Elk Run Heights, City of Raymond, City of Waterloo, Black Hawk County and the Iowa DOT. Members of each entity are represented on the study Advisory Committee to provide input and direction for the study.

## How can I get involved?

The success of this project hinges on community involvement.

The Study Team looks forward to engaging the community through stakeholder-specific meetings, and at least three public information meetings, including a project kickoff open house, a mid-project gathering, and finally, an end-of-project report of study findings and a review of possible solutions and a preferred solution.

Community members are also encouraged to sign up for the study e-newsletter and submit questions, comments and concerns on the study's website at [www.NEIndustrialAccess.com](http://www.NEIndustrialAccess.com).

## How are decisions made for this study?

The Project Team will be outlining solutions, along with costs and foreseeable traffic effects on the area, and making recommendations to the advisory committee based on community input, research and economic growth forecasting.

The Advisory Committee will be assessing recommendations based on community impact, access, feasibility, costs and timelines.

## How was the study funded?

The planning study is being funded with federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds through the Black Hawk County Metropolitan Area Transportation Policy Board (MPO). The total cost associated with this study is estimated at \$750,000 of which \$600,000 in STBG funds have been allocated by the MPO. The remaining \$150,000 will be provided by the local jurisdictions as a match.

## Who are the members of the Advisory Committee and Project Team?

The Advisory Committee is made up of:

- Iowa DOT: Krista Rostad, District Transportation Planner
- Black Hawk County: Cathy Nicholas, PE; Ryan Brennan, PE
- City of Elk Run Heights: Tim Swope, Mayor
- City of Evansdale: Doug Faas, Mayor
- City of Raymond: Becky Pint, Councilperson
- City of Waterloo: Noel Anderson, Director of Planning; Adrienne Miller, Planner

The Project Team is made up of:

- Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG): Kyle Durant and Kevin Blanshan
- Project Manager: Mark Durbahn, PE from AECOM
- Principal-In-Charge: Doug Schindel, PE from AECOM
- Traffic Analysis and Forecasting: Andy Swisher, PE from HR Green
- Freight Analysis and Forecasting: Steve Wells, Planner from Hg Consult
- Solution Development and Evaluation: Jerry Shoff, PE from Shoff / CGA
- Public Involvement: Bryan Earnest, Lori Davis and Robin Frost from AMPERAGE

## What is the next step after this study?

The Advisory Committee will assess the recommended solution by reviewing the final study and indentifying funding for future phases.

If the recommended solution is accepted by the Advisory Committee, a full Environmental Assessment Study (EAS) would be the next step in the overall project timeline.

## Has a study of this area been done in the past?

No.

The Northeast Industrial Access was listed as an illustrative project for the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Various scenarios were modeled to examine the impacts on vehicle miles and hours traveled. After the modeling was completed, the project was classified as "illustrative," meaning a formal study would be required to determine best solutions and funding required for the preferred solution.

The Northeast Industrial Access Study is a formal study to determine the best way to move traffic, especially trucks heading to and from the Northeast Industrial Area. The study will be more than a "bypass" study. Solutions may range from no construction to improving the existing transportation infrastructure to building a new road.

Additionally, there may be some confusion regarding a traffic study proposed in the area back in April of 2012. However, this was a traffic engineering study for Evansdale and Elk Run Heights and was not associated with the Northeast Industrial Area planning study.

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