

**APPENDIX L**

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**OCTOBER 23, 2007 PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS**

Subject: Public Open House/Meeting	
Client: SDDOT	
Project: Watertown South Connector	Project No: 39319
Meeting Date: October 23, 2007 at 5:30 pm	Meeting Location: Watertown Ramkota- Theater Room
Notes by: rb	

**Attendees: See Sign In Sheet (58 total attendance)**

**Topics Discussed: Watertown South Connector—SD20 to US81, US81 to 29<sup>th</sup> Street SE, and 29<sup>th</sup> Street SE to I-29**

**Comments received following presentation:**

Name	Representing	Type of Comment	Comment
Mark Roby	FOCUS Watertown	Verbal	From the development standpoint, the FOCUS group would like to see a combination of Option 4 and 5 to open up development opportunities to the southwest of 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue S and Broadway Street.
Gene Kingslien 3433 Gary Ave. Manhattan, KS 66503 Ph 785-776-6379	Landowner	Verbal and Written	I have no desire to sell the farmhouse at 2306 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue. We prefer not to sell the acres especially since they are all on our land. The west side of 20th Avenue on north side belongs to the city/parks—use that instead of the acres.
Bill Lauseng	Landowner	Verbal	For the SD20 to US81 Project, he lives south of the intersection of 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue S and Broadway Street. He prefers if we take land to the north. Use Options 1-4.
Roger Kouf	Landowner	Verbal	Option 4 goes down the middle of my land and son's house. How are you going to handle it? <b>Response:</b> SDDOT will meet with landowners and the Uniform Act must be followed. The property and buildings will be estimated for fair market value.
John Hanten	Herb and Betty Hanten	Verbal	For the US81 to 29 <sup>th</sup> Street SE, what options are you leaning to? <b>Response by Terry Keller:</b> All options are open at this point; the agencies have not yet viewed the EA and will need to review. The USACE, USFWS, and GFP need to give feedback since they are the regulatory agencies for permitting. Each option has it draw backs and advantages, so please give us your comments.
Nancy Berry	District 5 Senator	Verbal	What is the advantage of Option 4 over 5? <b>Response by Terry Keller:</b> Option 5 is located in more wetlands, and salvage areas, while Option 4 affects more residences and properties.
Matt Kranz	Landowner	Verbal	For the US81 to 29 <sup>th</sup> Street SE Project—Homes west of Willow Creek were avoided, why not the east side of Willow Creek? <b>Response by James Unruh:</b> New utilities exist on the north side. We were also not aware that the house wasn't available. We will take a look at the alignment again.

# Watertown South Connector

- 20th Avenue S from US 81 to 29th Street SE and 29th Street SE from 20th Avenue S to 2200 feet south of US 212 (Project EM 4411(01) PCN 00RV)
- US 212/SD 20 intersection to US 81 (Project EM 4020(01) PCN 00RW)
- 29th Street SE to Interstate 29 (Project EM 4020(01) PCN 00RW)



## Public Meeting

October 23, 2007 @ 5:30 pm  
Watertown Ramkota



### Sign-in Sheet (Please Print)

Name	Representing	Address	City, State, Zip Code
Mitte Porate	self	17345 458 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Wtn SD 57201
MARK & CAROL DUNN	self	3801 20 <sup>th</sup> AVE SE	Wtn, S.D. 57201
Gene Kingstien	self	3433 GARY AVE	Manhattan, KS 66503
Ron Sherman	SDPOT	Wtn.	Ron.Sherman@state.sd.us
Don N. Jux	City	Wtn. 23 2nd St. S.E.	for p watertown sd.us
James Unruh	HDR	6300 R. Old Village P	Sioux Falls, SD
GEOFF HEIG	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	901 4 <sup>th</sup> AVE SW	WATERTOWN, SD 57201
Rebecca Baker	HDR	6300 Old Village Place	S Falls, SD 57108
Cornie Lake	self	151 18th Ave. SW.	Wtn - SD. 57201
Don & Eva Berk	self	2917 7 <sup>th</sup> St. S.W.	Wtn, SD. 57201
Bill Laursen	Self	20-30 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW	Wtn SD

# Watertown South Connector

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- US 212/SD 20 intersection to US 81 (Project EM 4020(01) PCN 00RW)
- 29th Street SE to Interstate 29 (Project EM 4020(01) PCN 00RW)



## Public Meeting

October 23, 2007 @ 5:30 pm  
Watertown Ramkota



### Sign-in Sheet (Please Print)

Name	Representing	Address	City, State, Zip Code
Scott Reborn	SD DOT	700 East Broadway Ave	Pierre, SD 57501
Mila Behn	"	"	"
KRISTEN GUNDAVSON	SF HDR	6300 So Old Village Place	SFSD 57108
Carol Arbogast	City Council	510-9th St SE	Wtn, S.D.
Darrel Arbogast	Retired	"	"
A. Janice Iverson	MGM	110-28th Ave SE	Wtn, S.D.
STEVE LEHNER	WMU	901 4th SW	Wtn, SD
Jon Solum	City Council	421 3rd St. NW	Wtn SD
MARK ROBY	FW	346 N Lake Dr	Wtn SD
Burdette Solum	retired	2001 Palisades Lane	Wtn SD
Steve Foster Catherine Foster	retired	1104 8th Ave NE	Wtn

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- US 212/SD 20 intersection to US 81 (Project EM 4020(01) PCN 00RW)
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## Public Meeting

October 23, 2007 @ 5:30 pm  
Watertown Ramkota



### Sign-in Sheet (Please Print)

Name	Representing	Address	City, State, Zip Code
Matt & Judy Krenz		2137 20 <sup>th</sup> Ave. S.E.	Wtn. SD. 57201
DALCHAUSSERSON		1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St NW	WTR SD 57200
David Law		414 2nd Ave SE	Wtn SD 57201
Mark J. Claman		116 E Dakota Ave	Pierre, SD 57501
Mark Rodwald		1116 NW 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wtn SD 57201
David Petersen		Po Box 910	Wtn SD 57201
Nancy & Duane York		921-8 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	Wtn SS 57201
John Ryedlingen		P.O. Box 1113	Watertown, SD 57201
Eric Mack		17390 Sheridan Rd	Wtn
Todd Halls		920 9 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SW	Wtn
Rubio		135 32 <sup>nd</sup> "	—

# Watertown South Connector

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## Public Meeting

October 23, 2007 @ 5:30 pm  
Watertown Ramkota



### Sign-in Sheet (Please Print)

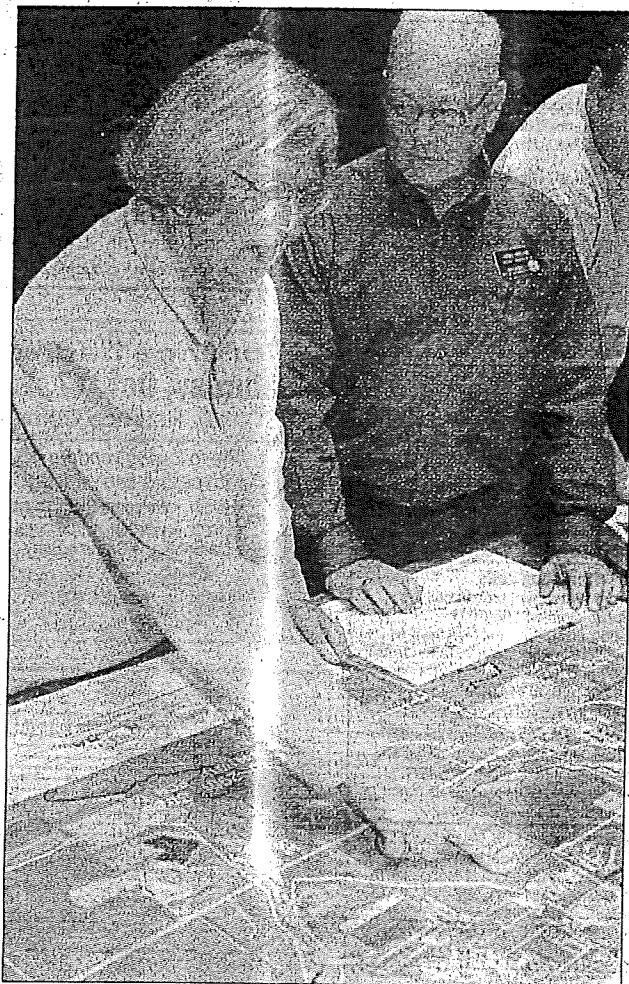
Name	Representing	Address	City, State, Zip Code
John Hanten	Herb Hanten Betty	2225 45th SE	Wtn
Sandra Kingslien	Self	10600 Leafwood Lane	Austin, TX 78750
Bill ORTMELER	SELF	2135 20th AVE SE	Wtn
Guy Carlson	Self	17351 458th Ave	Wtn, SD.
JEREMY FUGLEBERG	Public opinion	602 8th ST NE	Wtn SD
Jim Steinhilber	Self	2217 Stadheim Dr	Wtn, SD.
Sen. Nancy Turdik Berry	Dist. 5 <del>Self</del>	44 Paradise Dr	Watertown
Cliff & Phyllis Abou	Self	1808-5th St. S.E.	Watertown
Matt Brey	SD DOT	1804 1st Ave SE	Wtn.
Tom & Kaye Wickard	Self	36781 142nd St	MWA S.D 57451
Rogers Lois Key	Self	1507 S. Broadway	Wtn. S.D. 57201



# Watertown PUBLIC OPINION

## Planners debut connector routes

Vol. 1



Public Opinion Photo by Jeremy Fugleberg

**Watertown City Council** member Carol Arbogast points to a spot on a map of the proposed bypass routes as Terry Keller, of the South Dakota Department of Transportation looks on. The two were at the public input meeting on the "Watertown South Connector" project. The project will run a road from the intersection of US Highway 212 and Highway 20 south and then east to a junction with Interstate 29. Construction could start as early as spring 2009.

### ■ BYPASS

Continued from Front Page

20th Avenue to about a half-mile south of the junction with Highway 212. The assessment is available in full on the *Public Opinion* website.

Unruh said landowners along the center stretch should receive letters within the next few weeks, aiming to set up meetings before Thanksgiving to talk over the plans.

At the meeting, some home-

owners along the center stretch on 20th Avenue said they didn't like the idea of the road getting closer — or in some places possibly going over — their houses.

"The trucks already shake the house," one resident said.

Unruh said the planning process always involved compromise, and the representatives were at the meeting just to hear those kinds of comments.

By JEREMY FUGLEBERG  
Public Opinion Staff Writer

In two years, semi-trucks will leave the in-town crush of US Highway 212 behind and cruise around Watertown on a new connector road. But for now, the planners of the road want to know what the public thinks about the proposed routes.

That was the purpose of the meeting held Tuesday night at the Watertown Event Center. More than 50 people gathered to hear from project engineers and state department of transportation representatives who brought along a long row of open maps to help explain the possibilities of the Watertown South Connector.

"What we are doing here is the next step," said James Unruh, project manager with HDR Engineering, the Sioux Falls firm heading up the planning for the route.

The route is set to run from the intersection of US Highway 212 and 20th Avenue South and finally to Interstate 29 somewhere south of the current exit.

For planning purposes, the route is split into three parts: The western section connecting the Highway 212 and 20th intersection with the crossroads of Broadway and 20th Avenue, the center stretch from there to the intersection with US Highway 81 and the final eastern segment where the road connects with the Interstate.

While the center segment is set on 20th Avenue, there's still work to be done on that stretch to determine how the road jogs north or south to avoid homes and property. Planners have sketched out five possible routes in the western section, all with

trade-offs.

"Each one of these options has drawbacks, but strengths as well," said Terry Keller, from the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

Of particular trouble in the planning was the bridge crossings of Willow Creek and the Big Sioux River.

While bridges exist at those locations already, new bridges would have to be constructed to keep the road from getting flooded.

"We wouldn't want that thing in water every time it floods," said Unruh.

But the smaller the bridges, the more they would bump up the flood plain. While long, expensive bridges would've solved the problem, the price was quite high. For the Big Sioux crossing, planners estimated that a \$3.8 million, 700-foot bridge would have no effect on the flood stage. Planners opted to recommend a much cheaper, 365-foot span that would raise the flood plain several inches, and require a revision of the city's flood plain map.

"As you can see, there are trade-offs here," said Unruh. "A lot of the major effort on this project was the bridge design."

The state department of transportation announced the plan for the project in August 2006. Planners continue to work on environmental assessments of the planned routes for city, state and federal review.

The Tuesday meeting was called due to the completion of the environmental assessment for 20th Avenue from Highway 81 to 29th Street Southeast, and for 29th Street from Twentieth Street to Interstate 29. Please see **BYPASS**, Back Page

"This is still open to comments," he said. "Don't think any of this is going to start construction tomorrow."

If all goes smoothly, the department will open bids on the center stretch in late 2008 with work to begin in spring 2009. If all goes according to plan, the road would open that same year.

That still leaves the western section and the stretch to I-29 left.

Work is ongoing on the western section, said Unruh, but said right now there's no money set aside for the work on the approaches to the Interstate.

"Nothing further will be done on it until funding is available," he said.

To see the just-complete environmental assessment, go to our website and click on the links tab.



Subject: FOCUS Watertown Meeting	
Client: SDDOT	
Project: Watertown South Connector	Project No: 39319
Meeting Date: October 23, 2007; 3:00 p.m.	Meeting Location: Watertown Ramkota-Theater Room
Notes by: rb	

**Attendees:** See Attendance Sign In Sheet (20 total in attendance)

**Comments provided by FOCUS Group:**

**Project- SD20 to US81--**

- Prefers Option 5--** due to more development opportunities with this option. The farther west on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue S the south connector can go the better opportunities for economic growth in this area.  
*Response: Issue with Option 5 is the channel realignment needed and wetland impacts; this option would be difficult to secure agency permits; also the RR crossing has a drastic skew angle.*
- A New Option--** What about the possibility of a hybrid between Option 4 and 5?  
*Response: Another option can be added. FOCUS Watertown agreed to provide a letter requesting an additional option.*
- 4 Way Stop--** What about a 4-way stop at 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue to help with the constraints of Option 5?  
*Response: The purpose of the project is to have a roadway that can keep traffic flowing, especially truck traffic; a 4-way stop would reduce traffic flow efficiency along the South Connector route.*
- Speed Limit on Hwy 212—**Will the speed limit be lowered on Hwy 212 to encourage people to detour on the connector?  
*Response: This will need to be considered after the connector project is finished.*
- Issues with the Project—**Are there any “deal breakers” with the connector project?  
*Response: The critical issues with the project include the railroad crossing in segment SD20 to US81, the bridge crossing of the Big Sioux River, and possible channel re-alignment in segment SD20 to US81.*
- Railroad Skew—** What is the preferred skew for a railroad crossing?  
*Response: A skew of 30 percent is the maximum preferred for Railroad crossing, with RR crossing gates.*

**Project- US81 to 29<sup>th</sup> Street SE—**

- Intersection of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and 29<sup>th</sup> Street SE—**Can this intersection be curved, so that trucks will be able to turn without stopping?  
*Response: This will be considered and a curve can be added. The group prefers the curve, although once the 29<sup>th</sup> Street SE to I-29 portion is completed it will need to be reconstructed.*
- Signal at Intersection of Hwy 81 and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue--** Will a signal be installed at this intersection?  
*Response: The issue was considered and there would be no need for lights until the ultimate 5 lane roadway is built. Stop signs for 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue traffic will be placed for the interim build condition. When and if warranted, a traffic signal can be installed.*



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  - 29th Street SE to Interstate 29 (Project EM 4020(01) PCN 00RW)



## Focus Watertown Update

October 23, 2007 @ 3:00 pm  
Watertown Ramkota



Sign-in Sheet (Please Print)

Name	Representing	Address	City, State, Zip Code
Terry Keller	SDDOT	700 E Broadway, Ave	Pierre SD 57501
Susan Tracy	SD	700 E Broadway Ave	Pierre SD 57501
Mark Clausen	FHWA	116 E. Dakota Ave.	Pierre, SD 57501
Mike Behm	SDDOT	700 E Broadway Ave	Pierre, SD 57501
Scott Raborn	SDDOT	700 E Broadway Ave	Pierre SD 57501
Jim Linn			Watertown
Rebecca Baker	HDR	6300 S. Old Village Place	St Falls, SD 57108
James Umuh	HDR	"	"
Chad N. Jux	City	23 2nd St. S.E.	Watn, S.D.
Geoff Hzig	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	901 4th AVE SW	WATERTOWN, SD 57201
Arvell Anson	AASOW ENG CONSULTANT	1022 SIXTH STREET SE 1022	WTN. SD. 57201



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## Focus Watertown Update

October 23, 2007 @ 3:00 pm  
Watertown Ramkota



### Sign-in Sheet (Please Print)

Name	Representing	Address	City, State, Zip Code
Michael Rye	COW	Box 910 2 <sup>nd</sup> St NE	Watertown SD. 57201
MARIE ROBY	FW		Wtn
Doug Sharp	FW	PO Box 1654	Wtn, SD 57201
Deb Shepherd	FW	PO Box 730	Wtn, SD 57201
Nendy Inansen	FW	3200 9 <sup>th</sup> Ave SE	Wtn, SD 57201
Rick Schlechter	Wtn A/E	PO Box 910	Wtn, SD 57201
Craig Atkins	Focus	PO Box 332	Wtn SD 57201
KRISTEN GUNDAARDSON	HDR	SFSD	57108
Herb Blomquist	City of Wtn	P.O. Box 910	Wtn, SD 57201

Project Status

In August 2006, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) announced the construction of the Watertown South Connector. The proposed roadway will extend from Highway 20 to I-29. This **second** informational brochure is intended to update you on the progress of the project.

**The foldout section of this brochure illustrates the roadway alignment options under consideration for the project.**

Here is an **updated** list of project milestones and the anticipated schedule for the rest of the project:

Summer/Fall/Winter 2006

- Public input on the project began with an August 8, 2006 public input meeting.
- Field investigations examined areas that may be impacted by the project.
- Potential roadway alignments were developed.
- Social, environmental, and economic impacts of the project were analyzed and documented.

Winter/Spring/Summer 2007

- Environmental Assessment documents were reviewed by City, State, and Federal agencies. Documents were modified to address comments.

Fall 2007

- Draft Environmental Assessment for 20th Avenue S from US 81 to 29th Street SE was released to the public and to federal and state regulatory agencies on October 1, 2007.
- Public meeting held on October 23, 2007, regarding the EA for 20th Avenue S from US 81 to 29th Street SE.
- Public information/input meeting held on October 23, 2007 for South Connector from SD 20 and US 81.
- Preparation of design plans for 20th Avenue S to begin

Project Schedule

Winter 2007/2008

- Draft Environmental Assessment for South Connector from SD 20 to US 81 will be released to the public and to federal and state regulatory agencies.
- Public meeting will be held regarding the EA for South Connector from SD 20 to US 81 and preparation of design plans will begin.
- Right-of-way acquisition for 20th Avenue S (from US 81 to 29th Street SE) will begin.

Spring 2008

- Right-of-way acquisition for South Connector from SD 20 to US 81 will begin.

Fall 2008

- Bids will be received for 20th Avenue S.

Spring 2009

- Bids will be received for South Connector from SD 20 to US 81.
- Construction of 20th Avenue S from US 81 to 29th Street SE will begin.

Summer 2009

- Construction of South Connector from SD 20 to US 81 will begin.

*Notes:*

- *Construction schedule may change depending on funding availability.*
- *Construction of the South Connector from 29<sup>th</sup> Street SE to I-29 is not yet scheduled; therefore an Environmental Assessment will not be prepared at this time.*

**If you have any other questions, please contact:**  
 Terry Keller, South Dakota Department of Transportation, 700 East Broadway Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501, (605) 773-3721, or  
 Herb Blomquist, City of Watertown, 23 Second St. NE, Watertown, SD 57201, (605) 882-6204 or  
 James Unruh, HDR, 6300 S. Old Village Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57108, (605) 977-7740

South Dakota Department of Transportation  
 ATTN: Terry Keller  
 700 East Broadway Ave  
 Pierre, SD 57501

Present

Future

Watertown South Connector Project Informational Brochure

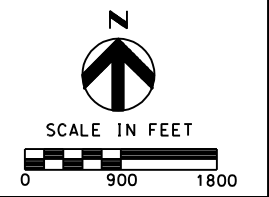
October 2007



### Proposed South Connector Alignment Options

- US 81 to 29th St SE
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3
- Option 4
- Option 5

**Watertown South Connector Alignment Options**  
 Projects EM 4411(01) PCN 00RV and EM 4020(01) PCN 00RW  
 October 2007



# South Connector Project

Watertown, SD

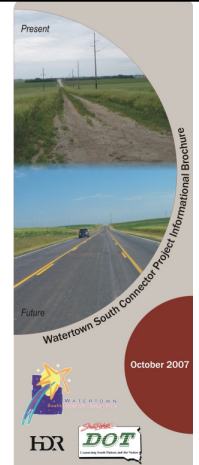
## Public Open House/Meeting

October 23, 2007



### Presentation Outline

1. Project Overview
2. From US 81 to 29<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Design Items
  - Environmental Assessment
3. From SD 20 to US 81
4. From 29<sup>th</sup> Street to I-29
5. Schedule
6. Comments on Environmental Assessment
7. Additional questions at exhibits



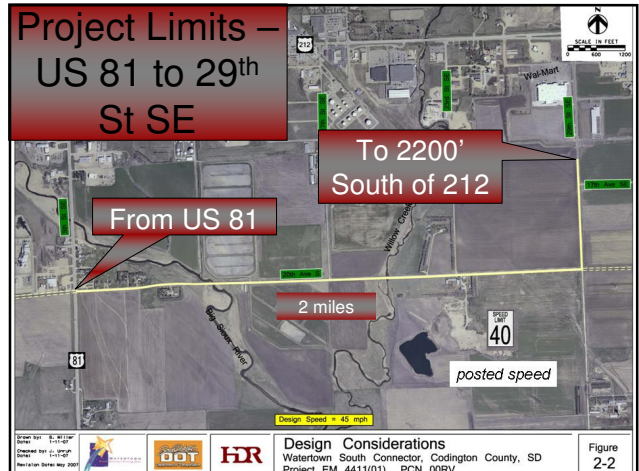
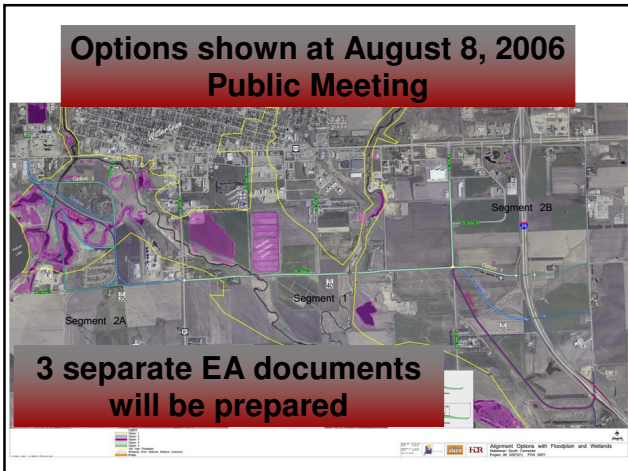
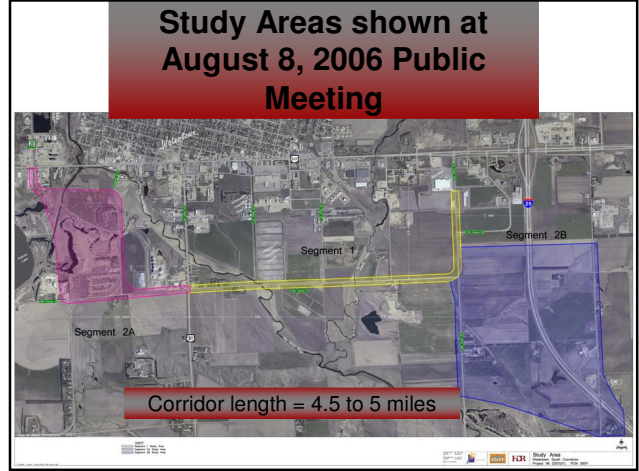
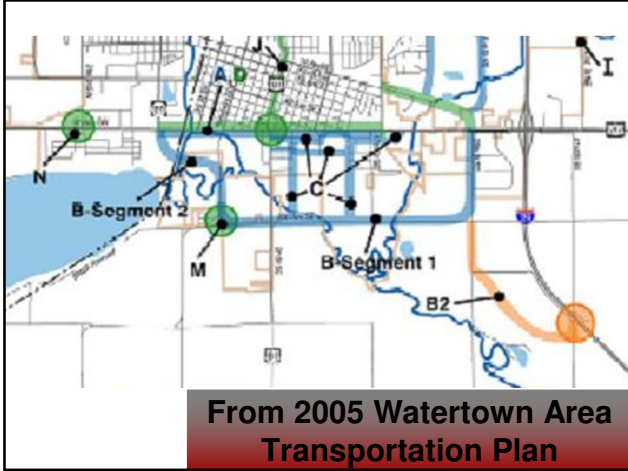
### Project Overview

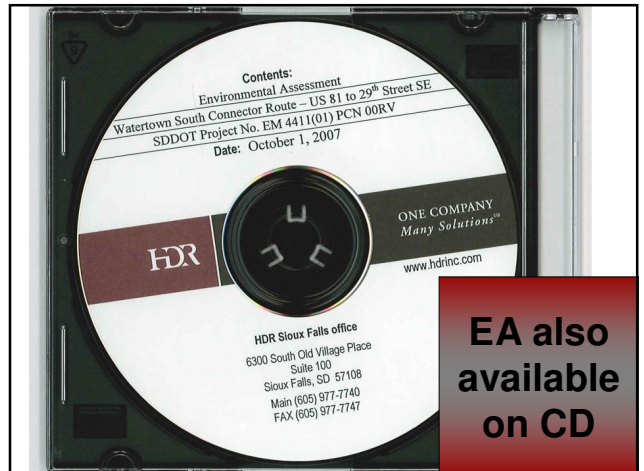
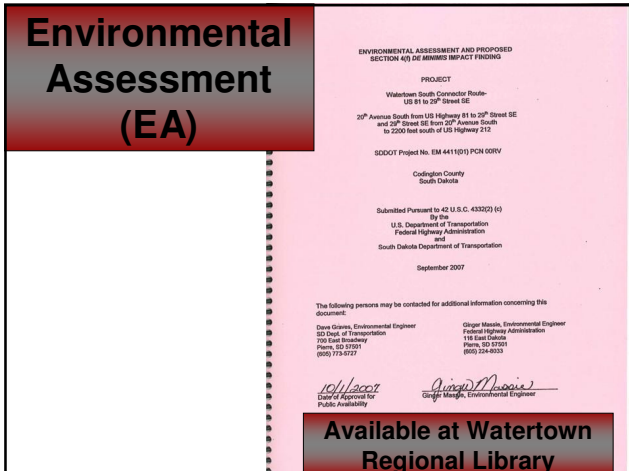
The South Connector is needed to relieve congestion and reduce accidents on Highway 212. It is also needed to provide good access, especially for trucks, to the rapidly developing industrial area on the City's south side.

*(Source: Watertown Area Transportation Plan 2005)*

### From 2005 Watertown Area Transportation Plan









### Watertown South Connector Comment Card

• Environmental Assessment for 20th Avenue S from US 81 to 29th Street SE and 29th Street SE from 20th Avenue S to 2500 feet south of US 212 (Project EM 4411(01) PCN 00RV)  
 • US 212/SD 20 Intersection to US 81 (Project EM 4020(01) PCN 00RV)  
 • 29th Street SE to Interstate 29 (Project EM 4020(01) PCN 00RV)

Please submit your comments before November 6, 2007 to:

HDR Engineering, Inc.  
 ATTN: James Uvink, P.E.  
 4380 S. Oak Village Place, Suite 100  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57105-2102

Would you like a copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) on CD?  YES  NO

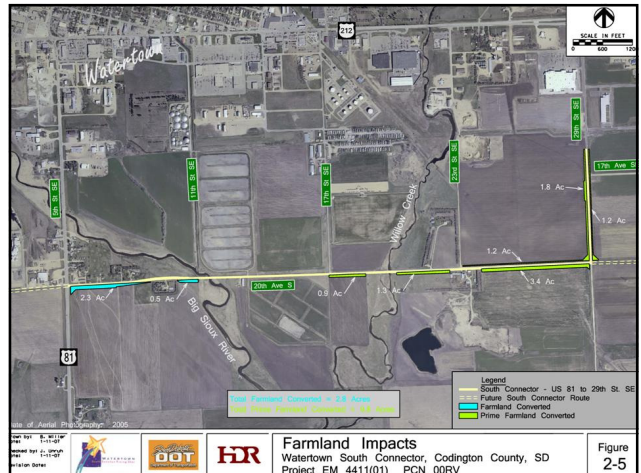
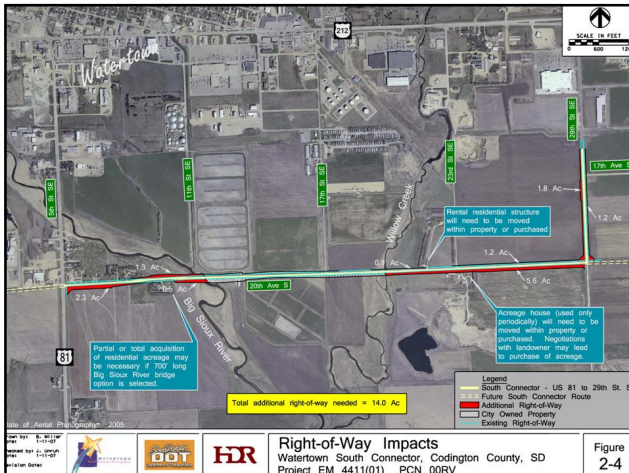
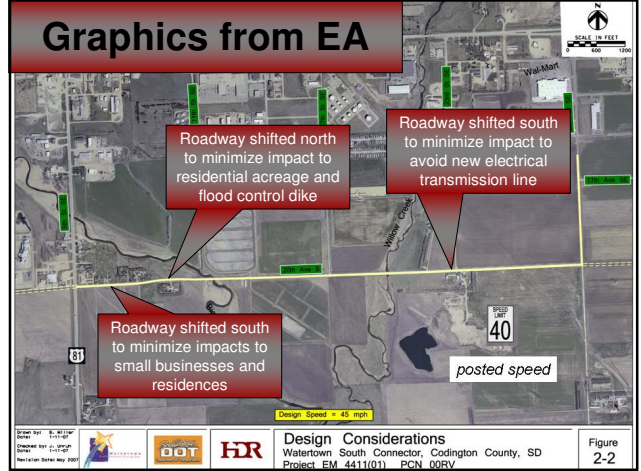
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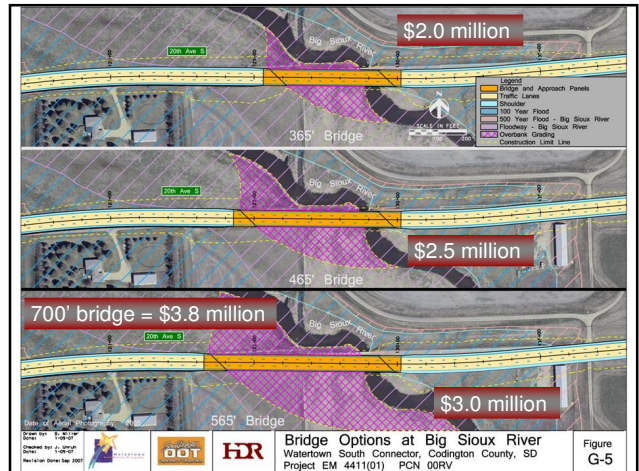
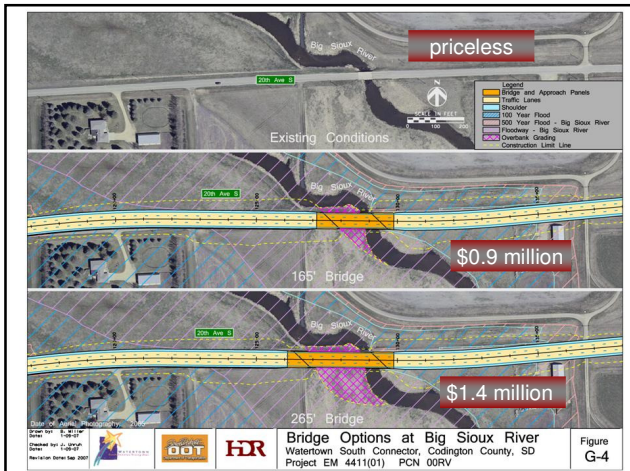
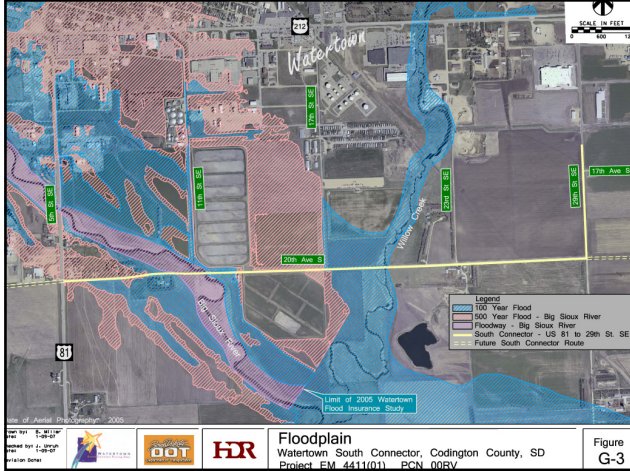
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 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

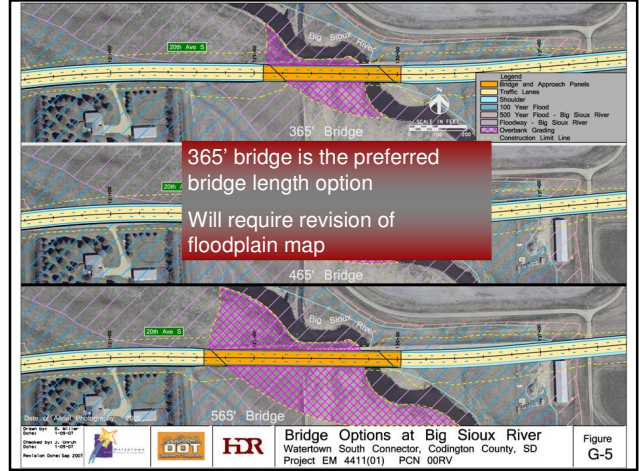
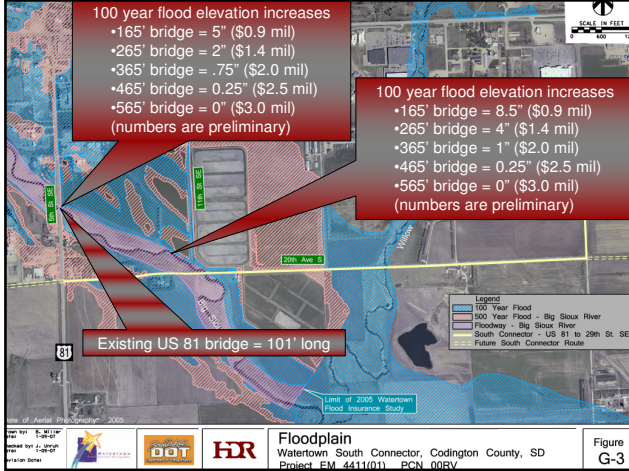
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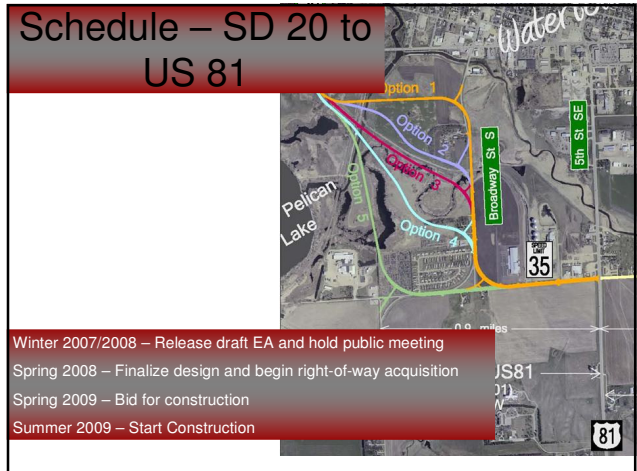
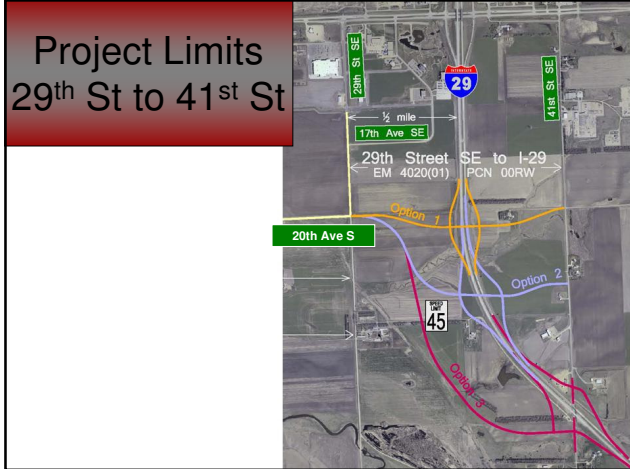
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HDR Engineering, Inc.  
 4770 S. James Uvink, P.E.  
 4380 S. Oak Village Place, Suite 100  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57105-2102









## Schedule – 29th St to 41st St

EA will be prepared when project is funded.



## Conclusion

### Project Team Introductions

- SDDOT
- City of Watertown
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- HDR

Comment forms available for written comments

Verbal comments

Additional questions at exhibits

