

I229 / Exit 4 (Cliff Ave) ESR & NEPA

Environmental Scan Report (ESR)

- Document developed to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the interchange alternatives evaluated in the IMJR.
- Purpose is to help identify key social, economic, and environmental issues, opportunities, and risk elements early in the process.
 - Informs and streamlines the formal NEPA documentation process, and
 - Alerts regulatory agencies, design engineers, and others that may need to plan ahead to avoid or minimize impacts, or mitigate these concerns going forward.

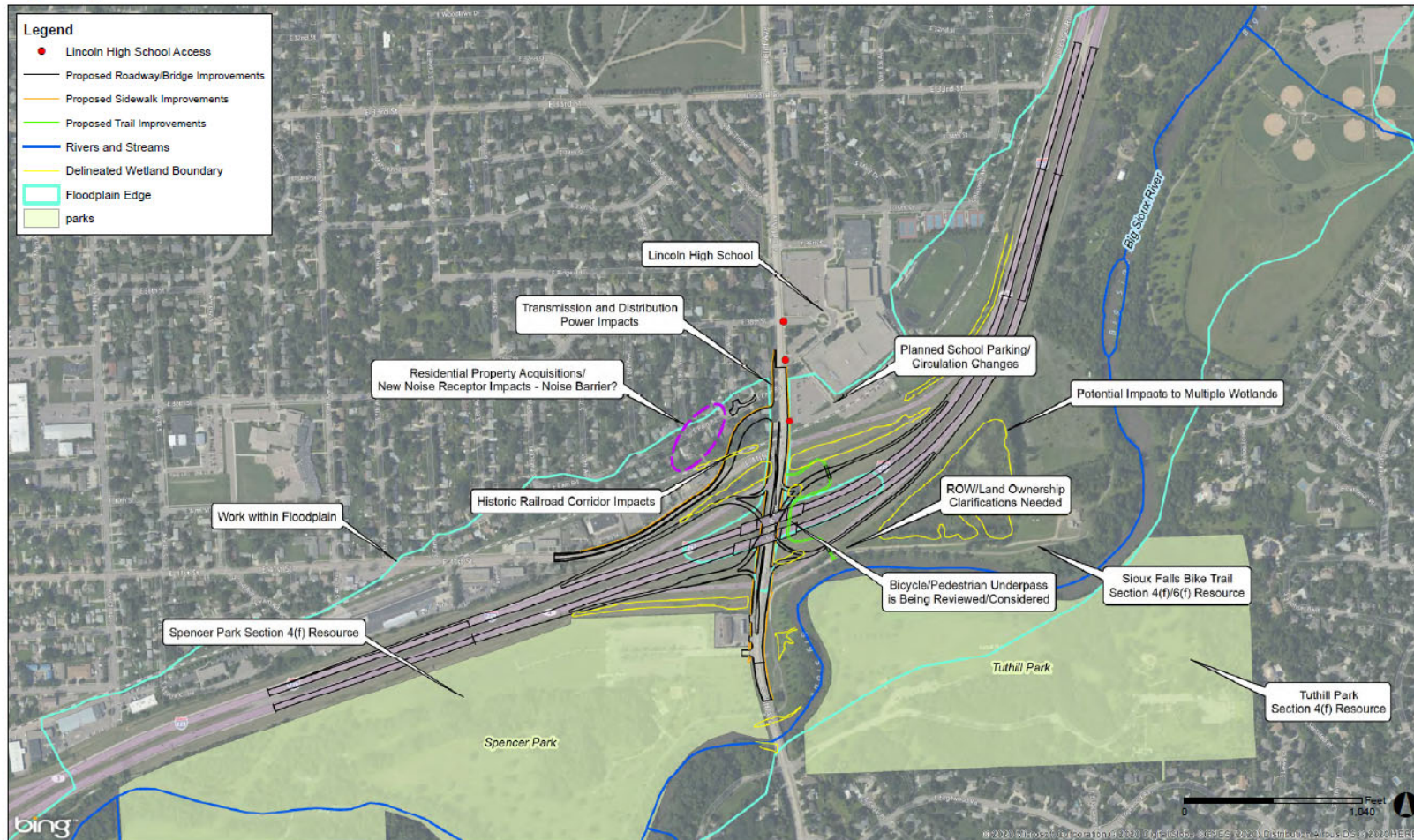
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- The required environmental documentation that reviews the potential impacts for the recommended interchange alternative.



Issues & Opportunities Map

Key Design Elements for Build Alternative Cliff 6



Interchange and Environmental Study for I-229
Exits 3 (Minnesota Ave) and 4 (Cliff Ave)



Environmental Considerations – Ongoing Work

Field Investigations Completed or Underway

- Wetlands
- Archaeological / Historical
- Habitat analysis –
Threatened and
Endangered Species
- Regulated Materials
(hazardous substances)
- Noise Study



Environmental Considerations – Ongoing Work



Agency and Tribal
Coordination

Preliminary
Environmental Reports

- Early Comments and Coordination
- Environmental Scan Report
- Environmental Study - Development of Purpose and Need Statement



Purpose and Need Statement

Why is it important?

- Explains why taxpayer funding is needed to make necessary and worthwhile expenditures.
- Justifies why environmental impacts are acceptable based on a project's importance.
- Drives the process for alternatives consideration, evaluation, and final selection.
- Is “the test” for meeting requirements of federal laws and executive orders that protect natural and human environments (wetlands, parklands, etc.).



Purpose Statement

“The purpose of this project is to improve travel mobility and safety at the I-229 Exit 4 interchange and along the Cliff Avenue corridor, while addressing geometric deficiencies, deteriorating pavement condition, and lack of connectivity for non-motorized transportation users.”



Needs

Improved Traveler Mobility

Current Interchange design:

- Useful design life expectancy is approaching.
- Existing and future traffic volumes exceed design capacity.
- Existing bicyclist and pedestrian facilities do not meet current standards.
- Integrate the existing and planned street network with existing and future development.



Needs

Improved Traveler Safety

- Reduce Crash Severity Rate.
- Decrease frequency and severity of crashes for all modes traveling through the study area.



Needs

Geometric Deficiencies

- Update geometrics to meet current design standards.
- Improve traffic movements by optimizing control of access through the corridor.



Needs

Aging Infrastructure

- Average corridor pavement condition ranges from marginal to fair.
- Two bridges over I-229 – built in 1959, with “fair condition” rating, now exceeded their 50-year design life.



Needs

Improved Intermodal Connectivity

- Improve pedestrian and bicyclist connections through better linkages between land uses north and south of I-229.
- Improvement of travel accessibility for users of all ages and abilities (ADA).



Exit 4 (Cliff Ave) – Evaluation Matrix

	No-Build No improvements	Alternate #1 Partial Cloverleaf (Loop Ramp)	Alternate #6 SPUI* (re-align 41 st St)	Alternate #7 SPUI*
Evaluation Criteria				
Meets Design Criteria	○	●	●	●
Meets Spacing Criteria	○	●	●	●
ROW Impacts	●	●	●	●
Environmental Impacts	○	●	●	●
Safety Improvements	○	●	●	●
Operational Performance	○	●	●	●
Non-motorized Facilities	●	●	●	●
Cost Effectiveness	○	●	●	●
Planning Level Cost (in million dollars)	\$0.0	\$25.3	\$36.1	\$36.3
Overall	○	●	●	●

*SPUI - Single Point Urban Interchange



Interchange and Environmental Study for I-229
Exits 3 (Minnesota Ave) and 4 (Cliff Ave)

Comparison of key performance indicators:

- *Conformance with plans and design standards*
- *Right-of-way impacts (displacements and acres required)*
- *Environmental Impacts (natural and social environment concerns)*
- *Traffic Safety and Operations*
- *Construction (traffic staging and costs)*

Recommended: Alternative 6

- *Selected by the SAT as most able to achieve the project's Purpose and Need, especially safety improvements (expected crash reductions).*
- *Best value alternative for anticipated improvements.*

Legend

- Good
- ◐ Fair
- ◑ Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Poor



Thanks for Watching!!!

- Reminder to Provide Feedback/Comments (online at the project website)
- Project Website: www.i229exits3and4.com
- Project Contacts:

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