



First Public Information Meetings Draw A Crowd



The first public information meetings for the Sioux Falls West Corridor Study, held on September 17 and 19, were well attended by the public. Approximately 100 people attended the Sioux Falls meeting and approximately 50 people attended the Tea meeting. For an hour and a half, attendees were able to examine exhibits containing project information and discuss the project with the Process Team. The atmosphere of the meeting was positive, and the flow of information between citizens and the Process Team was excellent.

The exhibits and discussions with Process Team members inspired questions and concerns on a variety of topics. Examples of the types of questions and comments received at the meetings include:

- ◆ How will the West Corridor impact Ellis and people living along the corridor?

- ◆ How will the project impact Tea?
- ◆ Are the gravel pits in the Study Area suitable for road construction?
- ◆ We need this road now.
- ◆ What does the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) do?
- ◆ The public also provided information to the Process Team about environmental constraints in the Study Area such as cemeteries and natural areas.

Your comments and concerns are important to the Process Team. Public involvement is crucial in identifying important features within the project area that need to be considered. The West Corridor Study Process Team is looking forward to the opportunity to meet with residents again at the next public meeting, tentatively scheduled for early 2003. The focus of this meeting will be to present possible alignment alternatives and to gather public feedback on those alignments and their potential impacts.

Public Meeting Information Available On The Web

The exhibits and other information used at the meetings are available on the West Corridor page of the Sioux Falls website. To access information on the web, complete the following steps:

- ◆ Type in the City of Sioux Falls' web address: www.siouxfalls.org
- ◆ Click "West Corridor" on the left-hand side under "Highlights"

From the website, you can follow the progress of the project and provide your input to the Process Team.



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What is the Sioux Falls Metropolitan Planning Organization?

by Austin Eich, SECOG Transportation Planner

Federal law requires that all urbanized areas in the United States with populations of 50,000 persons or greater establish Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). These organizations are responsible for area transportation planning and programming activities. In the Sioux Falls urbanized area, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization is the Urbanized Development Commission (UDC) of the South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG). The UDC is composed primarily of elected officials from the three local units of governments in the greater Sioux Falls area. These include: the City of Sioux Falls, Lincoln County, and Minnehaha County. Also serving on the UDC are the mayors of Tea and Brandon and a member of the South Dakota Department of Transportation Commission.

The UDC was established in the early 1970s to meet the transportation planning and other social and economic development needs of the Sioux Falls area. Today, the UDC directs and oversees all transportation planning and programming activities within the official Sioux Falls metropolitan planning study area, which includes approximately 702 square miles in southeastern South Dakota, including the entire city of Sioux Falls and the city of Tea as well as portions of 20 townships in both Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties. The Sioux Falls MPO Study Area is shown on the map insert of this newsletter.

The scope of what the UDC is responsible for, in terms of the major modes of transportation, includes: streets and highways, air transportation, rail transportation, public transportation, and bicycle and pedestrian transportation.

The UDC, functioning as the policy board of the local transportation planning process, works in conjunction with two other advisory committees (Technical Advisory Committee [TAC] and Citizens Advisory Committee [CAC]), staff from the three participating units of local government, staff from the state and federal transportation and transit agencies, and the general public in carrying out its transportation planning and programming responsibilities.

The local transportation planning process strives to operate what is termed a 3-C process; that is, Comprehensive, Cooperative, and Continuing. To meet this objective, the MPO works to plan and make programming decisions for all of the major modes of transportation within the planning study area by including citizens in the process on an on-going basis. It is partly because of this 3-C commitment on the part of the MPO that the Sioux Falls metropolitan area has enjoyed such abundant and well-planned growth over the last several decades.



www.siouxfalls.org

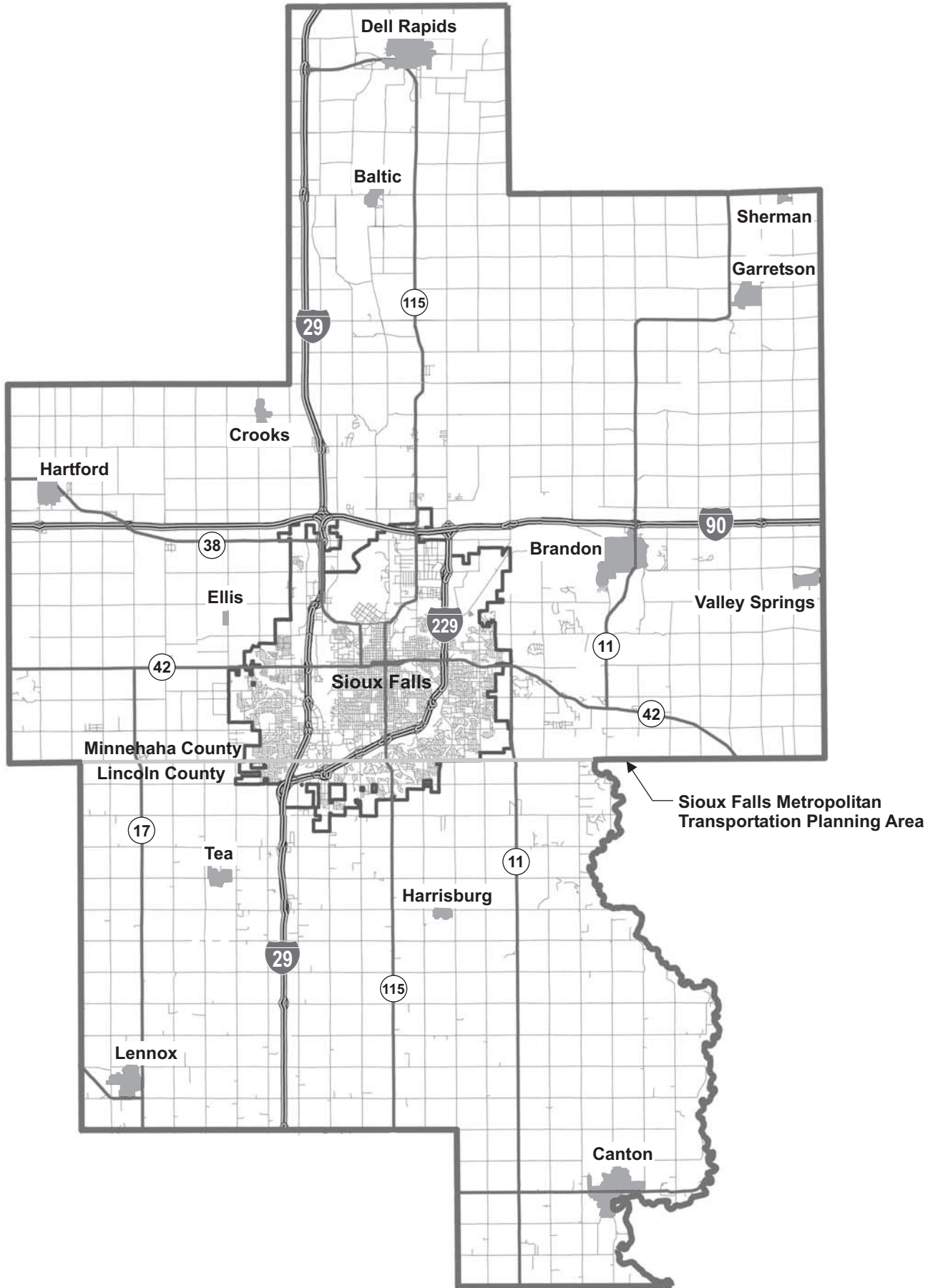
Contact Us

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Sioux Falls MPO Transportation Planning Area





Public Members Join the Process Team

The Sioux Falls MPO established a Process Team to guide the West Corridor Study and assist the consultant with various issues ranging from public involvement - to alternatives - to project impacts. At the first public information meeting, citizens were asked to volunteer to serve on the Process Team. Five members of the public have joined the Process Team and will be working with agency representatives as the West Corridor Study progresses.

All of the Process Team members are available to take your comments and suggestions. If you have a question or concern that is important to the West Corridor Study, please contact one of the Process Team members listed below.

Members of the Process Team are also available to make a presentation to your civic group or organization. If you would like to have someone present West Corridor Study information at your meeting, contact Bill Brinker or Jason Kjenstad at (605) 338-2660.

Organization	Representative	Phone Number
Community	Jean Cave Gary Landeen Robert Schoenfelder Kermit Quanbeck Keith Polzin	361-6018 334-0873 338-3124 338-3689 368-2150
South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG)	Lynne Keller Austin Eich (A)	367-5390 367-5390
City of Tea	Herman Otten John Lawler (A)	530-2239 368-2092
City of Sioux Falls Planning	Sam Trebilcock Jeff Schmidt (A)	367-8890 367-8891
City of Sioux Falls Public Works	Shannon Ausen Kevin Smith (A)	367-8601 367-8600
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Mark Hoines Ginger Massie (A)	224-7326 ext. 3039 224-7326 ext. 3037
South Dakota Dept. of Transportation (DOT)	Terry Keller Dave Graves (A)	773-3155
Lincoln County	Allan Bonnema	764-5841
Minnehaha County	Dave Queal Bob Meister (A)	367-4204 367-4316
(A) designates alternate member from an organization		

In Terms of Transportation



Transportation projects often use terminology that is not common in day-to-day language, and sometimes those terms take on new meanings. Don't be left in

the dust! Enable yourself to use these words with confidence! Check out the "In Terms of Transportation" section of the West Corridor project newsletters to become familiar with some of the transportation terms that may be used in the West Corridor and other studies.

Wetland - Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water and that, under normal circumstances, support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Right-of-Way - Land acquired by purchase, gift, or eminent domain in order to build and maintain a public road.

Arterial - A general term denoting a roadway primarily for through traffic, usually on a continuous route.

Level of Service - Level of service (LOS) is a term used to rank traffic operations on a roadway or at an intersection. LOS categories range from LOS 'A' (best) to LOS 'F' (worst). Factors that may affect the LOS on a roadway include: speed, travel time, traffic interruptions, freedom to maneuver and types of vehicles.

Corridor Study - The study of corridor locations; social, economic, and environmental considerations; and alternatives for an area in which a roadway is being planned.

Geographic Information System (GIS) - A computer software tool that is used to create maps and to analyze spatial relationships; for example: to determine the amount of wetlands impacted by a potential roadway alignment.

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