

Welcome to the virtual component of the I-29 Exit 71 Interchange Modification Study Public Information Meeting number one. My name is Jon Wiegand. I am the consultant project manager with HDR and have a couple introductory slides to go over some of the components of the virtual component of this public meeting.

This first public meeting is a hybrid public meeting that we have both in-person and virtual components. The in-person public meeting is or has been held on August 23, 2021 at Tea City Hall at 5:30 P.M. The virtual component or online component is open between August 23rd and September 10th. This is where you have the self-paced information, and you can submit online comments. The one thing I do want to stress is that both options present the same information. What we present and display at the in-person public meeting has also been incorporated here into the virtual component. That includes the introductory presentation as well as the display boards and supporting information of the background, the various alternatives or layouts that have been developed throughout the study area to date, as well as the supporting information.

There are various ways to submit comments throughout this study as well as here specific to the first public meeting. You can go to the main study website; there are links to a comment box as well as links to study contacts. You can submit your comments and feedback directly through this box or reach out to either of the study contacts, myself with HDR, or Steve Gramm with the South Dakota Department of Transportation through email, phone or mail – whatever is most convenient for you. Specific to this first public meeting, you can submit a comment form directly at the in-person public meeting or send it to us, any of the contacts here, following the public meeting. You can also submit your comments directly online through the virtual public meeting page, which I will show here in a little bit. The one thing I want to stress here is that comments for this first public meeting need to be received by September 10th, 2021. That allows to move into the next phases of the study in a timely manner.

This slide shows an example of a typical virtual public meeting page. On the far left, you'll see the table of contents where you can click on any of those tabs and quickly jump between the various topics here within the virtual public meeting. The middle and bulk of the page is where we have the self-paced public meeting items such as expandable layouts, discussion supporting those layouts, and some evaluation metrics that we have looked at so far to date within the study. In the top right is where we have a link to the comment box. On each of these pages, you can click on that link and a comment window will open where you can easily provide your comments while reviewing the layouts and information on each specific page.

And finally, I would just like to thank everyone for your interest and participation in the I-29 Exit 71 Interchange Modification Study. I want to encourage you to provide comments and feedback on anything you see here within the virtual public meeting by September 10th, 2021. Throughout the entire study, you can certainly reach out to any of the study contacts including myself, John Wiegand, the consultant project manager with HDR, or Steve Gramm, the project manager with the South Dakota Department of Transportation. Following the public meeting and throughout the study, we will be posting updated information to the study website at www.i29exit71.com as well as advertising for our next public meeting which is anticipated in the fall of 2021 where we will be presenting preliminary recommendations for the future projects in this area for your comment and feedback

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