

BROADWELL AVENUE & UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD CROSSING PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES STUDY

Welcome!

The City of Grand Island (City), in coordination with the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is conducting a planning and environmental linkages (PEL) study for potential improvements at or near the existing Broadwell Avenue and Union Pacific Railroad crossing in Grand Island, Nebraska.

The purpose of today's meeting is to:

- Introduce you to the details of the Study
- Answer your questions and receive comments

Project Purpose & Need

The purpose of the project is to:

- Improve traffic flow at the at-grade crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad mainline tracks and Broadwell Avenue
- Reduce the potential for train-vehicle and vehicle-vehicle crashes at the at-grade crossing
- Reduce traffic delays and associated costs

The project need is based on:

Train-Vehicle Conflicts

There have been six train-vehicle crashes since 2001.

Exposure factor is used to quantify the potential for train-vehicle crashes and at-grade railroad crossings. The exposure factor at Broadwell Avenue is 1,143,900 and would increase with additional traffic. Crossings with an exposure factor greater than 50,000 are potentially eligible for grade separation funding.

Year	Average Daily Traffic	Trains per Day	Exposure Factor ¹
2018	12,300	93	1,143,900
2040	17,600	93 ²	1,636,800

1 Exposure factor is calculated by multiplying the average daily traffic by the average daily train traffic

2 Changes in train traffic are unknown and assumed to remain steady

Traffic Delay

- Train events also affect traffic at the 2nd Street, 3rd Street, Old Lincoln Highway, North Front Street and 4th Street intersections along Broadwell Avenue.
 - Train events cause traffic to backup into adjacent intersections, blocking cross traffic
 - After train events it can take two to four traffic signal cycles for traffic backups to clear
 - Traffic backups can lead to vehicle-vehicle crashes
- Traffic stopped on southbound Broadwell Avenue at 3rd Street can back up across the railroad tracks with some drivers stopping on the tracks.
- On average, the annual cost of delay and crashes is \$233,500.

Project Description & Location

The Study is evaluating options for the at-grade crossing near the existing Broadwell Avenue crossing north of 3rd Street.



Broadwell Avenue is a north-south arterial roadway that serves as a principle connection between the north and south portions of the City.

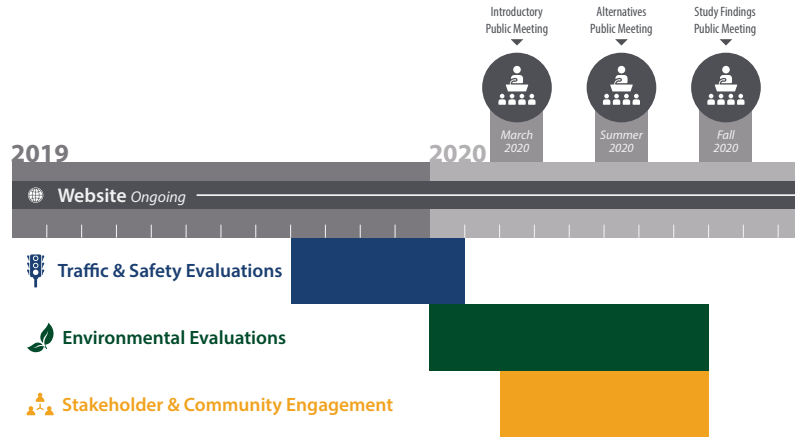
What is a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study?

A PEL study represents a collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decision-making that:

1. Considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the transportation process
2. Uses the information, analysis, and products developed during planning to inform the environmental review process

This Study will use PEL principles to provide a smooth transition to future phases of this Project.

Study Schedule



Schedule subject to change

Next Steps

Following this public meeting, the Study team will:

- Develop & analyze alternatives, which will consider:

- Traffic & safety**
- Environmental impacts**
- Property impacts**
- Cost**

- Host a public meeting for input on the alternatives analysis
- Identify a locally preferred alternative and prepare a report
- Present results to public

Other Grade Separated / At-Grade Railroad Crossings



All materials from today's meeting will be hosted via online meeting from March 5, 2020, through March 20, 2020, at www.grand-island.com/Broadwell-UPRR.

Information regarding the Study is available at www.grand-island.com/Broadwell-UPRR.

Comments will be collected through March 20, 2020, and should be submitted to:

Tim Golka, P.E., City of Grand Island
100 East First Street, Grand Island, NE 68801
timg@grand-island.com | (308) 385-5455

For those without internet access, information may be obtained at the City offices or by contacting the City at:

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