

LCC WEBSITE CONTENT

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Project Overview

The Lincoln County Crossroads Study will coordinate regional transportation and mobility solutions necessary for highways in and around North Platte to best support local, regional and international trade routes through Lincoln County and State of Nebraska. The project will determine the feasibility of transportation solutions to address identified needs in three specific focus areas:

- West I-80 Interchange and Southwest Bypass
- Highway 30 North Bypass
- Buffalo Bill Road North Evacuation Route

A Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study will be developed as part of this project. Through this transportation planning study, alternatives for bypass routes, interchanges and intersections, bridges and viaducts, and local safe street connections would be developed and evaluated using technical data and community outreach.

The Lincoln County Crossroads Study kicked off in Spring 2026 and is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2027.

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

A PEL study is a collaborative process that connects planning with environmental review. It helps communities and agencies plan future transportation projects, identifying the project purpose and need, and evaluating potential solutions prior to the funding for the project being dedicated. PEL study benefits include:

- **Supports Funding** - Strengthens applications for future state and federal funding to implement study recommendations.
- **Saves Time** - Streamlines future environmental review. Federally funded projects require a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision. The PEL will allow the project to start NEPA activities quickly and move through the NEPA process rapidly.
- **Engages the Community** - Incorporates public and stakeholder input.

- **Decision Making** - Aligns transportation needs and solutions with Lincoln County's long-term vision, considering traffic, safety, community growth, and environmental impacts.

Starting with A Clean Slate

Lincoln County is working with JEO Consulting Group to develop the Lincoln County Crossroads PEL Study. The study team is currently reviewing the project area, collecting traffic data, conducting a needs assessment, and public input to help determine the direction of this transportation study and make sure it is grounded in real-life experience.

No roadway alternatives have been determined, and no final plans have been decided.

Following this data collection phase, the study team will host an open house in fall 2026 to provide an update on the project and discuss next steps.

What the Lincoln County Crossroads Study Will Accomplish

- Determining corridor multi-modal transportation needs and safety improvements
- Accommodating existing and planned freight volume growth in the Lincoln County region
- Addressing high truck volumes and conflicts on U.S. Highway 83 (U.S. 83) in urban areas of North Platte
- Assessing safety, mobility, and connectivity solutions in the three focus areas – West I-80 Interchange and Southwest Bypass, Highway 30 North Bypass, and Buffalo Bill Road North Evacuation Route
- Engaging the public in understanding current and future transportation needs within the community
- Evaluating potential environmental risks including those associated with river and railroad crossings, freight movement, and vulnerable road users
- Developing and analyzing short-term and long-term transportation alternatives
- Documenting recommendations and action items in PEL Study, and using the study outcomes to position Lincoln County for future grant funding