



Iowa Department of Transportation

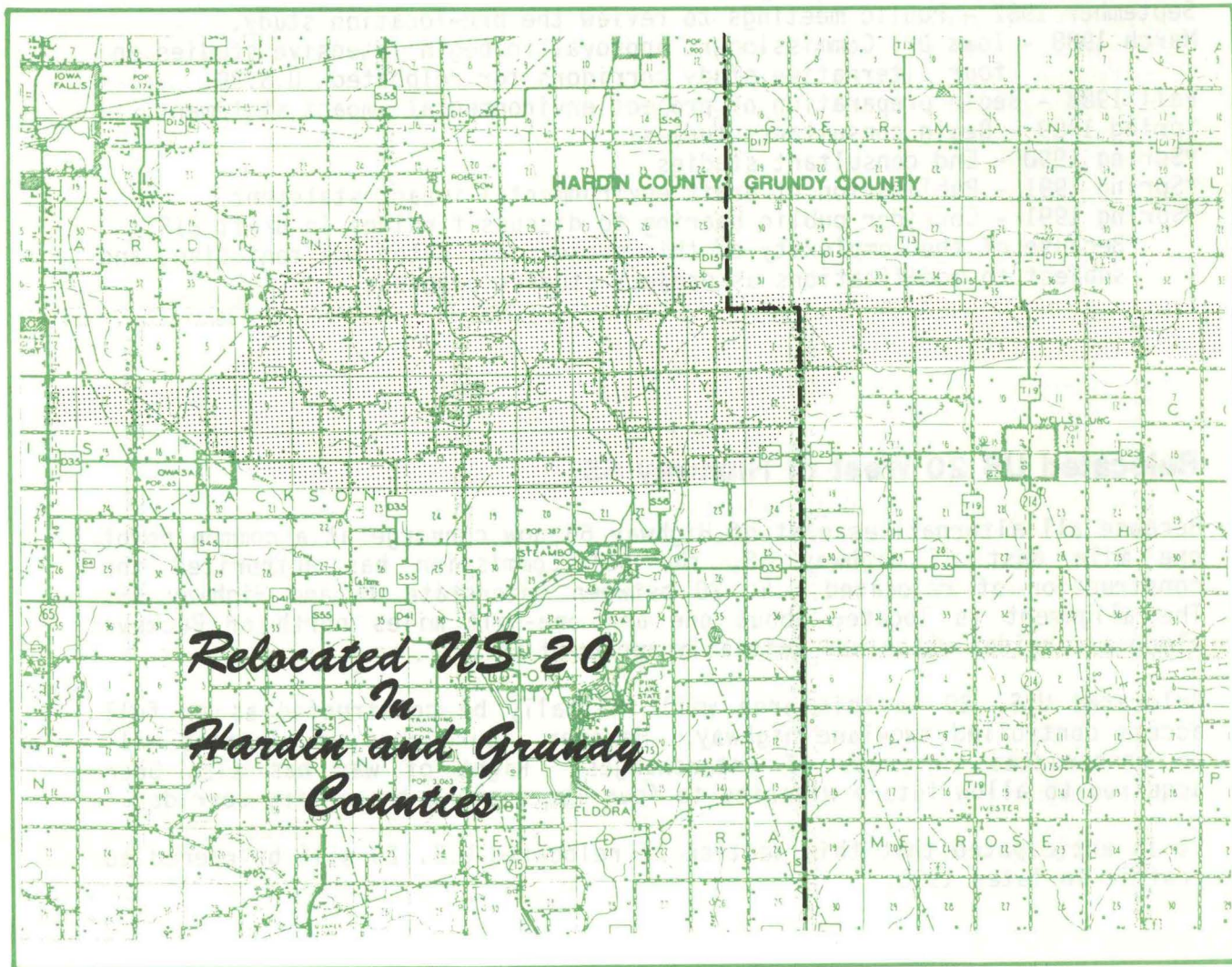
Planning & Research Division

Office of Project Planning

RELOCATED US 20 NEWSLETTER

Number 1

July 1989



....Contact

Have you been contacted by one of the Iowa DOT's project consultants regarding access to your property? The consultants and the various specialist involved with the U.S. 20 study are currently conducting field surveys within the project corridor in connection with our environmental impact statement documentation. They may need access to your property in order to perform these surveys, and we request that you cooperate with them -- even though it may present an inconvenience. The work these researchers are doing is extremely important and will help guide future decisions regarding the planned highway location. Additionally, the end result of their work will be a highway facility designed to minimize impacts on the surrounding environment. Your cooperation and patience with these researchers would be very much appreciated.

Projected US 20 Study Schedule

July 1987 - Pre-Location Study

September 1987 - Public meetings to review the pre-location study.

March 1988 - Iowa DOT Commissioners approval to begin intensive studies on four alternative study corridors for relocated U.S.20.

Fall 1988 - Begin preparation of project environmental impact statement.

Spring 1989 - Begin consultant studies.

*Spring 1990 - End consultant studies.

*Spring 1991 - Publication of draft environmental impact statement.

*Spring 1991 - Corridor public hearing to discuss findings in draft EIS.

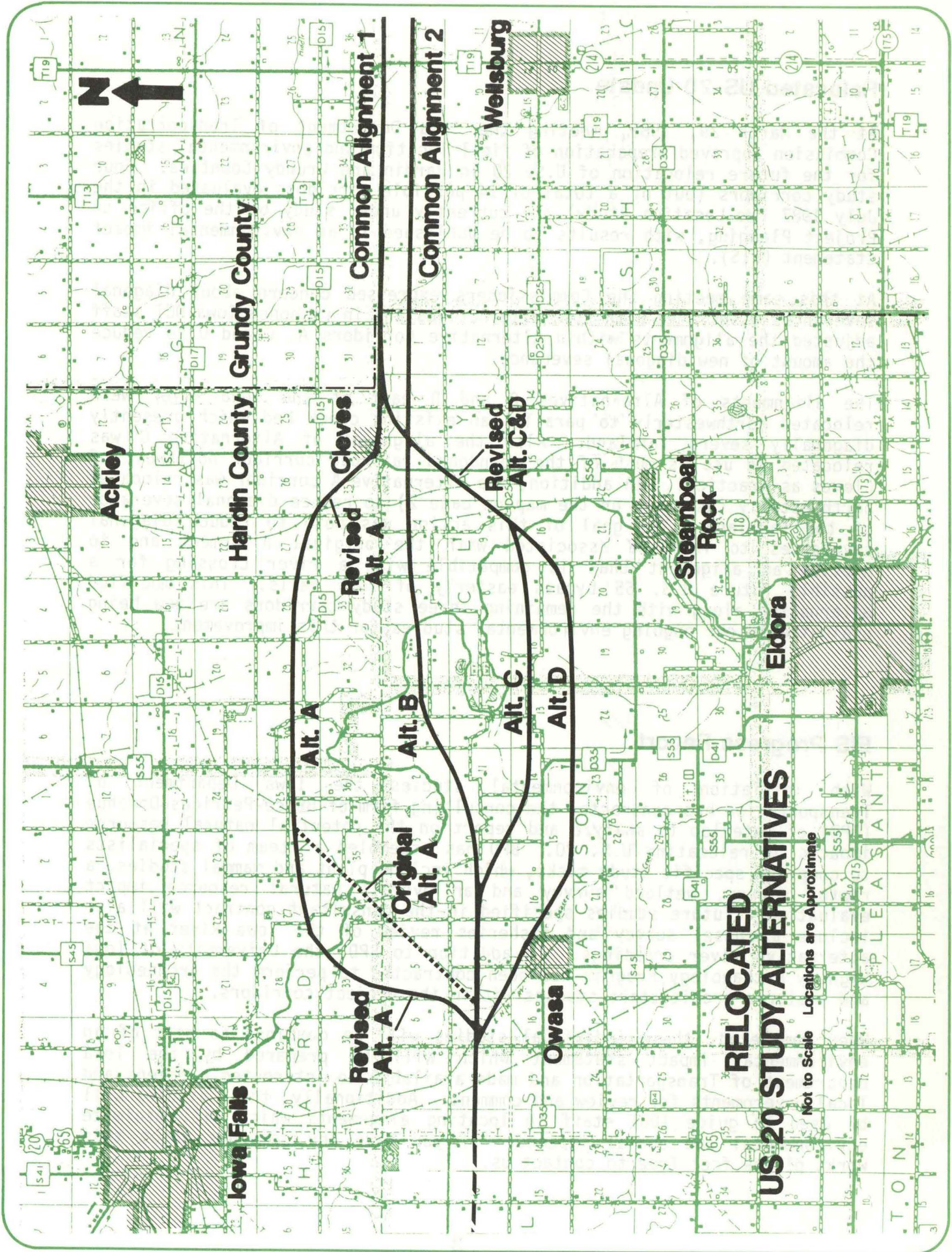
*Because of the complexity of this project all dates are tentative, and subject to modifications as project studies progress.

Relocated US 20 West of Highway 65

Because all alternatives east of Highway 65 now converge at a common point one mile east of Highway 65, the DOT Commission has authorized the construction of relocated U.S. 20 between Interstate 35 and Highway 65. The alignment is located about one and one-half miles north of Buckeye along a corridor which was initially approved in 1977.

Relocated U.S. 20 in this area will initially be constructed as an full access controlled two-lane highway. However, four lanes of pavement will be constructed in areas of interchanges. Right of way has also been acquired to allow future widening to four lanes along the entire corridor.

It is anticipated that this section of relocated U.S. 20 will be opened to traffic in later 1990.



**RELOCATED
US 20 STUDY ALTERNATIVES**

Not to Scale Locations are Approximate

Relocated US 20 Update

At the March 29, 1988, meeting the Iowa Department of Transportation Commission approved preparation of final location and environmental studies for the future relocation of U.S. 20 in Hardin and Grundy Counties. Four study corridors (out of a total of 14 possible corridors evaluated in the July 1987 Pre-Location Study) are currently under study by the Office of Project Planning, with results to be published in an environmental impact statement (EIS).

At this same meeting the Commissioners expressed concern about diagonal severances associated with some alternatives and in response Iowa DOT staff adjusted the alignments within Alternative Corridors A, C and D to reduce the amount of new diagonal severance.

The alignments of Alternatives C and D east of the Iowa River were relocated northwesterly to parallel an existing creek bed which presently diagonally severs farmland. Also the alignment of Alternative C was relocated to use as much of the abandoned railroad corridor northwest of Cleves as practical. In addition, the Alternative A corridor was relocated northwesterly (as shown on the map on page 2) to reduce diagonal severance of the farmland. The goal of this action was both to reduce diagonal severances to farmland associated with the original alignment and to provide an alignment that is compatible with a river crossing for a possible future U.S. 65 bypass easterly of Iowa Falls. This modified alternative along with the remaining three study corridors are now being evaluated in our ongoing environmental studies for this improvement.

EIS Progress Report

With initiation of environmental studies the Iowa Department of Transportation has contracted the consulting firm of Brice-Petrides-Donohue (BPD) of Waterloo to analyze and report on the potential natural resource impacts of relocating U.S. 20. BPD has assembled a team of specialists to complete specific study tasks, which include plant and mammal studies, a raptor survey, wetland survey and an overall natural resource impact evaluation. Future studies specified in the consultant contract will also include a mussel survey and fisheries review of the Iowa River at the alternative river crossings. In addition to BPD, the University of Iowa Highway Archaeology Program has been contracted to perform the archaeology and historic architecture studies within the project corridors.

When completed, these individual studies will be combined as part of an environmental impact statement which will be prepared by the Iowa Department of Transportation and made available to interested citizens and local governments for review and comment. Additionally, these studies will be used to guide IDOT staff in locating alignments which will minimize environmental and social impacts. If you have any comments about this work, please feel free to contact us.

.....Questions ?

If you have any questions about the alternatives being considered, the environmental studies or the project schedule, please feel free to contact us:

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The staff of the Office of Project Planning, Planning and Research Division of the Iowa Department of Transportation is responsible for the editorial content of this newsletter. This newsletter is prepared and distributed by The Office of Project Planning at the central Iowa DOT complex in Ames.





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