

# US 12 CORRIDOR STUDY – ABERDEEN TO IPSWICH



[www.us12study.com](http://www.us12study.com)

## STUDY BACKGROUND

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) in conjunction with the South Dakota Highway Patrol (SDHP) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has completed the US 12 Corridor Study for a portion of US Highway 12 (US12) between Ipswich, SD and Brown County Highway 12WA west of Aberdeen. The intent of the US 12 Corridor Study was to determine improvements to accommodate existing and future traffic patterns along the corridor. The US 12 Corridor Study reviewed a range of alternatives to improve capacity, reduce crashes and improve access management.

The second of two planned open house style public meetings is being held to discuss and receive public input on potential improvements prior to completion of the study and initiation of any future potential project development activities on the part of SDDOT.

## STUDY PROCESS

In June of 2016, a series of stakeholder meetings and a public open house were held to gather input and collect concerns regarding the US 12 corridor. Those proceedings were useful in developing a broad range of perspectives. Based on both public comments and traffic analysis, a range of recommendations were analyzed.

Alternatives were studied ranging from smaller intersection improvements such as lighting and additional turn lanes, the addition of periodic passing lanes as well as expanding the corridor to four lanes.



## ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED

**ALTERNATIVE 1 – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS:** Spot improvements to key intersections along the US 12 Corridor, with improvements focused on areas with higher truck generation rates.

**ALTERNATIVE 2 – PASSING LANES:** Integration of passing lanes along the US 12 corridor to provide opportunities for motorists to safely pass slower moving vehicles and to break up platoons of vehicles.

**ALTERNATIVES – THREE-LANE UNDIVIDED HIGHWAY:** Development of a four-lane undivided section, requiring the construction of two new travel lanes in each direction.

**ALTERNATIVE 4 – FOUR-LANE DIVIDED HIGHWAY:** Development of a four-lane divided section, requiring substantial investment in new roadway construction.

# US 12 CORRIDOR STUDY – ABERDEEN TO IPSWICH



[www.us12study.com](http://www.us12study.com)

## CORRIDOR AND INTERSECTION CRASH ANALYSIS

Safety modeling was conducted based on a range of potential future improvements along the US 12 Corridor. The results of the corridor study analysis indicated that all alternatives were predicted to reduce the total number of crashes. It was predicted that Alternative 1 and 2 would provide a negligible reduction in crashes along the US 12 Corridor. Alternative 3 and 4 were predicted to reduce total crashes, but potentially increase the number of severe crashes along the corridor.



## CORRIDOR ACCESS ANALYSIS

Based on existing and projected conditions, it was determined that very little in the way of access modifications and changes would be needed to improve the US 12 Corridor. Some potential modifications were evaluated on the west end of the corridor to improve turning movement patterns at major truck generators. Access management should continue to be an important consideration on the entire US 12 Corridor.

## INTERSECTION AND CORRIDOR TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

Corridor and intersection analysis discovered that existing and projected conditions along the corridor are within current levels of service (LOS) thresholds established by SDDOT. However, nearly 20% of the traffic along the US 12 Corridor is heavy truck traffic. To address concerns with average and harvest season peaks of truck traffic, a series of intersection improvements were studied to account for the special cases that present themselves along the US 12 Corridor.

## NEXT STEPS

SDDOT will gather the public comments and concerns expressed as part of the final public open house. As SDDOT develops the next State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) a potential future project(s) will be discussed with the Transportation Commission. The development of the next STIP will involve a public meeting in Aberdeen on July 11, 2017, in which additional details may be known regarding a future project along the US 12 Corridor.

## SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS AND STAY CONNECTED

All persons interested in this corridor are invited to share their views and concerns. Public and written comments will be taken as part of the public input meeting specific to the US12 Corridor Study. Written public comment will be accepted through February 9, 2017.

Written comments should be sent to the attention of KLJ, Attn: US12 Corridor Study, 728 East Beaton Drive, Suite 101, West Fargo, ND, 58078.

For more information regarding the US12 Corridor Study contact KLJ Project Manager, Wade Kline at (701) 271-5009. Information about the US12 Corridor Study is available online at [www.US12study.com](http://www.US12study.com). Public comments will be accepted until February 9, 2017.