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NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa DOT Projects on U.S. 20/Dodge Street and U.S. 61/151 Begin Soon

DUBUQUE, Iowa -- The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) will soon begin two roadway improvement projects in Dubuque that will significantly impact traffic on the city's two main arteries. Both projects are expected to start by April 1, weather permitting.

Westbound U.S. 20/Dodge Street Catfish Creek Bridge Rehabilitation Project

The rehabilitation project will include guardrail and expansion joint replacement on the westbound Catfish Creek Bridge on westbound U.S. 20 (Dodge Street), just west of Century Drive. This project is anticipated to begin on Tuesday, April 1, and Iowa DOT officials expect the project to be completed by early June. To complete this project, U.S. 20 westbound traffic will be reduced to one lane with temporary barrier rail across the bridge. The lane closure will begin west of the Wacker Drive intersection and will remain in place for the duration of the project. The two westbound lanes on Dodge Street/U.S. 20 will be merged into one lane west of Wacker Drive. Century Drive will be open to right-turn only northbound traffic from Dodge Street/U.S. 20 but motorists will not be able to access U.S. 20 from Century Drive (no southbound traffic on Century past Dubuque Auto Plaza). The median between westbound and eastbound lanes will be closed, preventing traffic from crossing U.S. 20 at the Century Drive intersection. Motorists are encouraged to consider alternate routes to avoid the area during peak traffic times and to avoid blocking intersections if traffic congestion occurs. Access to businesses located on Century Drive will remain available throughout the project.

Northbound U.S. 61/151 Catfish Creek Bridge Replacement Project

This project is scheduled to start on Monday, March 31, and is the second phase of the Catfish Creek Bridge replacement project that began last spring on U.S. 61/151. The project construction corridor extends from the Grandview Avenue overpass south to the U.S. 52 intersection with U.S. 61/151. The northbound lanes of U.S. 61/151 will be closed while head-to-head traffic is moved to the southbound lanes. During this phase, the off-ramp for northbound traffic exiting to Grandview will be closed. This reroute of the southbound lanes is expected to last most of the construction season. Access to businesses located in or near the project corridor will remain available throughout the project.

This second phase of the project includes reconstruction of northbound U.S. 52/61/151 from the Grandview interchange to the U.S. 52 intersection, the replacement of the existing northbound bridge spanning Catfish Creek, installation of a median barrier, and improvements at the U.S. 52 intersection with U.S. 61/151. Like last year, the Iowa DOT does not plan to activate a detour for traffic to avoid this area as two lanes of traffic will remain open. However, motorists will likely create their own “detour route,” which may impact traffic flow in surrounding neighborhoods. (Emergency detours have been established but will only be used if necessary.)

The Iowa DOT is working with the City of Dubuque, Dubuque Community School District, Dubuque County Sheriff’s Office and area public safety officials to review and monitor potential challenges these two projects may create. For information on this and other Iowa DOT projects, visit the Iowa 511 website (www.511ia.org).

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