

Appendix F

Public Comments

Date	Comment	Response
6/9/2020	<p>From Web Site: We are providing individual comments and responses for review on the web site. To protect the privacy of those who submitted comments, we are not showing names, email addresses, phone numbers, or specific information about the commenter's property.</p>	<p>(generic response as of 5/28/20) Thank you taking the time to review the web site material and for providing your feedback about the project. We received 36 individual comments. In general the comments had two perspectives: 1 - Concern about potential impacts to Edgebrook Golf Course 2 - Support for the project and its potential benefits. To address concerns about golf course impacts: - We anticipate that 20th Street S. will be shifted far enough south to avoid impacts to the course. - We anticipate that the interchange alternatives with a ramp along the east edge of the golf course will be dropped from further consideration. We intend to notify you via email when we post the Alternatives Evaluation Memo on the web site. The recommended interchange alternative will be included in the memo and you will have an opportunity to provide feedback.</p>
4/14/2020	<p>"When is the start date and how will the golf course be affected?"</p> <p>We support this exit 130 project for the Brookings Community. The increased safety through reduced traffic on 6th street as well as 22nd avenue will be a wonderful improvement to be realized for so many future years. As this subject has been a part of local conversations for over a decade, one concern that seems to come up is the potential for impact on the design and quality of the golf course. I just wanted to share an idea that perhaps the course could expand farther south. Prairie Green golf course in Sioux falls has a couple of tunnels. I'm not sure a tunnel works very well considering the water table in that area. However, as 20th street rises in elevation to allow traffic to pass over interstate 29, an 8-foot tunnel could probably be designed to allow golf traffic to also pass under 20th street to a new area. I wonder if that idea could help address concerns of local golfers. The creation of a tunnel could be utilized for both golfers and a bike/recreation trail, alike. As you know, Brookings offers a nice bike trail in proximity of the golf course on a couple sides already. Good luck with this worthy project!"</p>	<p>(see generic response from top of page 1) We anticipate that construction will begin in early 2022.</p>
4/21/2020	<p>"Excellent idea, 20th Street interchange is supper good choice. It will be very helpful to go to work in Aurora on a daily basis. Thanks"</p>	<p>(see generic response from top of page 1)</p>

Date	Comment	Response
4/22/2020	<p>"Thank you for this thorough presentation and for creating this avenue for feedback! (1) I appreciate that the impact to Edgebrook Golf Course will be minimized. (2) I would like to see a "Welcome to Brookings" sign and landscape project completed at the NW corner of 20th St S. and 22nd Ave., similar to those at 6th St/22nd Ave and Hwy 14 bypass/22nd Ave. (3) I would like to see the entire vacant property at the NW corner of 20th St. S. and 22nd Ave. be developed into something that can take full advantage of the beautiful views east across the golf course.</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i> Entrance signs, landscape features, and potential adjacent development would not be part of the interchange grant funding but will certainly be considered by the City of Brookings.</p>
4/23/2020	<p>"I feel that for this project to move forward, the only option of least disturbance would be to move the proposed road south of the existing road. This would allow for the proposed ramp options 3 or 4 to avoid the impact to the golf course. The ramps would then be located on unimproved land with minimal impact to the existing development (the golf course). The southern road and ramp option does not displace any significant current land uses."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
4/21/2020	<p>"I have helped with the First T program since it's start 5 years ago, we have had 150 or more kids in this program every year. Those kids are just reaching the age to go golf on the big course. We need to maintain the golf course as is for them. The golf course has improved significantly over the more recent years so it would be a shame to spoil it now. Our member ship has increased significantly, if the golf course is shortened or changed much, our member ship would take a significant drop. We have a lot of tournaments at EdgeBrookGC they would go away. It's a huge quality of life issue because golf is a game for all ages, genders,races, you can play even if handicapped. A golf course designer told me it would cost in excess of thirty two thousand dollars per hole to rebuild a green. It looks like the 20th street overpass could affect three or more holes. Anything that can be done to move the road to the South would be the best. It's going to cost money one way or the other buy more right a way or repair golf course and lose revenue, lose members, lose tournaments, lose quality of life for Brookings citizens."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>

Date	Comment	Response
4/24/2020	<p>"As part of the environmental study, please consider the need to open up 15th St S to 22nd. I am concerned about the traffic that will attempt to bypass the intersection at 20th St and 22nd and take Moriarty Drive instead if 15th St S is not open. Moriarty Drive is a normal residential width road, not designed as a through street. I am worried that residential traffic that is trying to miss the middle school traffic on 12th Street and not wanting to go down to 20th Street to the proposed intersection, will take Moriarty to bypass the light. When there is any parked cars on the street, it makes it very difficult to navigate the road with on coming traffic. I understand Brookings is growing and we will see increased traffic in our area, I am just concerned with the additional load placed on Moriarty Drive, if 15th St S is not completed to Constitution Blvd. Thanks Jackie and James!"</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i> Improvements to parallel streets such as 15th Street S. would not be included in the interchange grant funding but will be considered by the City of Brookings.</p>
4/24/2020	<p>"Brookings has always valued planning. Making sure Brookings travel is safe and efficient has always been a priority. The 20th Street South Exit has been discussed and was a part of the cities master transportation plan for many years. It allows safe and efficient movement from the south portion of the city to our eastside industry park and access from the fast-growing city of Aurora to our public schools in Brookings. The overpass will improve traffic safety and efficiency.</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
4/24/2020	<p>"I strongly favor this development. Brookings is a progressive, prosperous community, but somewhat uniquely limited in its physical growth opportunities. This interchange, combined with the cooperation and buildout potential by both the City of Brookings and Brookings County, will SIGNIFICANTLY increase both the flow of current traffic and the future development of land for housing and industry. It is my assumption the supporting arguments for the above statement are "in the file," but if further discussion is requested, please contact me at the above addresses."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
4/25/2020	<p>"The project seems like it will be very beneficial to the Brookings community both for easing future traffic congestion on the 6th St. interchange and providing easier access to the interstate and industrial park for citizens in southern Brookings. As someone who lives along 20th St. S. and travels to Watertown at least twice a week, I am personally looking forward to being able to have this option for accessing the interstate."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>

Date	Comment	Response
4/26/2020	<p>"Thank you for making this site and information available, and moving this project forward on its accelerated schedule. Daktronics worldwide headquarters is in Brookings, on the east side of I29. We currently employ more than a thousand people in Brookings, and believe this new interchange is essential for us to retain our employees. We also believe its a game changer for Brookings, enabling growth and prosperity, to create opportunities for our children and grandchildren. I watched the video. One area of concern about the upcoming activities is the planned traffic study. Due to the government encouragement to 'stay home' due to COVID-19, we believe a traffic student during this timeframe would understate the 'typical' traffic. For example, at Daktronics, half of our employees in Brookings are currently working exclusively from home. We encourage relying on the previous study, with possible validation in six or twelve months.</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i> We were able to complete all traffic counts prior to the COVID-19 impacts. Actually, nearly all of the traffic counts were completed in 2019.</p>
4/27/2020	<p>"I love Edgebrook golf course and don't want to see it changed or shortened. I think the land South of the course could be purchased and the road moved South. That way it would have little or no impact on the golf course."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
4/27/2020	<p>"Do you know yet what the total impact is going to be to Edgebrook Golf Course? There is 4 greens and 3 sets of tee boxes on the southern edge of the Edgebrook property which will be heavily impacted with a new, larger road going to the south side of their property. And then how far in will the actual interstate on/off ramps impede into the SE corner of the Edgebrook property."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
4/28/2020	<p>"This is a project that is needed to help in the future growth of rural America, State of South Dakota, County of Brookings, City of Brookings and City of Aurora. We can't wait until it becomes a problem. If the issue isn't addressed now we will have significant traffic issues on US Highway 14 and Interstate 29.. This project will link our industrial park areas east of the interstate with our residential area west of the interstate. It will link Brookings and Aurora together where many young families resides. The interstate bridge on 20th Street will provide a safe conduit to transport school children between Aurora and Brookings. This project will also provide a conduit economic growth in SD and Brookings.."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>

Date	Comment	Response
4/29/2020	<p>"My concern is for both the golf course and traffic noise. I know you do noise impact studies - when will that information be available? How accurate are your projections for 20 years from now? How will this affect my taxes (city and county)? The grants they received made such wonderful improvements. Will it still be an 18 hole course? The proposed interchange would affect some of the par 5 holes. I am hoping the city will help relocate residents that live in the path of construction."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i> Part of the Environmental Assessment is a traffic noise impact analysis. We anticipate release of the draft Environmental Assessment (via the web site) in late summer 2020. This project is fully funded and no special taxes will be added to pay for the project.</p>
4/29/2020	<p>"The presentation was very good. The concern I have is in regard to the golf course. Edgebrook has worked so hard over the past 5 years to bring the course to a higher standard. I believe that there is an increase in golfers using the course more than ever. The impact on the course is on the longest holes which make the course unique in having the right amount of par 3, 4, and 5 holes. Seems like all that work would be for nothing. I would like to know exactly how this impacts those holes and the golf course in general. Where will the money come from to bring the course back to an 18 hole course? Edgebrook provides an affordable course for many residents. Also, how will this affect my Brookings County and Brookings City Taxes (I already pay \$6,000/year)? I saw the slide on costs, but how does that related to an individual homeowner? If my taxes go up and my golf fees go up, I won't be able to golf anymore which was one of the reasons why I moved here! I still don't think I am getting the full picture. On a positive-I like that there will be better access to Aurora. I think a new interchange would definitely help grow Aurora residentially and with businesses.</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i> As an additional specific response to you question, this project is fully funded and no special taxes will be added to pay for the project.</p>
4/29/2020	<p>Brookings Economic Development Corporation continues to be very supportive of the development of the 20th Street South/I-29 interchange. The project will benefit commuter and truck traffic flows to our industries, reduce traffic congestion and improve access to future planned growth areas of in the City of Brookings."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
4/30/2020	<p>"I strongly support the 20th Street South Interchange project. This project when completed will provide strong connections between residential growth areas and employment centers in Brookings while enhancing safety to reduce congestion as well as travel times for commuters."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>

Date	Comment	Response
4/30/2020	<p>"My question regards the golf course. It wasn't clear to me whether you will be using part of the golf course for this project. Our family has a concern about the 15th hole on the southeast corner of the course. We have planted two memorial maple trees on that hole and are wondering if you will be removing some portion of that hole that could impact the trees. If so, will you be making arrangements to move the trees? My comment concerns the necessity of having ramps on this project - it would seem that the existing exit ramps three miles apart would be sufficient.</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
4/30/2020	<p>"On June 25, 2019, the Brookings City Council unanimously approved resolution 19-050 supporting the BUILD Grant Application. The City Council also committed necessary funds toward the local match. The recently completed Brookings Master Transportation Plan speaks to a key issue in our transportation planning is the need to provide adequate travel routes between intensive employment areas and both established and planned residential growth areas. The plan specifically cited the need for the 20th Street South Interchange."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i> This project is fully funded and no special taxes will be added to pay for the project.</p>
5/1/2020	<p>"I am greatly concerned about the effect the project will have on the Edgebrook Golf Course and the opportunity for recreation that the course has for the citizen of Brookings. As of now, I strongly lean toward options 3 and 4 as I understand them and their limited intrusion on this tremendous facility afforded to the community. I will be looking further into the concerns regarding the federal grants that were used to establish the golf course. I will be requesting that the public be made aware of the landowners who will be making large sums of money (and the dollar amounts) from the sale of the land for this project. Brookings is a community that is proud of the recreational opportunities that it provides to its citizens. To betray that pledge to more than 350 paying members to the Edgebrook Golf Course would be to betray the confidence we have in our city government. To construct the proposed project to the south of the above golf course would be to assure the citizens of Brookings that the city honors its pledges to its citizenry. I hope the concerns expressed be the "little people" still count the in the scheme of big government and money brokers."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>

Date	Comment	Response
5/1/2020	<p>"As a relatively new member of the Board since 2019, I have been concerned with the lack of involvement of the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department in this 20th Street Interchange Project from the perspective of the impact on Edgebrook Golf Course. I would recommend the Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department as well as the Golf Course Superintendent be made a part of the working group managing the Project so that they can offer information and views concerning Edgebrook Golf Course.</p> <p>Reference is made to a Brookings Traffic Study that selected 20th Street as the best location for the interchange. Please direct me to the site where that document can be reviewed.</p> <p>Mr James Unruh, PE for HDR, on two occasions in his presentation "states there is nothing there" at the site of the interchange. From the perspective of this member of the Citizens Advisory Board, I respectfully disagree. The Edgebrook Golf Course is not a "nothing"! This Golf Course is an asset to the City of Brookings and its citizens, and if there is a taking of a portion of the functionality and/or land of the Golf Course, that is not a "nothing".</p> <p>On the diagrams, the Project Area appears to involve real property of Edgebrook on the east and south. Is this correct? If so, what is the extent of the real property of Edgebrook that is involved in the Project Area?</p> <p>Mr Unruh refers to 4f and 6f being applicable provisions of the NEPA of 1969 because federal and/or state funds were used in the Edgebrook Golf Course. Please provide these provisions and an explanation of the provisions. Mr. Unruh stated these provisions require "minimizing or avoiding" interference with such a project. Please provide relevant material explaining "minimizing or avoiding".</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
5/1/2020	<p>"I serve as President of East Brookings Business and Industry Association (EBBIA) which represents the growing employer base east of I-29 and has advocated for this project for several years. Most of the nearly 4000 people employed by these businesses commute from southwest Brookings utilizing 22nd Ave and 6thSt. This route has benefitted from recent improvements but will be jammed again by 2045 based on recent growth rates. Safety and family life are factors here. EBBIA members have provided financial support for traffic studies and preliminary feasibility studies for the I-30 exit and for the 34th Ave service road improvements. We strongly support this project for both employee and business benefits. Note that Brookings' schools are located in southwest Brookings. "</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>

Date	Comment	Response
5/1/2020	<p>"The City of Aurora located 2 miles east of the project is a fast growing bedroom community of Brookings County. Milparc Development Company LLC, has developed 160 lots for starter homes there over the past 10 years which currently support 135 family living units. Aurora is part of the Brookings School District with its schools in the southwest part of Brookings. The I-29 interchange will greatly improve time and safety of travel. Also we organized Milparc II Development Company which purchased an additional 140 acres adjoining Milparc to the east and are proceeding to develop similar lots on that property which has been annexed into the City of Aurora. With a continued absorption rate of approximately 10 lots per year that will provide for another 200 homes by 2045. I should mention again that Brookings has over 2000 immigrants every fall in the form of SDSU Freshman. Many more would make Brookings their lifetime home if they could find interesting work and desirable living facilities in the community. "</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
5/3/2020	<p>"I am submitting this comment on behalf of the Brookings County Commission. We support the Interchange at 20th Street project and have made a financial commitment to assist with the success of the project. The construction of an interchange at 20th Street in Brookings will eliminate the problem with Interstate 29 cutting our community in half with the majority of the commuting residents living on the west side of the interstate and hundreds of workers traveling daily to the businesses on the east side of the City of Brookings which causes traffic concerns due to bottlenecks. The new interchange will open up the southeast portion of Brookings County, including the cities of Brookings and Aurora, for both economic and residential development. It will provide transportation alternatives for the agribusinesses located between Brookings and Aurora which use the interstate for trucking products from where they are produced in Brookings County to markets across the country. This project will promote the continued development and growth of Brookings County and is sorely needed."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>

Date	Comment	Response
5/3/2020	"What happens to those of us who live in the proposed area of the exchange?"	<p>(see generic response from top of page 1) The interchange itself does not impact any existing residential properties. Moving 20th Street S. to the south to avoid the golf course will impact several of the Western Estates units. Based on our meeting with the Western Estates owner, impacted units can be relocated to other areas within the Western Estates property. Neither the landowner nor the home owner will be responsible for relocation costs and fair market value will be paid for any land or building acquisitions. Please review the Right-of-way Information sheet on the Resources page of the web site.</p>
5/3/2020	<p>"This project is a long time in coming. Good to see it getting done! It should greatly reduce traffic in 22nd ave S around the nature park making it safer for people biking around there, improve access to the east side of the interstate where hopefully some development can occur, give more direct access to the town from Aurora, and help fuel continued development on the South side of town. There are residents that no doubt wonder why we didn't just add an interchange to 32nd street south (I hear them mention this to me) , but we already got the grant money so it seems like a much more effective use of the money to do a larger project over a smaller one. 20th st S is more direct access than 32nd st S would be. Plus there's the matter of that deep lake and Bowes construction being in the way. In any case, looking forward to seeing it completed! You should pave the road straight to Aurora!"</p>	<p>(see generic response from top of page 1) The Grant funding will not cover costs for paving 20th Street S. to Aurora. As traffic volumes increase in the area, Brookings County will consider what improvements to 20th Street S. (east of 34th Avenue S.) would be justified.</p>
5/3/2020	<p>"By putting in the 20th St interchange, you are relieving traffic congestion off the 6th St exit. But, by adding this interchange you will be increasing traffic congestion on 20th St S. How is this a benefit? When future development happens, how will you work with increased traffic congestion off the 20th St exit? Pertaining to the golf course, please use Option 1 or 2 as 3 & 4 would greatly impact, negatively, the course. In helping with businesses on south side of Brookings & traffic, we need to look at the least amount of impact on the golf course as that, to me, has a greater impact-economically, physically--than those affected by the change in travel.</p>	<p>(see generic response from top of page 1) The traffic study evaluates increased traffic on existing roadways resulting from the new interchange. The design of the 20th Street S. and interchange project will provide adequate traffic capacity so congestion does not exceed City of Brookings acceptable levels.</p>

Date	Comment	Response
5/4/2020	<p>One concern I have is how this project will impact the golf course. My family has two memorial trees planted near one of the tee boxes close to the potential construction site. Will this project affect these trees? An if so, I certainly hope we'd be notified prior to any removal, and, in fact request that they be moved to a different site on the golf course at no cost to us.</p> <p>Second, it's just not clear to me how this project is of benefit to our community. While I can see some convenience in having an overpass at that location, I don't see any necessity at all for the on and off ramps, with there being the the edits we currently have.</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
5/4/2020	<p>"My first comment is it seems strange that you already have private investors that are not named yet you need my name just to comment on the proposed project. Second I'm not sure you are on the right track responding to the question raised in your presentation. With the work that was completed on 6th and 22nd Ave the traffic is much better than it was. Use current data! Additionally the fact that you have already picked the site for an interchange seems premature. You should analyze current traffic data before picking the location. It would seem 32nd Ave would make more sense if growth of Brookings is considered. Finally the location, that appears to be already selected, will ruin the public golf course. This may not be a concern to those private unnamed individuals that will profit from the project but does concern many of us who speak for many of the "public". "</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i> Previous studies have indicated that a new interchange at 32nd Avenue S. or further to the south would not draw enough traffic to be justified or reduce traffic (and associated congestion) on other streets.</p>
5/4/2020	<p>"Is there any discussion or plans to pave the rest of 20th St S heading east all the way into Aurora?"</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i> The Grant funding will not cover costs for paving 20th Street S. to Aurora. As traffic volumes increase in the area, Brookings County will consider what improvements to 20th Street S. (east of 34th Avenue S.) would be justified</p>
5/4/2020	<p>"Thank you for putting together this website. I found the recorded presentation informative and helpful to digest the nature of this project."</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i></p>
5/4/2020	<p>The interchange is too close to Brookings and should be moved to the south. There is a lot of traffic from 3M and the golf course which could cause congestion at the new intersection of 20th Street South and 22nd Avenue S. "</p>	<p><i>(see generic response from top of page 1)</i> Previous studies have indicated that a new interchange at 32nd Avenue S. or further to the south would not draw enough traffic to be justified or reduce traffic (and associated congestion) on other streets.</p>

Date	Comment	Response
5/4/2020	<p>"I would prefer seeing the two million from the city and the two million from the county going for existing roads instead of the 20th St. So. interchange at this time. Revenue funds are considerably lower than expectations so many projects have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The interchange, however, is still on tap which is unfortunate as it will be taking revenue from city & county at a time when it is least affordable. I realize federal funds have limitations, as in this case where most of the revenue is coming from that source. Is there no wiggle room concerning the federal funding time frame for this project? Thank you."</p>	<p>(see generic response from top of page 1) The COVID-19 impacts came about very recently in comparison to the planning for the 20th Street S. interchange project. The intent is to continue to move forward with the project since we have been informed that the project schedule must be maintained to utilize the grant funding.</p>
5/5/2020	<p>Hello, I think I can speak for my peers when I say we appreciate the clarity this website brings. I hope this clarity continues. Please make sure the community receives information about a redesign plan for the golf course before any finalization of plans. Thank you</p>	<p>(see generic response from top of page 1)</p>
5/12/2020	<p>"Thank you for another great presentation by HDR. It is exciting for the City of Brookings to have received such a significant grant in such few applications to Federal Highway. Congratulations! Such as the interchange at 6th Street and other recent urban interchanges with the interstate system in South Dakota in Sioux Falls, Mitchell and Spearfish it only makes sense with these traffic volumes to construct 20th Street South for the entirety of the project in concrete pavement (PCCP). Low maintenance and longevity is important to keep the traffic moving across I-29 for Brookings residents and visitors."</p>	<p>(see generic response from top of page 1) SDDOT will conduct a pavement type selection analysis for this project.</p>
5/22/2020	<p>"This project is necessary to improve inbound and outbound traffic flow for Brookings as well as traffic flow within Brookings. Thank you."</p>	<p>(see generic response from top of page 1)</p>
6/8/2020	<p>I visited your webpage. Is there an area where a citizen can view the comments that other citizens have submitted?? I was unable to see that anywhere. please advise</p>	<p>Thank you for the suggestion. Yes, comments and responses will be posted on the web site later this week. To protect the privacy of each person who submitted a comment, we will not list names or email addresses. The link to comments and responses will be in the "Latest News" box on the Home Page of the web site</p>