

Potential Statewide Transportation Enhancement Scenic Acquisition Project

Iowa Transportation
Commission May 13, 2019
Workshop Presentation



Background

- Utilize un-obligated federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding from 1991 to 2012
- Potential funding rescission if not obligated by September 30, 2019
- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources with assistance from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy propose a 506 acre acquisition project which would place a deed restriction preserving the scenic qualities along a two-mile segment of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway along County Road L35 approximately 5 miles southeast of Council Bluffs
- Property comprised of oak woodland, remnant prairie, cropland and pasture/grassland
- Property would be owned and managed by the Iowa DNR with restoration and management assistance from the Mills County Conservation Board



The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway (County Road L35) is bounded by Green Hill Ranch and Folsom Point Preserve.

Background (cont.)

- Viewshed analysis performed by the Iowa DOT
- Transportation Commission has funded similar projects
- This property located across the road from The Nature Conservancy's 300-acre Folsom Point Prairie preserve
- TE funding would match commitments from the Iowa DNR, Iowa West Foundation and other public/private grants and contributions for a total anticipated cost of approximately \$2,800,000

Recommendation

- Utilize \$500,000 of federal TE funding for the Iowa DNR with assistance from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy to acquire 506 acres which will include a deed restricted scenic easement along two miles of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway