



HARRIS OVERPASS

FACT SHEET: HISTORICAL IMPACTS REVIEW (SECTION 106, NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT)



Coordinating Agencies in the Harris Overpass Section 106 Review:

- City of Lincoln (Public Works & Utilities, Planning Departments)
- Federal Highway Administration
- Nebraska Department of Roads
- Nebraska State Historical Preservation Office
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, if necessary

Potential Impacts & Mitigation

- To provide safer conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles, the new Harris Overpass needs to be wider than the existing one, which may have visual impacts to historic properties.
- The actual width has not been determined yet, and will depend on the number of eastbound to southbound turn lanes at 9th & "O" Streets.
- These impacts could be mitigated by the improved appearance of the new structure and the pigeon-deterrent design.
- Impacts and alternatives will be evaluated as design proceeds.

The Harris Overpass reconstruction project must undergo a historical impacts review process called for under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This Fact Sheet provides an outline of that formal process, also known as Section 106 review.

Section 106 requires consideration of historic preservation in all federal actions. The Harris Overpass project is considered a federal action because it is receiving Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) aid for bridge replacement projects. FHWA must consider the effects of its actions on historic properties and provide the public an opportunity to comment before the project is implemented. Opportunities for comment are ongoing, through public meetings and project contact points.

These are the steps of the historic review process:

1. Determine if Section 106 of NHPA applies to a given project and, if so, initiate the review;
2. Properties are surveyed to determine if they are listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (because the Harris Overpass is located in the Historic Haymarket District, many nearby properties are either listed or eligible);
3. Determine how historic properties might be affected;
4. Explore alternatives to avoid or reduce impacts to historic properties; and
5. Reach agreement with the consulting agencies/parties on measures to deal with impacts or obtain advisory comments from the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation.

Section 106 review encourages, but does not mandate, preservation. Sometimes there is no way for a needed project to proceed without having impacts to historic properties. Section 106 review ensures that preservation values are factored into Federal agency planning and decisions.

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