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**STEERING COMMITTEE FORMED BASED ON IOWA DOT COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION STUDY
FOCUSED ON COMMUTER NEEDS, POTENTIAL INTERCHANGE CONSTRUCTION**

Based on the Iowa DOT's Commuter Transportation Study recommendations, a Steering Committee has been formed with the help of the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG). The committee has already started meeting and plans to move forward with the study's recommendations, especially in light of the potential I-80/I-380 interchange construction.

The Steering Committee, made up of important stakeholders from a variety of different sectors in our corridor, plans to keep the same focus as the study. As Doug Elliott, ECICOG Executive Director and Steering Committee member, states, "The commuter study relied heavily on public input to formulate the final recommendations. The Steering Committee will continue to seek input as it formulates the best ways to implement those recommendations."

Beyond the study results, there is another significant reason to develop alternative travel options for commuters in the corridor. As Catherine Cutler, Iowa Department of Transportation District Transportation Planner and Steering Committee member, says, "The Iowa DOT has plans to rebuild the I-80/I-380 systems interchange starting in 2018. We encourage and support any relief of the I-380 corridor traffic through carpooling, telecommuting or other options that help lessen the traffic demand on I-380."

The Steering Committee held their first meeting in January and second meeting last week at ECICOG's offices. The first meeting was focused on solidifying the committee members and determining sub-committee focus; and the second meeting included sub-committee reports and preliminary discussions.

This past year, the Iowa DOT, per the request of the Iowa legislature, conducted a study to identify the needs of commuters in the I-380 corridor, and the final report of the study was released in December. As suggested in the final report, ECICOG has become the initial lead agency for implementation and is moving forward with the next steps; however, the Steering Committee will now be the lead group in determining how the corridor should move forward in implementing the Iowa DOT's recommendations.

For more information on the Steering Committee and the Iowa Commuter Transportation Study visit www.ecicog.org/commuter-plan

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