

## Highway 44 Platte-Winner Bridge Study Available to the Public

PIERRE, SD – The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) has published its Corridor Study for the Highway 44 (SD44) Platte-Winner Bridge over the Missouri River. The SD44 Platte-Winner Bridge Corridor Study provides documentation of how SDDOT determined its Preferred Alternative for replacement of the existing bridge. Among the key criteria in determining the new bridge location were factors such as ability to keep the bridge open to traffic during construction and minimizing impacts to the Snake Creek Recreation Area. The full Corridor Study is available for viewing on the project web site [www.sd44bridge.com](http://www.sd44bridge.com).

SDDOT's commitment to maintaining traffic during construction means that the existing bridge will be demolished after completion of the new bridge and roadway. Through development of the Corridor Study, SDDOT learned that the existing bridge is now eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This means additional documentation is necessary in order to describe the methods SDDOT will use to mitigate the removal of the current bridge. Coordination with multiple agencies is necessary and is ongoing as SDDOT continues work on development of the Environmental Assessment (EA). SDDOT anticipates publication of the EA in 2020, after agreements are finalized for mitigation of impacts with partner agencies including South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the State Historic Preservation Office. Another set of public meetings will be held during the EA's public comment period.

Construction of the new bridge is currently scheduled to begin by the 2025 timeframe. With that in mind, SDDOT has begun the process of hiring a consultant to complete final design plans. As design details for the bridge and related roadway elements become more defined, the project team will be reaching out to affected stakeholders and property owners.

In addition to the Corridor Study, previous meeting information and studies of the Platte-Winner Bridge can also be found at [www.sd44bridge.com](http://www.sd44bridge.com).