## PHASE 1 - PLAN

Phase 1 of the Iowa City Gateway project will be completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process. NEPA is required for projects that will seek federal funds and/or federal permits.

Beyond legal requirements, however, the NEPA process helps governmental agencies and local communities make well-informed decisions about future projects. Additionally, the process gives the community (1) access to information used by agencies in selecting a preferred alternative and (2) a chance to have input into those public decisions. The NEPA process requires that the following questions be answered before they receive federal approval:

- What is the problem? What is needed? The study's *Purpose and Need* serves as a guide throughout the evaluation process.
- How might the improvement impact the natural environment like water, air and threatened and endangered species?
- How might the improvement project impact neighborhoods and businesses?
   How would historic or archaeological sites be impacted? How would economically disadvantaged groups be affected?
- How would the proposed improvement work? Does it address the Purpose and Need? What will it cost construct and to maintain?

## THE NEPA PROCESS Multiple initial alternatives are developed. Purpose and Need Initial alternatives are evaluated. From those, Community Input Reasonable alternatives are identified. Reasonable alternatives are evaluated. Impact Evaluation From those, Community Input A preferred alternative is identified. The recommendation and evaluation process Agency Review is documented for review by partnering Community Input federal agencies. Federal approval is recieved, allowing the project to move to the next phase.

Immediately after federal approval is received, design and engineering of the Iowa City Gateway preferred alternative will begin.



The Iowa City Gateway
Project is led by Iowa
City in coordination
with the U.S. Economic
Development
Administration, the
Iowa Department of
Transportation and
the Federal Highway
Administration and in
cooperation with the
University of Iowa.

More information about Iowa City Gateway can be found at: iowacitygateway.org or by phoning 319-356-5140.

February, 2011