

## **Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska (City), as the Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NEDED) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, grant #24PWI004. The proposed project(s) is located in the City of Crete, Saline County and is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using 0.2 percent flood approach.

The City is preparing to implement a street improvement project within the municipal limits of the City. The project will improve three (3) street segments: 21st Street from Norman Avenue to Oak Avenue, Oak Avenue from 21st Street to 22nd Street, and Oak Avenue from 20th Street to 21st Street (Project).

The Project will include the construction of 7-inch Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) paving, 32 feet in width, with an associated storm sewer system. The total Project area covers these three blocks, focusing on enhancing street durability, improving storm water management, and increasing pedestrian safety. These streets are currently in need of significant repair to maintain safety and accessibility for all users, including pedestrians and vehicles.

The street improvement Project will include several key activities: Demolition and removal of the existing street surface; Earthwork, grading, and sloping to prepare the sub-base; Installation of new 7-inch PCC paving to ensure long-lasting road surfaces; Construction of a storm sewer system to enhance drainage and reduce flooding risks; Installation of sidewalks with American Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant detectable warning panels to improve pedestrian safety.

The total Project area covers approximately three (3) blocks, or approximately one (1) acre within the FFRMS 0.2 percent annual chance floodplain. The streets are owned and maintained by the City of Crete and are surrounded primarily by residential properties. Project impacts may include temporary road closures, noise, and dust during construction. The City will notify businesses, residents, and emergency services of all road closures and provide alternative routes. All construction activities will be scheduled during normal business hours to minimize disruption.

Total Project costs are estimated at \$688,450, including \$480,000 funded by a Nebraska Department of Economic Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds of which \$25,000 is allocated for general administration and \$5,000 for construction management. A local match of \$208,450 will be provided by the City. The matching funds will be sourced from the city's general fund, and are unobligated and readily available. The project will primarily benefit low-to-moderate-income (LMI) residents by improving local infrastructure and enhancing the overall quality of life in the community. No residents, businesses, or farms will be displaced as a result of the project activities. Construction is anticipated to be completed within thirty (30) months.

The City of Crete has evaluated multiple alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts on the floodplain and to restore and preserve its natural and beneficial functions. Below is a detailed explanation of the considerations: (1) No Action Alternative: No repairs or improvements would be made to the roadways. Reason for Non-Selection: This alternative would leave the existing streets in poor condition, leading to ongoing safety hazards for vehicles and pedestrians. Storm water drainage issues would persist, resulting in increased flooding risks. Fails to provide critical ADA-compliant improvements or meet the needs of the LMI community. (2) Alternative Location Outside of Floodplain: Construct new roadways outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain. Reason for Non-Selection: The streets requiring improvement are pre-existing infrastructure located within the floodplain, making relocation impractical and disruptive to the community. This alternative does not address the infrastructure needs or drainage issues of the project area. (3) Minimal Scope Improvements: Perform only patchwork repairs to the streets instead of full reconstruction. Reason for Non-Selection: This option would not address the underlying structural issues, drainage problems, or safety concerns. It fails to provide long-term benefits and would result in higher maintenance costs over time.

The streets identified for the improvement project (21st Street and Oak Avenue) are pre-existing infrastructure within a developed residential area and fall within the 0.2% annual chance floodplain. Relocation of the project is not feasible due to the need to serve these existing areas. The current roadways are in disrepair and prone to storm water drainage issues, leading to localized flooding and reduced safety. Addressing these deficiencies is essential to ensure safe and accessible transportation for residents. The inclusion of ADA-compliant sidewalks with detectable warning panels is necessary to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility for all users. The project primarily benefits low-to-moderate-income residents by improving vital infrastructure, enhancing quality of life, and increasing resilience to flood-related hazards.

The following mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce potential adverse impacts and enhance the floodplain's natural and beneficial functions: (1) A storm sewer system will be constructed to improve drainage, mitigate localized flooding, and reduce the overall impact of storm water runoff. (2) Best management practices (BMPs) will be employed during construction, including silt fencing, sediment basins, and timely vegetation restoration, to minimize soil erosion and protect water quality. (3) Construction activities will be planned during dry weather periods to reduce risks of adverse impacts to the floodplain. (4) Residents and businesses will be notified of the construction timeline, temporary road closures, and alternative routes to ensure minimal disruption.

During the public comment period, the City received feedback from the Floodplain Management Division of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR). The comments addressed compliance with floodplain management regulations and identified one public supply well within a 1,000-foot radius of the proposed project area.

The City has acknowledged these comments and will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the requirements. Project engineers have reviewed the design and construction plans to ensure the protection of the public supply well and minimizing impacts to floodplain functions. The City will work closely with the local Floodplain Administrator and NeDNR to obtain required permits and ensure adherence to best management practices during construction.

The City appreciates the feedback provided by the Floodplain Management Division and will address all considerations to ensure compliance with floodplain management standards and the protection of critical infrastructure, including the public supply well.

The City will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local floodplain management regulations, including adherence to Executive Order 11988 and consultation with the local floodplain administrator. Measures taken will ensure minimal disruption to the floodplain's natural and beneficial functions while achieving the goals of the project.

The City has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Crete at the following address on or before February, 7th, 2025: City of Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete, NE 68333 and 402-826-4312, Attention: Nancy Tellez, City Clerk. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted via email at [nancy.tellez@crete.ne.gov](mailto:nancy.tellez@crete.ne.gov).

Date: January 29, 2025

