



Members and Customers,

Key Cooperative is highly concerned about the detour route for the Iowa DOT's proposed reconstruction project of Highway 14 in Newton. The proposal indicates full closure of the corridor from South of N 4th Avenue W to North of High Avenue during construction from the fall of 2026 through the late fall of 2027.

While we note that the DOT intends for contractors to work with property owners to maintain access, the proposed detour via US Hwy 6 and County Road F17, does not address local and farm-to-market traffic to provide the level of safe, dependable and direct access necessary for an operation of this scale and is therefore unacceptable.

We're asking you to review the Iowa DOT's project video and submit your comments and concerns by the deadline of **6pm on Monday, February 23rd**

Send your concerns directly to Transportation Planner, Shelby Ebel: k16847@publicinput.com

The project video is located here:

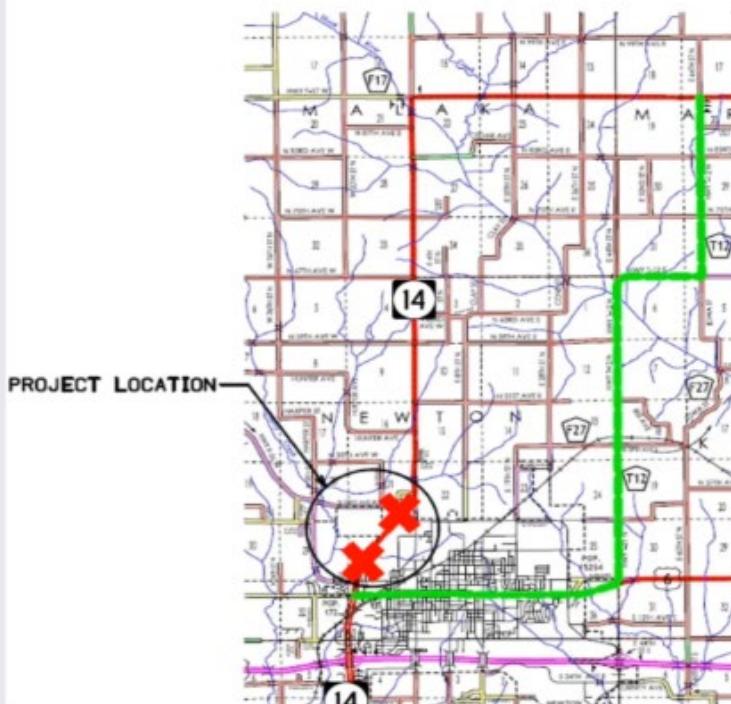




Project Detour

Iowa 14 between N 4th Ave W and High Ave will be closed for the duration of the project. Contractors will work with property owners in the corridor to maintain access to their property.

The detour route for Iowa 14 utilizes US 6 and County Road T12.



Key Cooperative plays a critical role in serving farmer-members and rural residents in the Newton area. The proposed closure would severely disrupt the movement of agricultural inputs, grain, fuel and other essential products representing more than \$60 million in economic activity and over 50,000 car and truck movements.

Specifically, during the proposed construction period the Newton facility will handle:

- Approximately 9 million bushels of grain, equating to more than 22,000 semi loads
- Roughly 1 million gallons of fuel, including more than 500 semi loads and an estimated 25,000 vehicle trips. (The City of Newton's fire, ambulance, and police departments are among the largest fuel customers.)
- Over 6,000 tons of crop nutrients, delivered via more than 300 semi loads and applied in more than 1,500 field deliveries
- Crop protection products applied to approximately 35,000 acres, representing more than 500 loads
- Approximately 900,000 gallons of LP, including more than 100 inbound semi loads and over 500 bobtail deliveries to farms and nearly 1,000 residential heating customers
- More than \$300,000 in animal nutrition products distributed to area farmers and rural acreage owners

We respectfully request that the Iowa DOT:

1. Re-evaluate phased reconstruction of the intersections at North 23rd Ave. and North 4th Ave. to minimize disruption during peak planting and harvest periods and be completed prior to any reconstruction activity between those points.
2. Allow local and farm-to-market traffic to detour via West 28th Street North during reconstruction North or South of our facility.
3. Clear access facility commitments prior to the project letting in July 2026.



Agriculture is Iowa's leading industry and infrastructure decisions must account for the time-sensitive and high-volume nature of farm-to-market and input supply logistics. We believe a collaborative approach can achieve the goals of roadway modernization while protecting the economic vitality and access to this facility.

Thank you for your support,

Boyd Brodie
General Manager, Key Cooperative
Boyd.Brodie@keycoop.com
(515) 291-1677