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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FEDA: Burlington Avenue forum planned**

FAIRFIELD (Iowa) – The Fairfield Economic Development Association will host a public forum to discuss the transition, set to take place in a matter of days, of Burlington Avenue through Fairfield from a four- to three-lane configuration on Thursday, August 27 at 7.00 pm at the Fairfield Public Library.

The forum is the latest product of an ongoing dialogue between the city and FEDA officials on the lane reorientation, an issue which has dominated public and business owner sentiment in recent months, said FEDA Executive Director Brent Willett.

“We originally approached the Council several weeks ago to carry the message of FEDA and Chamber members who had expressed apprehension relating to the four- to three-lane transition,” he said. “Our request was that the City commit the resources to a comprehensive traffic efficiency and safety study six to twelve months down the road to ensure that the reorientation was the right decision, both in the interest of safety and traffic efficiency.”

The result of Willett’s request to the City Council was an August 7 appearance before the city Traffic and Safety Committee, during which both Councilman Daryn Hamilton and Councilman Ray Mottet expressed support for a three-phase, 18-month study to begin six months from the restriping of the roadway. Councilwoman Martha Norbeck expressed her disinclination to support the allocation of any time or resources toward a study before the public was given an opportunity to receive information on past four- to three-lane conversion studies. Norbeck’s suggestion, a public forum, is what’s happening August 27, Willett said.

“The forum isn’t the end-game for us. We are more committed than ever to the importance of a

comprehensive review of the performance of Fairfield's primary transportation artery following such a dramatic modification to the way traffic orders itself along it."

The forum is nonetheless important, Willett said. "The evening of August 27 will be a terrific opportunity for any concerned citizen or businessperson to not only hear from experts in the transportation field and city officials on the predictions for the roadway, but to voice concerns and ask questions of them. I particularly commend Councilman Hamilton for working closely with us to organize the forum."

Leading off the 90-minute forum will be Tom Welch P.E., State Transportation Safety Engineer (Ames) and Pete Tollenaere, Assistant District 5 Engineer (Fairfield), both with the Iowa Department of Transportation. The two will give a short presentation on the coming transition. Following Welch and Tollenaere's presentation, the public will have an opportunity to interface with them and city leadership in attendance, including Hamilton.

"This meeting has been organized to help citizens understand how the conversion from four lanes to three lanes will benefit them with a safer and more efficient roadway. I encourage all who have questions to attend this meeting," Hamilton said.

The forum is free to the public to attend.

For more information or questions, contact Samuel Busch at the Fairfield Economic Development Association office at 641-472-3436 or [sbusch@growfairfield.com](mailto:sbusch@growfairfield.com).

FEDA, established in 1979, works closely with local community development organizations, financial institutions and businesses, as well as agencies and elected officials in local, county, state and federal government to help facilitate economic growth in Fairfield by providing assistance in locating financing for business and community development projects, grant administration and land development. The non-profit organization is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors.