

# Cooperative Development of Wetland Mitigation Projects in Iowa

Timothy Ellis  
Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering  
Iowa State University  
375 Town Engineering Building  
Ames, IA 50011  
tge@iastate.edu

Stephen J. Andrle  
Center for Transportation Research and Education  
Iowa State University  
2901 South Loop Drive, Suite 3100  
Ames, IA 50010  
andrle@iastate.edu

## ABSTRACT

Many transportation improvement projects near wetlands, such as bridge replacement, road widenings, geometric changes to improve safety, or roadway realignments, involve unavoidable but small impacts to streams and wetlands. For unavoidable wetland impacts of five acres or less, it is difficult to purchase a parcel adjacent to the project area or within the watershed to mitigate the wetland loss, leading to high project costs and potential project delays. A mechanism for paying a fee to an established wetland in lieu of building a small and (probably ineffective) mitigation site would be advantageous. This paper considers the need for cooperative wetlands mitigation in Iowa and activities to advance toward this goal.

Note: This research was still in progress at the time of publication; contact the lead author above for more information.

**Key words: cooperative mitigation—environmental impacts—wetlands**