



“At a Crossroad”

By John L. Craig, Director

On the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System, Nebraska and the Nation are at a “crossroad.” The essential question is, as we have all benefited from this interstate system over the last 50 years, what is the transportation system for the next 50 years and how will it be paid for?

The mission of the Department of Roads is “We provide and maintain, in cooperation with public and private organizations, a safe, reliable, affordable, environmentally compatible and coordinated statewide transportation system for the movement of people and goods.”

Relative to that mission, and over the last three years, we have produced the largest programs in the history of the state with no new state revenues, with the smallest workforce in 50 years and at the highest level of performance on record. We are a performance-based transportation agency that is accountable for getting results.

Beginning in 2006, declining revenues and increasing needs are going to result in smaller programs and fewer projects for some years. This is a circumstance that many states are facing.

We are updating our State Long Range Transportation Plan in conjunction with our many partners and with broad goals of safety, mobility and environmental stewardship. This will help Nebraska achieve the greatest benefit at the lowest cost. As leaders and partners, the Department of Roads remains committed to continuing improvement in providing the safest, most reliable and environmentally compatible transportation system with the resources we have.

Regardless of the many challenges we face, I believe the future will be what we make it, and it's going to be great!

Drive safely!