

Some Facts and Figures

from the Nebraska Department of Roads

- ◆ The Department of Roads is responsible for the planning, development, design, construction, maintenance and administration of the state highway system. Preserving the billions of dollars Nebraskans have invested in their state highway system, making the highways safe and efficient, and accomplishing this in a timely and cost-effective manner are the goals of the Department of Roads.
- ◆ There are approximately **9,959 miles of highways on the state system** including ...
 - 482 miles of Interstate (*190 miles concrete and 292 miles asphalt*)
 - 1,422 miles of concrete pavement
 - 8,012 miles of asphalt pavement
 - 43 miles of gravel
 - 3,505 bridges (*includes railroad and pedestrian overpasses and underpasses*)

Totals may vary from year to year as small segments are added or deleted from the system.

- ◆ The expenditures per fiscal year which begins July 1 are:
 - **Maintenance Program.** There are more than 70 types of routine maintenance activities (i.e. mowing, snow removal, minor repairs, etc.) involved in this program, with a total budget of approximately \$95 million.
 - **Construction Program (*construction/reconstruction/resurfacing*).** Between \$450 and \$500 million are expended every year, including federal and local matching funds.
 - **Administration and Support Services** throughout the state are budgeted at approximately \$30 million.
 - **Other Programs.** The department also provides funding for Public Transportation Assistance, Rail Planning, Capital Facilities, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and highway planning and research totaling approximately \$30 million.
- ◆ Nebraska's state highway system is paid for totally by highway user taxes and fees. The **four major sources of revenue** are the gasoline tax, special fuels tax, motor vehicle registrations and related fees, and the sales tax on motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers. It is important to remember that Nebraska's major highway user **revenue is shared** between the state, counties and cities.
 - The local governments share with the state in the principal sources which go into the Highway Trust Fund: 10½ cents of the **fixed** fuel tax, the motor vehicle registration fees, and the sales tax on vehicle purchases. That revenue is shared on the basis of 53⅓ percent to the state, 23⅓ percent to the counties, and 23⅓ percent to the cities.
 - In addition to the 10½ cent fuel tax, two cents goes exclusively (*one cent each*) to the cities and counties. The Department of Roads also receives 100% of the revenue generated from the state's variable fuel tax, which is adjusted semi-annually.
 - Minimal revenue is also generated through other miscellaneous receipts (*such as excess limit permits, highway overload fines and interest on daily cash balances*).

- ◆ A code agency of state government, the Department of Roads is under the supervision of the Governor. The Department of Roads is headed by Director John L. Craig with assistance from Deputy Directors Monty Fredrickson and John “Jake” Jacobsen.
- ◆ The highway department has eight districts, each headed by a district engineer responsible for administration, maintenance and construction of state highways within their district. District engineers and their headquarters are:

District 1 Lincoln Richard Ruby (402)471-0850	District 2 Omaha Tim Weander (402)595-2534	District 3 Norfolk Kristine Winter (402)370-3470	District 4 Grand Island Wesley Wahlgren (308)385-6265
District 5 Bridgeport Craig Lind (308)262-1920	District 6 North Platte Gary Thayer (308)535-8031	District 7 McCook Kurt Vosburg (308)345-8490	District 8 Ainsworth Mark Kovar (402)387-2471

- ◆ The Department of Roads has been using a Pavement Management System for several years to evaluate state highway pavements. A “Nebraska serviceability index” of between 0 and 100 is given to each section of state highway. This index (*score*) is then used to determine the need for resurfacing, repair or replacement. Each section of highway is reinspected periodically and a new Nebraska serviceability index determined.
- ◆ The state highway system carries 63.8 percent of all the vehicle miles of travel in the state, while the vast mileage of county roads carries 13.8 percent of the travel. Municipal streets carry the remaining 22.4 percent. About 85.5 percent of the heavy truck travel in Nebraska is on the state highway system.
- ◆ Experience shows that pavements have a life ranging from 15 to 30 years, depending on the area of the state and how much traffic they carry. To keep our pavement in good condition, we will have to resurface 500 miles, or about five percent, of our system each year.
- ◆ There are 65 public transit systems in Nebraska.
- ◆ There are 25 rest areas in Nebraska and one scenic overlook (*near Chappell*).
- ◆ Nebraska was the first state in the nation to complete its mainline Interstate System at a cost of \$435 million. Work began in 1957 and the final link was dedicated October 19, 1974.