

Fact Sheet

from the Nebraska Department of Roads
Communication Division

About the Highway System

- ◆ The mission of the Nebraska Department of Roads is to provide and maintain, in cooperation with public and private entities, with contractors and design consultants, a safe, reliable, affordable, environmentally compatible and coordinated statewide transportation system for the movement of people and goods.
- ◆ There are approximately **96,599 miles of highways and public roads in Nebraska (as of 12/31/08)**.
 - Approximately **9,949 miles are highways on the state highway system:**
 - 482 miles of Interstate (*167 miles concrete and 315 miles asphalt*)
 - 1,259 miles of non-Interstate concrete
 - 8,166 miles of non-Interstate asphalt
 - 42 miles of gravel
 - Approximately **86,650 miles are public roads off the state highway system** for which cities and counties are responsible (*80,728 miles are rural roads and 5,922 miles are urban roads*).

Rural roads***

9,238 miles of federal aid eligible roads:

- 202 miles are concrete/brick
- 3,323 miles are asphalt
- 5,654 miles are gravel
- 59 miles are natural earth

71,490 miles of non-federal aid eligible* roads:

- 1,196 miles are concrete/brick
- 3,569 miles are asphalt
- 54,767 miles are gravel
- 11,885 miles are natural earth
- 73 miles are unknown**

Urban roads***

1,393 miles of federal aid eligible roads:

- 611 miles are concrete/brick
- 681 miles are asphalt
- 92 miles are gravel
- 3 miles are natural earth
- 6 miles are unknown**

4,529 miles of non-federal aid eligible roads:

- 2,267 miles are concrete/brick
- 964 miles are asphalt
- 318 miles are gravel
- 56 miles are natural earth
- 924 miles are unknown**
- 571 bridges

*Non-federal aid eligible includes county rural minor collectors.

**Not all mileage is reported by surface type.

***By National Functional Classification.

Bridges

- 3,507 state bridges
- 11,089 rural bridges
- 389 urban bridges
- 585 bridges on and over I-80

- ◆ The 2008 Needs Study shows that the Roads Department would need to spend **\$8.237 billion**, in today's dollars, over the next 20 years to bring the entire state highway system up to Needs Study criteria.
- ◆ The expenditures per fiscal year which begins July 1 are:
 - **Maintenance Program.** There are more than 70 types of activities involved in this program, with a total budget of approximately \$120 million.
 - **Construction Program (construction/reconstruction/resurfacing).** Between \$450 and \$550 million are expended every year, including federal and local matching funds.

- **Administration and Support Services** throughout the state are budgeted at approximately \$53 million.
- **Miscellaneous Programs.** Included are funds for Public Transit, Rail Planning and Capital Facilities totaling approximately \$13 million.
- ◆ The Department of Roads' revenues come from three major sources: 56 percent are from state, 40 percent are from federal, and 4 percent from local and other funds. The federal funds are used for construction, rehabilitation, and improvements to state and local highways.
- ◆ 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: 10.3 cents of the fixed fuel tax, the motor vehicle registration fees, and the sales tax on vehicle purchases. That revenue is shared on this basis; 53⅓ percent goes to the state, 23⅓ percent goes to the counties, and 23⅓ percent goes to the cities.
 - In addition to the 10.3-cent fuel tax, a new wholesale tax on motor fuels is shared at 66 percent to the Department of Roads and 17 percent each to the cities and counties. The Department of Roads also receives the revenue generated from the state's variable excise 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).
- ◆ The state highway system carries 62.7 percent of all the vehicle miles of travel in the state, while the vast mileage of county roads carries 12.1 percent of the travel. Urban streets carry the remaining 25.2 percent. About 84 percent of the heavy truck travel in Nebraska is on the state highway system.
- ◆ The Department of Roads has been using a Pavement Management System for several years to evaluate state highway pavements. A Nebraska Serviceability Index (NSI) 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 NSI determined.
- ◆ 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 62 rural transit programs, 6 urban transit programs, and 7 intercity bus operators in Nebraska. Amtrak is the only passenger rail and there are no commuter/light rail systems in Nebraska.
- ◆ There are 24 rest areas in Nebraska and one scenic overlook (near Chappell).
- ◆ Nebraska was the first state in the nation to complete its mainline Interstate System. Work began in 1957 and the final link was dedicated October 19, 1974, three miles west of Sidney.
- ◆ There are 455.32 centerline miles on the Interstate System, and 23,644 centerline miles of hard surfaced roads in Nebraska (city, county & state).

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The Interstate in Nebraska

- Official work on I-80 began in 1957 south of Gretna.
- The dedication of Nebraska's I-80 on October 19, 1974, (six miles west of Sidney a 6" brass link was embedded in I-80) marked the first state in the nation to complete its mainline interstate system.
- The total length of I-80 in Nebraska is 455.32 miles.
 - Additional Interstate Route Lengths**
 - 180 (in Lincoln) 3.18 miles
 - I-480 (in Omaha) 4.15 miles
 - I-680 (in Omaha) 13.26 miles
 - I-76 (to Colorado) 2.48 miles
 - I-129 (in South Sioux City) 3.21 miles
- The estimated total cost of I-80 in Nebraska was \$435 million, for an average per mile cost of about \$950,000.
- Normally, federal interstate funding for construction is 90 percent federal funds and 10 percent state funds.
- There are 80 interchanges along I-80 in Nebraska
- There are 442 bridges on or over I-80 in Nebraska.
- There are 25 rest areas and one scenic overlook (near Chappell) on Nebraska's I-80. These rest areas are spaced 35-50 miles apart for convenience.
- There are 28 types of grasses and forbs (herbs other than grasses), 31 types of shrubs, 12 kinds of coniferous trees, and 39 types of deciduous trees planted on the right-of-way of I-80 in Nebraska.
- There are about 570 informational and directional signs on Nebraska's I-80.
- As completed, I-80 stretches from New Jersey to San Francisco—over 2,900 miles of safe, uninterrupted roadway.
- The 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) provided for designating the nationwide 45,493 miles of interstate highway system the "Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways."