

January 2, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Motor Fuel User's Fee Adjustment Only One-Tenth of a Cent**

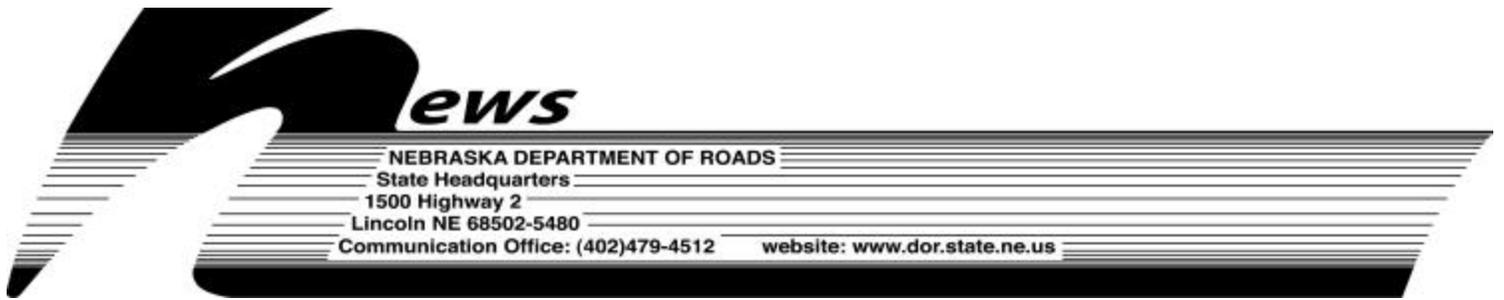
*Recently, information about Nebraska's gasoline tax has been reported incorrectly. To clarify inaccurate reporting, the following information is provided.*

Effective January 1, 2003, Nebraska's state gasoline tax increased from 24.5¢ to 24.6¢ per gallon, an increase of one-tenth of one cent per gallon. Nebraska's gas tax had not changed since July 1, 2001, when it was adjusted to 24.5¢ per gallon.

By law, Nebraska's gas tax can be adjusted twice a year, on January 1 and July 1. Nebraska's variable fuel tax can be adjusted either up, or down, and over the years, it has been adjusted both ways. This adjustment ensures that sufficient revenues are generated to meet the state highway cash fund appropriation established by the Legislature and provides stability for the state highway construction program.

#NDOR#

NR105



January 15, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Info on 511 More Precise**

Nebraska's existing 511 traveler information number has been enhanced by additional road condition "identifiers," according to the Nebraska Department of Roads. The new verbiage will enable NDOR and State Patrol personnel, who provide the observed road condition information to the 511 system, to give a more precise description of events that may affect the flow of traffic on Nebraska's highways.

The new identifiers are:

- Black Ice
- Wet Pavement
- Water Hazard - Road Closed
- Accident - Road Closed
- Accident - Traffic Maintained

Travelers who use 511 by phone will now hear descriptions corresponding to the new identifiers, in addition to the standard identifiers which have been in place for the past year.

Those who use 511 on the Web ([www.safetravelusa.com](http://www.safetravelusa.com)) will find the new identifiers will default to a preselected color on the map of Nebraska. After zooming in on a specific area, the user should click on the colored road segments to view a text version of any detailed observed information that may be available.

As always, both web and phone 511 users will receive the same information from the system. Users should remember that during inclement weather, road conditions are updated as the NDOR and State Patrol personnel have time. In extreme conditions, several hours may elapse between updates. The first priority is clearing highways and monitoring traffic to ensure the safety of those already on the highways.

Travelers are reminded to drive cautiously at all times. During bad weather, check several sources for possible travel hazards and delays before beginning any trip. Don't dial and drive. Find a safe place to stop and use your cell phone responsibly.

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