

Nebraska Department of Roads
District 1 Headquarters
302 Superior St
Lincoln NE 68509-4759
Phone (402) 471-0850
FAX (402) 471-3401
www.dor.state.ne.us

News Release

October 1, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work Begins October 6 on Highway 15 South of Fairbury

Work is scheduled to begin October 6 on Highway 15 at Rose Creek Bridge about 4 miles south of Fairbury, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads. Work on the bridge includes bridge deck repair.

There will be one-lane traffic at the bridge site, controlled with traffic signals and an 11 foot width limit. Work will take about one month.

#NDOR#

For additional information about this project contact:
Jerry Yurka in Beatrice at (402) 223-6605

NR945

Nebraska Department of Roads
District 4 Headquarters
211 North Tilden
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News Release

October 2, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work is Scheduled to Begin Soon on Highway 14 South of Clay Center

Work is scheduled to begin October 13 on Nebraska Highway 14, beginning at Clay Center and running south to the junction with Nebraska Highway 74, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Werner Construction Co., of Hastings, has the \$501,951 contract for milling and asphalt surfacing. Traffic will be maintained with flaggers and a pilot car. Work is anticipated to be completed in early November. The Department of Roads' manager for this project is Steve Meyer of Hastings.

#NDOR#

For additional information about this project contact:
Steve Meyer in Hastings at (402) 462-1996.

NR944



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

State Headquarters

1500 Highway 2

Lincoln NE 68502-5480

Communication Office: (402)479-4512

website: www.dor.state.ne.us

October 8, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nebraskans Asked to “Put the Brakes” on Traffic Fatalities

October 10 is the third annual “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day.” The Nebraska Department of Roads joins national safety organizations as they draw attention to the nation’s high rate of traffic fatalities, about 42,000 per year, or 115 fatalities each day – one fatality every 13 minutes. The day is intended to heighten awareness about what can be done to stop fatalities by focusing attention on individual behaviors, with the goal of achieving one day of zero traffic fatalities across the nation.

Last year on October 10, no fatalities were reported on Nebraska’s highways, and there were 12 days in October with no fatalities. October 2002 had 31 traffic fatalities, compared to 16 deaths in 2001, and 28 deaths in 2000, with a 2000-2002 average of 25 fatalities for the month of October. The October 2002 fatality number is 94 percent higher than the fatalities reported in October 2001. However, October 2001 had the lowest number of traffic fatalities on record for that month since 1944 in the state of Nebraska.

While there was a decrease in highway fatalities for several years, from 295 in 1999 to 276 in 2000, and 246 in 2001, loss of lives while driving on Nebraska’s highways increased at an alarming rate in 2002, with 307 fatalities. This year, by the end of September, 215 people had died in motor vehicle crashes in Nebraska, 14 less than the same time last year – a 6 percent decrease.

Nebraska Department of Roads Director John Craig says, “We want to continue to turn this trend around by drawing attention to the issue and to steps that can be taken to reduce highway fatalities.”

Much progress has been made through the development of safer vehicles and specialized safety equipment, such as child seats and helmets. In addition, roadway improvements and driver safety educational programs have helped reduce fatalities.

Following the national theme of “drive as if your life depends on it” people are asked to take an extra measure of care by sharing the road with other users – drivers, pedestrians, motorcycle and bicycle operators and passengers – in a *safe* manner. This can be achieved by the following: drive courteously and defensively; know the rules of the road for your mode of transportation; obey all signs and signals; wear protective gear – seat belts or helmets; don’t speed and don’t drive aggressively or impaired. For additional information, visit the Department of Roads’ website, www.nebraskatransportation.org or www.brakesonfatalities.org.

On October 10, take a minute, think about it – then drive as if your life depends on it, because it does.

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News Release

October 16, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Roca Spur Closes for Emergency Repair

Roca Spur, S55F, will be closed on the west edge of Roca beginning today, October 16, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads. Due to severe underlying moisture, roadway repairs are needed. The road will be closed while subgrade modification and paving are completed. Dobson Brothers Construction Co. of Lincoln is the contractor.

Traffic will be detoured on a marked route using US-77 and Hickman Spur, S55G. Motorists should watch for possible reduced speed limits in work zones.

Work is anticipated to be completed this year. The Department of Roads' Manager assigned to this project is Bob Traudt of Lincoln

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:
Mike Sklenar or Bob Traudt in Lincoln, (402) 471-0850

nr942

Nebraska Department of Roads



2003 Annual Surface Transportation Program Meetings

The Department of Roads and your State Highway Commission have scheduled surface transportation program meetings across the state. The Highway Construction Program and other State transportation issues will be addressed.

These meetings provide an excellent forum for public input. Please mark your calendar now and notify others about the meeting in your area.

September 18, 2003 – District 8

5:30 p.m.

Springview – Senior Citizen Center
Main Street

Jerome Fagerland and Mark Kovar



October 6, 2003 – District 6

5:30 p.m.

North Platte – Holiday Inn Express
Sioux Room
300 Frontage Road

Ron Books and Les O'Donnell



October 27, 2003 – District 1

7:00 p.m.

Lincoln – NDOR Central Complex
Auditorium
1500 Highway 2

Duane Acklie and Rich Ruby



October 28, 2003 – District 5

5:30 p.m.

Gering – Gering Civic Center
Wildcat Room
1050 M Street

Doug Leafgreen and Craig Lind



October 29, 2003 – District 7

5:30 p.m.

Imperial – Chase County High School
Room 101, 520 E. 9th Street

Greg Wolford and Jim Knott



October 30, 2003 – District 4

5:30 p.m.

York – Holiday Inn Convention Center
Jct. I-80 and U.S. 81

Donna Wanitschke and Chuck McCann



November 6, 2003 – District 2

7:00 p.m.

Omaha – Red Lion Inn
7007 Grover Street

Richard Reiser and Tim Weander



November 13, 2003 – District 3

7:00 p.m.

Ponca – Ponca State Park
Missouri National Recreational River
Resource & Education Center
(3 miles north of Ponca)

John Kingsbury and Kris Winter



Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

District Engineers

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Tim Weander
District 2
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or (402) 595-2406

Kristine I. Winter
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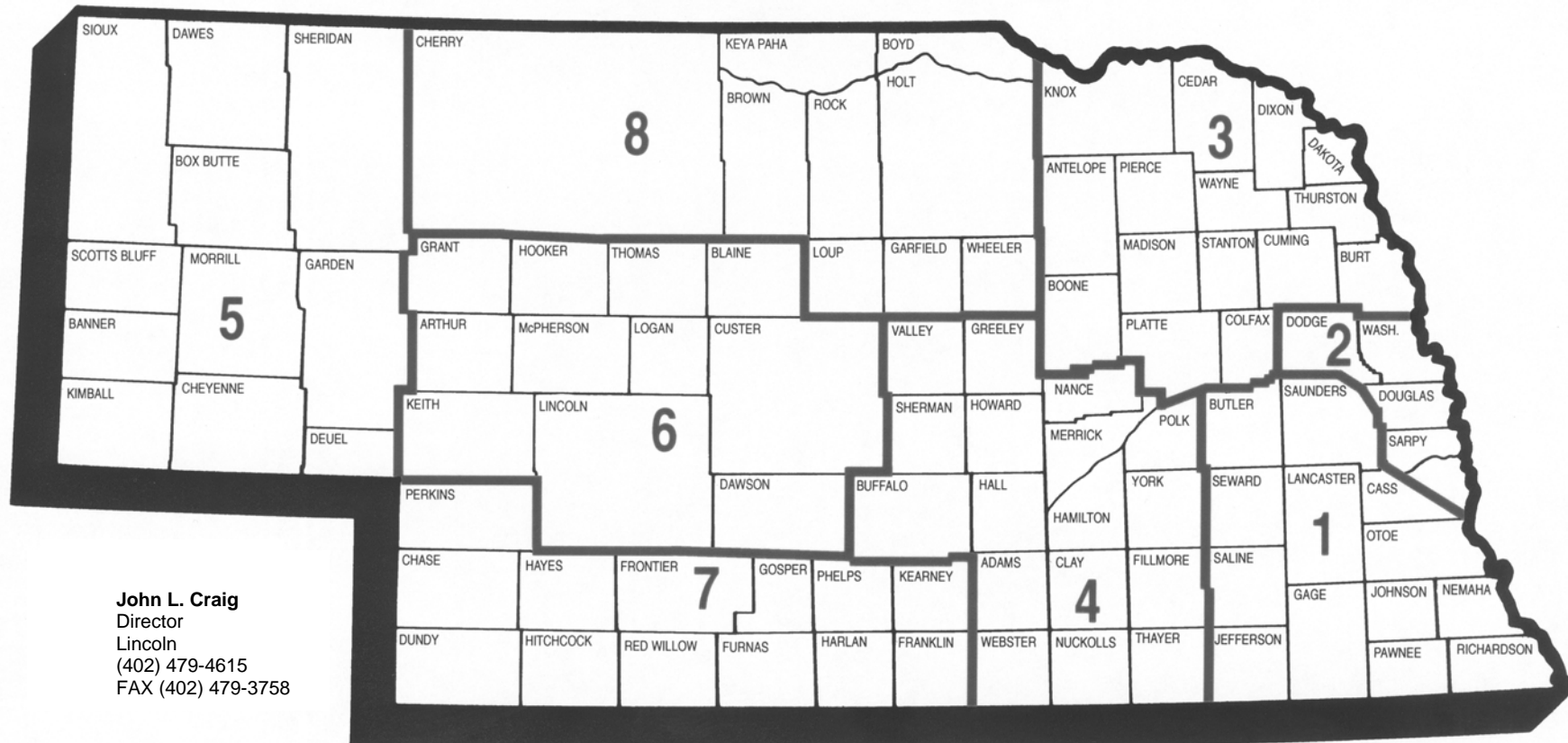
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Nebraska Highway Commission

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News release

October 20, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pilger Rest Area to Close

The Pilger Rest Area, along US-275, is scheduled to close November 1, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

The rest area is along the planned path of the new US-275 expressway. A portion of the rest area property will be needed as right-of-way for this project. The remainder of this property would be sold. The existing rest area building and equipment will be removed. Any reusable rest area equipment will be retained for future use.

The rest area has been in the Pilger area for some time, however, the rest area is currently underused. The closing of the rest area will allow the Roads Department to better use its resources. The US-275 Norfolk East improvement project is part of the Department's designated 600-mile expressway system.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

District Engineer Kris Winter in Norfolk, (402) 370-3470.

NR948

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News Release

October 24, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I-80 Temporary Closure Needed for Interstate Work

I-80 westbound entrance ramp (#399) from Cornhusker Highway near the Lincoln Airport will be closed for approximately two weeks beginning Sunday, October 26, at 9:00 p.m., according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

This closure will facilitate construction of pavement in the median needed for lane shifts on the Cornhusker Highway and Oak Creek Bridges. Closing this entrance ramp will remove merging traffic that would conflict with the work zone lane shifts and paving operations.

Both I-80 exit ramps at the Lincoln Airport (#399) will remain open, as well as the I-80 eastbound entrance ramp (#399). A marked detour will be provided routing traffic on eastbound Cornhusker Highway to northbound Interstate 180 and back to westbound I-80.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

District 1 Construction Engineer Mike Sklenar in Lincoln, 471-0850, Ext. 1069 or
Hugh Holak, 471-0850, Ext. 1061.

Visit www.nebraskatransportation.org; Highway Projects; "Current Projects" Lincoln Area I-80 Bridge Widening Projects.

nr941

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS NOTICE OF VIADUCT INFORMATION MEETING

Date: Nov. 24, 2003
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Elementary School
Gymnasium
1003 Lilly St.
Wood River, Nebr.

The Nebraska Department of Roads will hold a public information meeting regarding relocation of Nebraska Highway 11 and construction of a highway viaduct at Wood River.

The meeting is being held to present preliminary plans of the proposed project and to obtain public input. Personnel from the Department of Roads will make a presentation about the project and receive questions and comments.

The proposed alternative relocates Nebraska 11 around the south side of town and over Union Pacific Railroad tracks and U.S. Highway 30 just west of town. The preferred route ties back into Nebraska 11 on the west side of town near Thirteenth Street.

Construction of a pedestrian bridge over UP tracks is proposed near the center of town. The project is identified as STPD-TMT-11-2(114), also known as **Wood River Viaduct**.

Two road crossings of UP tracks must be removed upon completion of the new viaduct. The proposed closings are the downtown crossing on

East Street and the west crossing on 140th Street.

When the new roadway is open to traffic, a segment of Nebraska 11 east of town must be relinquished to Wood River and to Hall County.

About 47 acres of additional land must be purchased as highway right-of-way for the project. One residence and a number of other structures also must be acquired.

Nebraska 11 will remain open to traffic throughout construction. Temporary roadways around work zones will be used during some phases of construction. Construction may impact wetlands areas and mitigation may be required.

Where possible, the Department of Roads will provide an accessible meeting facility for disabled people. Appropriate provisions for people who are hearing and visually challenged will be made if the department is notified by Nov. 12, 2003. Notification should be submitted to: Public Hearings Officer, Department of Roads, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4759, voice telephone (402) 479-4871. TDD telephone is (402) 479-3834.

Preliminary plans developed by the Nebraska Department of Roads are available for public review at the NDOR Planning and Project Development Division, 1500 Highway 2, in Lincoln.

For further information regarding the proposed project, contact Steve McBeth in Lincoln at (402) 479-4417.

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News Release

October 30, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. 34 East of Seward Opening on Halloween

U.S. 34, east of Seward, will be open to traffic tomorrow by 9:00 a.m., according to the Nebraska Department of Roads. The highway has been closed or restricted for construction since April of this year. This follows the completion of the bridge replacements at Plum Creek and Middle Creek on Highway 34. Completion is approximately two weeks ahead of schedule.

Hawkins Construction Company, of Omaha, had the \$1,605,853 contract for grading, culverts, concrete paving, bridges, guardrail and seeding. James England of the Department of Roads was the Project Manager.

#NDOR#

NR938

**AGENDA
FOR THE MEETING OF
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR COUNTY HIGHWAY
AND CITY STREET SUPERINTENDENTS**

November 7, 2003

10:00 a.m.

**Nebraska Department of Roads
Central Administration Building
Highway Commission Room 103
1500 Highway 2, Lincoln Nebraska**

Call to Order – Chairman

Roll Call – Staff

Changes to Published Agenda – Staff

Minutes of October 3, 2003, Meeting

Professional Engineer application for a City Street Superintendent license: *(None)*

Professional Engineer application for a County Highway Superintendent license: *(None)*

Professional Engineer application for a County Highway Superintendent and City Street Superintendent licenses: *(None)*

Second Licenses (issued administratively since October 3, 2003): *(None)*

Review of *(0)* new and *(0)* re-applicants for the April 2, 2004, County Highway Superintendent and City Street Superintendent examination

Grading of October 3, 2003, County Highway and City Street Superintendent Written Examination (Executive Session)

Statewide news release for newly licensed County Highway and City Street Superintendents

Consideration of examination grader's request for payment

Preparation for April 2, 2004, Written Examination and March 1-3, 2004, Pre-Examination Workshop, including the following:

- New plan reading materials (deferred)

Continuing Education Award – Review of Candidate(s) *(None)*

Preparation of Thirty-Fourth Annual Report

Status Report for 2004 License Renewals

Implementation of LB 500, County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act

- Review of transcript of October 2, 2003, Rules and Regulations Public Hearing
- Adopt proposed Licensing Rule and Regulation, 425 NAC 2
- Approve draft Class A Criteria and Procedures (under the proposed Regulations)
- Approve draft Class A Application Form (including Logs & Affidavits)

Schedule of Meetings and Examinations for 2004 and Tentative Schedule for 2005

Other Business

- Report on Other Legislative Issues
- Progress Review – 2003 Work Plan
- Discussion – 2004 Proposed Work Plan

Correspondence and General Information

Acknowledgement of visitors

Next Meeting: February 20, 2004, 10:00 a.m., Nebraska Department of Roads, Materials and Research Building, Conference Room 129, 1400 Highway 2, Lincoln, Nebraska

Adjournment

Note: The business meeting is open to attendance of the public. The grading of the October 3, 2003, written examination is closed to attendance of the public.