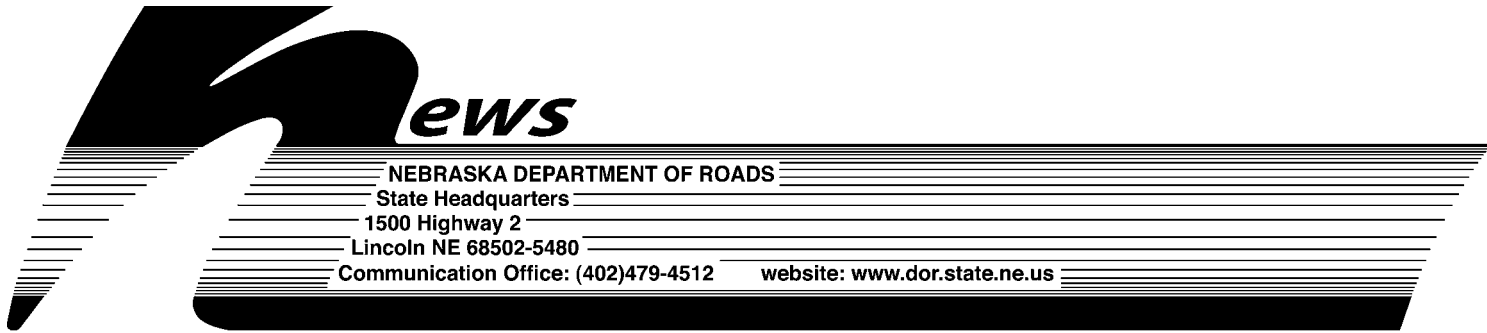


From the Communication Office of the Nebraska Department of Roads



November 3, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Roads Department to Install Physical Barriers on I-80 Rest Area Ramp Shoulders

Nebraska Department of Roads' District 1 Maintenance forces will begin the installation of physical barriers to prevent illegal truck parking on rest area ramp shoulders at the Goehner West Bound and Blue River East Bound rest areas this week. Vertical panels mounted on steel posts at 50 feet intervals will be installed in the center of the asphalt shoulder.

Posts and panels are on hand. Arrangements to begin installation have been made, and the plan is to begin installation this week. The same physical barriers are planned for York East Bound and West Bound I-80 rest areas, within the month. Further evaluation will take place to determine if expansion to other rural rest areas is beneficial. The Roads Department is working closely with the Nebraska State Patrol, and will gauge the effectiveness of the barriers to prevent unsafe and illegal truck parking on rest area shoulders and ramps.

#NDOR#

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

November 5, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US Highway 77, North and South of Wymore Open to Traffic

US Highway 77 north and south of Wymore will be opened to through traffic at 9 a.m. on November 6, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Work on this project began in July 2002, and included bridge and guardrail work. The prime contractor for the project was Herbst Construction, Inc. of LeMars, Iowa. The Department of Roads' Manager for this project was Allen Vandegrift of Fairbury.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

Mike Sklenar in Lincoln, (402) 471-0850, Ext. 1069, or
Allen Vandegrift in Fairbury, (402) 729-3489, Ext. 11

NR935

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS NOTICE OF HIGHWAY PUBLIC HEARING

Date: Dec. 16, 2003

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: American Legion Post 175
Elk Street & Hwy 20
Jackson, Nebraska

The Nebraska Department of Roads along with the State Highway Commission will hold a design public hearing regarding widening of U.S. Highway 20 east of Jackson from a two-lane highway to a four-lane divided highway.

The proposed project in Dakota County, identified as NH-20-7(114) and known as **Jackson East**, would widen about 3 ½ miles of U.S. 20. Construction will include grading, surfacing, drainage structures and county road intersections.

The project begins just east of the Elk Creek bridge and ends at the existing four-lane divided highway.

The two new traffic lanes will be constructed to the north of the existing lanes. The existing lanes will be resurfaced. A depressed median will separate the eastbound and westbound lanes.

The project will be constructed under traffic. Traffic will be routed on temporary roadways around work zones during some phases of construction.

Private property must be acquired for highway right-of-way throughout the length of the project. Control of access to the new highway will be modified.

Construction will impact wetlands areas and mitigation will be required for about 1/3 acre. Replacement wetlands will be established at either the Tarnov Wetland Mitigation Bank in Platte County or the West Point Wetland Mitigation Bank in Cuming County.

The public hearing is being held to provide information about design features of the project. All people are invited to attend and present relevant comments and questions.

Written statements and exhibits may be presented at the hearing, and they will be accepted as part of the public record for 10 days after the hearing.

The public is invited to stop at the hearing location from 3 - 5 p.m. for an informal discussion of any aspect of the project.

Personnel from the Department of Roads will be available to visit one-on-one regarding the proposed improvements.

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 Dec. 2, 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 inspection at the NDOR District 3 Office, 408 N. 13th St., in Norfolk, and at the Roadway Design Division, 1500 Highway 2, in Lincoln.

For further information regarding the proposed project, contact Ed Palandri in the Roadway Design Division at (402) 479-4601.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS NOTICE OF HIGHWAY PUBLIC HEARING

Date: Dec. 15, 2003

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Divots Convention
Center
4200 West Norfolk Ave.
Norfolk, Nebraska

The Nebraska Department of Roads along with the State Highway Commission will hold a design public hearing regarding Project STPD-35-3(105), known as **Norfolk Southeast**.

The proposed project involves constructing about 1 mile of Nebraska Highway 35 into a four-lane divided roadway with left-turn lanes at intersections.

The project begins east of Norfolk at the intersection of U.S. 275 and ends just south of Norfolk Avenue.

Construction includes concrete pavement, drainage, storm sewer, and lighting.

The project will be built under traffic. Traffic will be routed on temporary roadways around work zones during some phases of construction.

A total of about 10 acres along the length of the existing highway must be acquired as public right-of-way for the project. Additional control of access to the new roadway must be acquired.

Minimal impact to wetlands areas is anticipated as a result of construction and mitigation will not be required.

The public hearing is being held to provide information about design features of the project. All people are

invited to attend and present relevant comments and questions.

Written statements and exhibits may be presented at the hearing, and they will be accepted as part of the public record for 10 days after the hearing.

The public is invited to stop at the hearing location from 3-5 p.m. for an informal discussion of any aspect of the project.

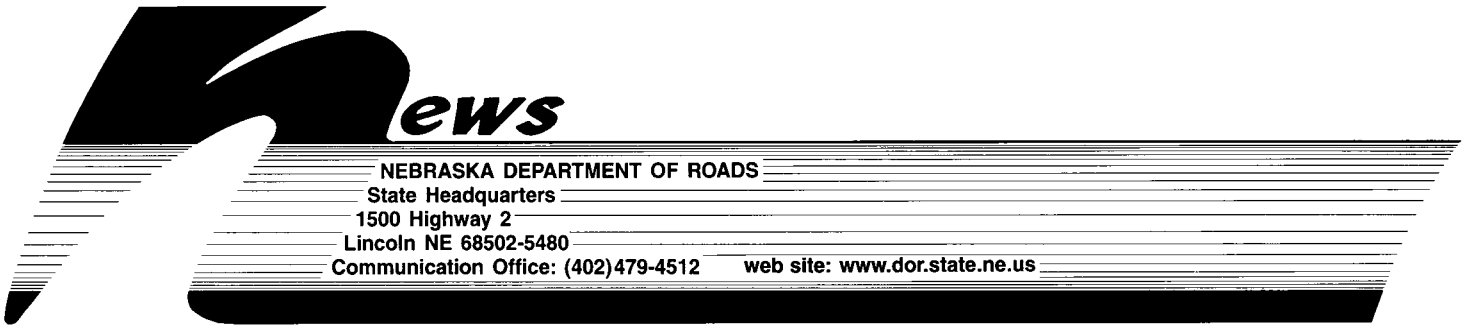
Personnel from the Department of Roads will be available to visit one-on-one about the proposed improvements.

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 Dec. 1, 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 inspection at the NDOR District 3 Office, 408 N. 13th St., in Norfolk, and at the Roadway Design Division, 1500 Highway 2, in Lincoln.

For further information regarding the proposed project, contact Don Turek in the Roadway Design Division at (402) 479-4441.



November 10, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Highway and Street Superintendents Licensed

Lincoln -- Seven persons successfully completed the October 3, 2003 examination and are now licensed by the Board of Examiners for County Highway and City Street Superintendents.

Licensed as both County Highway Superintendent and City Street Superintendent are Neal J. Dreifurst of Columbus, Robert J. Keller of North Platte and Michael L. Wolfe of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Licensed as a County Highway Superintendent are Debra D. Nelsen of York, Darrel D. Thorin of Bartlett, and Gary L. Wicht of Rockville.

Licensed as a City Street Superintendent is Mark S. Freese of Papillion.

Dreifurst is the Bridge Foreman for the Platte County Highway Department. Freese is the Public Works Supervisor for the City of Papillion. Keller is the Assistant City Engineer for the City of North Platte. Nelsen is the Administrative Assistant for the York County Highway Department. Thorin is the County Road Foreman and Weed Superintendent for Wheeler County. Wicht is the Road Foreman for the Sherman County Road Department. Wolfe is the Asphalt Manager for the City of Omaha.

The next examination will be held April 2, 2004 with an application deadline of February 13, 2004. Applications can be obtained by contacting the Board of Examiners, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509, (402) 479-4607, and by consulting the website listed below.

Also recently licensed was: Tory W. Kort, P.E., of Grand Island. Kort is an Associate Engineer with Olsson Associates, Grand Island. Registered Professional Engineers (P.E.) are licensed by equivalency.

#MORE#

Superintendents are qualified to administer city and county street and road programs, including:

- preparing one- and six-year improvement plans,
- assisting in preparing annual budgets and financial reports,
- supervising the annual program for roadway design, construction and maintenance, and
- coordinating plans with adjacent counties and cities and with the Nebraska Department of Roads.

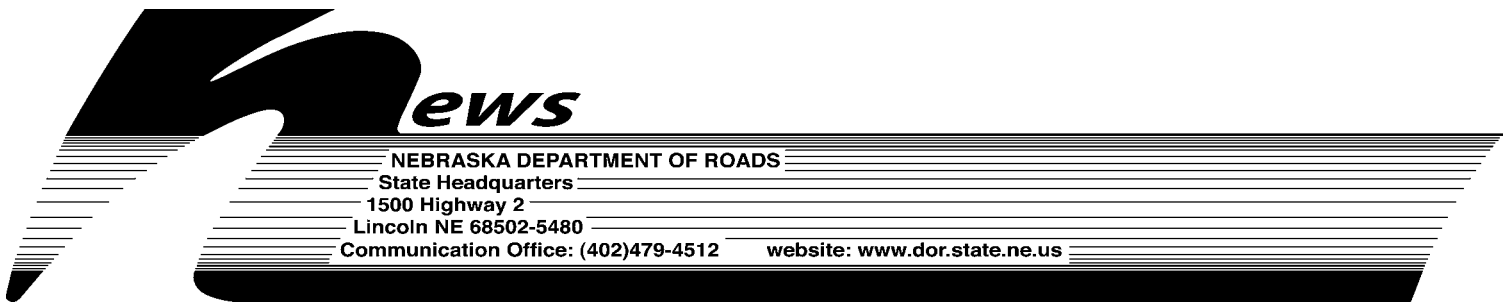
Additional information about the licensing program is available at the Nebraska Department of Roads, Government Affairs Division website, www.nebraskatransportation.org/localiaison/index.htm.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

Andy Cunningham (402) 479-4569.

AC/NR1001



November 10, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information Meeting November 24 for Hwy. 11 Improvements Near Wood River

The Nebraska Department of Roads will hold a public information meeting on Monday, November 24, regarding the relocation of Nebraska Highway 11 and construction of a highway viaduct at Wood River. The information meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., at the Elementary School Gymnasium, 1003 Lilly Street, in Wood River.

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. 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 wetland areas and mitigation may be required.

Personnel from the Department of Roads will make a presentation about the project and receive comments and questions.

Preliminary plans will be available for review at the Planning and Project Development Division, 1500 Highway 2, in Lincoln.

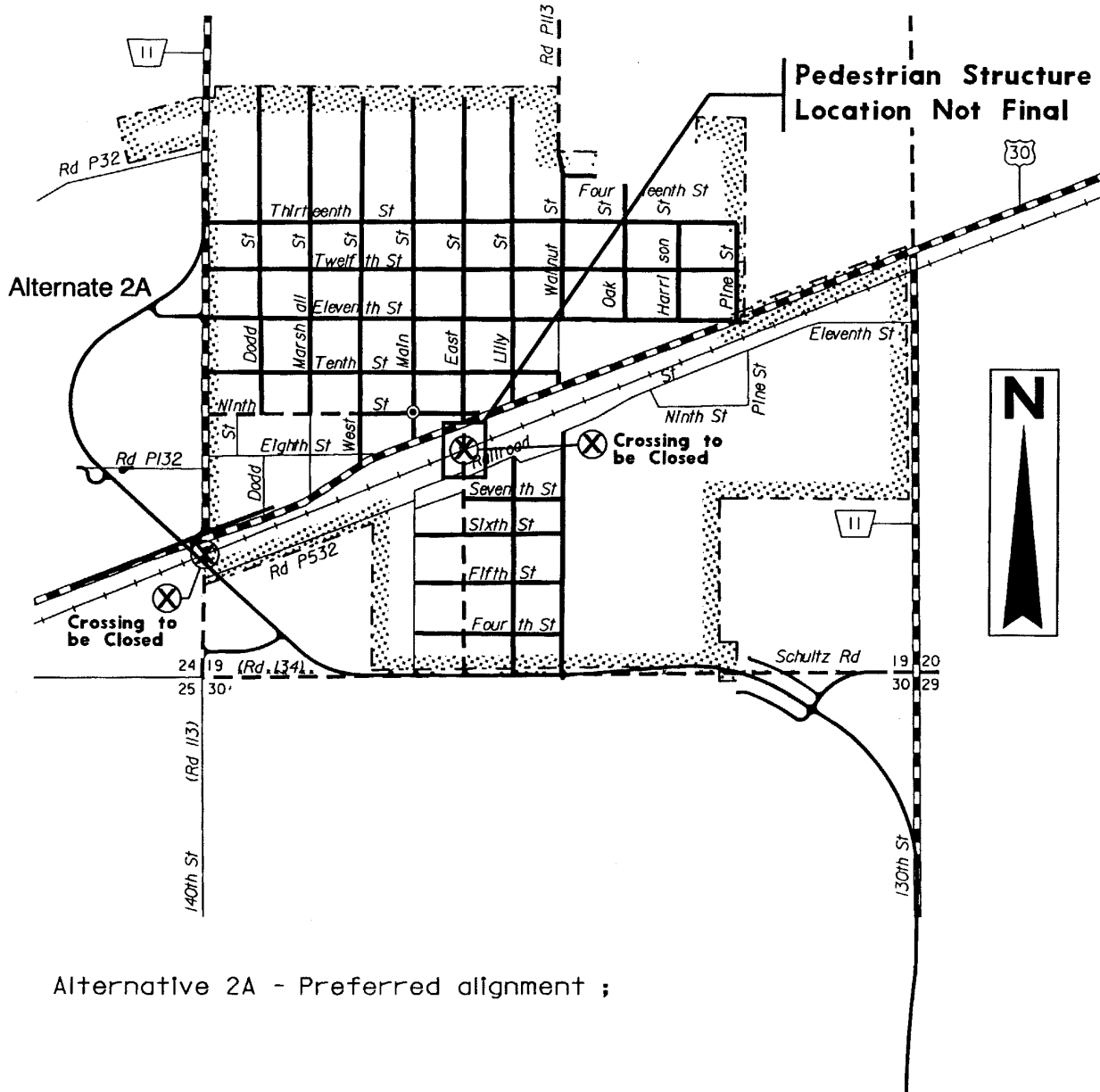
#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

Steve McBeth, Planning and Project Development Division in Lincoln, (402) 479-4417.

STPD-TMT-11-2(114)

WOOD RIVER VIADUCT INFORMATION MEETING



Alternative 2A - Preferred alignment ;

⊗ Crossings to be closed with Alternative 2A: (Two - 140th St. and East St.)

Nebraska Department of Roads
District 1 Headquarters
302 Superior St
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Phone (402) 471-0850
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News Release

November 13, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Closed I-80 Ramp to Open for Home Game Traffic Only

The I-80 westbound entrance ramp (#399) from Cornhusker Highway, near the Lincoln Airport, will be opened Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to allow traffic leaving the Husker football game to enter westbound I-80. Westbound I-80 traffic will have a right lane closure during this time to allow ramp traffic to enter I-80 using the dedicated lane. After game traffic has cleared, the ramp will be closed again, and the temporary right lane closure will be removed.

The westbound I-80 entrance ramp near the airport has been closed due to construction work at the Cornhusker and Oak Creek bridges.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

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

NR934



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS
State Headquarters
1500 Highway 2
Lincoln NE 68502-5480
Communication Office: (402)479-4512 web site: www.dor.state.ne.us

November 13, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board to Consider Relaxations of Highway Standards

The Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards will meet at 9:00 a.m. on November 21, 2003, in the Nebraska Department of Roads' Central Building Auditorium at 1500 Highway 2 in Lincoln.

The agenda includes:

- Addition of projects to the Wayne and County and the City of Clarkson One- and Six-Year Road and Street Improvement Plans.
- Informal hearings:
 - at 9:30 a.m. on the Nebraska Department of Roads' request for a relaxation of standards on Hwy. US-6 east of Hastings;
 - at 9:40 a.m. on the Nebraska Department of Roads' request for a relaxation of standards on Hwy. N-92 east of the Platte River in Douglas County; and
 - at 9:50 a.m. on the Nebraska Department of Roads' request for a relaxation of standards on Hwy. N-32 between West Point and Oakland.
- Scheduling dates for 2004-2005 meetings.

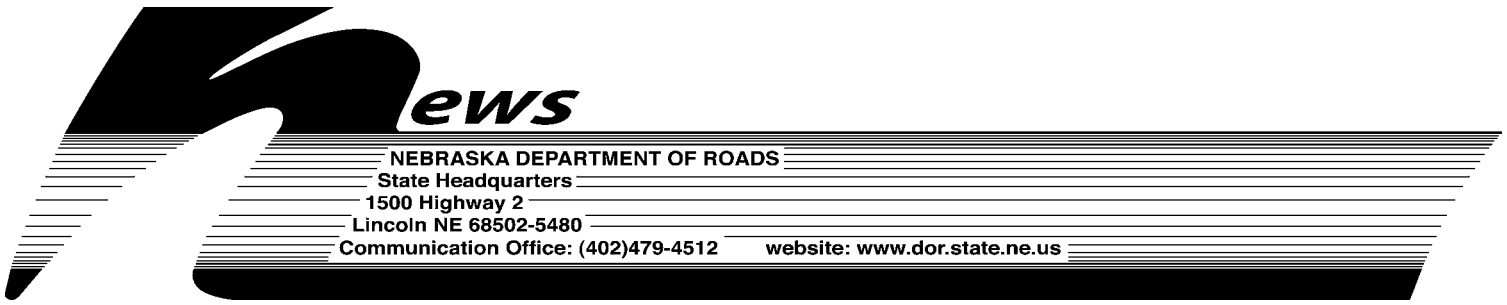
The meeting is open to the public.

#NDOR#

Detailed agenda as of November 13 enclosed

For additional information contact:
Andrew Cunningham (402) 479-4569.

AC/nr933



November 19, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. 275 Fremont Bypass Project May Advance

Today, the Nebraska Department of Roads said the U.S. Highway 275 Fremont Bypass project is being prepared for possible inclusion in the fiscal 2005 highway program. The project may advance from the previously slated 2007 highway program.

A final determination on the scheduling will be made in July 2004, when future funding levels become more certain.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:
Roger Winkelhake at (402) 479-4708.

NR932

Nebraska Department of Roads
District 1 Headquarters
302 Superior St
Lincoln NE 68509-4759
Phone (402) 471-0850
FAX (402) 471-3401
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News Release

November 13, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The westbound I-80 entrance ramp near the airport has been closed due to construction work at the Cornhusker and Oak Creek bridges.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

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

NR934



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS
State Headquarters
1500 Highway 2
Lincoln NE 68502-5480
Communication Office: (402)479-4512 web site: www.dor.state.ne.us

Winter 2003

FOR RELEASE AT WILL

State Road Crews Leverage Technology to Wrestle Winter Weather

When winter weather sweeps through Nebraska, the Department of Roads' snow removal fleet stands ready to meet the challenge. With a combination of high-tech and traditional tools at their disposal, the department continues to build upon the latest innovations to lessen winter's blast.

This is the third year Nebraska's statewide 511-telephone system is available to provide 24-hour-a-day, year-round traveler information. By dialing 511 on their cellular telephone or landline telephone, motorists will be able to access the quickest, most up-to-date information about weather conditions, road conditions and travel advisories. Callers outside of Nebraska may dial 800-906-9069. The 511 system is also available on the Internet at www.nebraskatransportation.org.

New this year, automatic speech recognition (ASR) was activated September 23. Callers now have the option of using their voice or keypad to make selections while using 511. For example, a report can be requested for Interstate 80 by saying "Interstate 80" or by entering the number and the "#" sign. With this feature, callers can use the latest technology to help them reach their destination safely.

Nebraska's 511 system provides information for Nebraska and South Dakota highways. Phone numbers are provided for accessing Wyoming, Colorado and Iowa traveler information.

Remote weather information system (RWIS) towers are located along roadways throughout the state. Instruments on the towers collect valuable information, including wind speed, temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, precipitation, pavement and subsurface pavement conditions. This information is relayed by telephone line to NDOR maintenance crew computers about every 30 minutes during winter. Crews are able to respond more quickly with de-icing materials as well as tailor the applications to the conditions of the road, enhancing safety and efficiency. De-icing systems are in place on bridges in several districts, including District 4 (Grand Island), District 5 (Scottsbluff) and District 6 (North Platte). Because of the ability to pre-treat the pavement, these bridge de-icing systems have proven helpful in preventing accidents and are especially effective for frost conditions.

- more -

The department plans continued use of liquid chemical processes for frost, ice and snow control on roadways. Maintenance crews will use several liquid chemicals on the roadways, including salt brine and agricultural-based products mixed with magnesium chloride. These products prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement surface, or they may be applied as de-icing materials to help remove ice and snow buildup on the roadway.

Some districts plan to expand their anti-icing/de-icing operations in selected areas. According to Chris Ford, District Maintenance Superintendent for District 5 (Scottsbluff), "Our district had excellent results with use of salt brine last winter and we are looking forward to expanding the program." Ford noted that brine trucks would be located in several new areas this winter. District 5 also plans to meet salt storage needs with the addition of a temporary salt storage building at Chadron.

Again this year, changeable message signs will be positioned along Interstate 80 from Kimball to Omaha and on other highways throughout Nebraska, alerting motorists of immediate and/or upcoming closures.

Nine new dynamic message signs (DMS) will be placed at locations along the Interstate 80 corridor throughout central and western Nebraska to assist motorists. The electronic message signs are constructed over the Interstates and notify drivers of construction, lane and road closures, accidents and inclement weather. Signs are also part of the Amber Alert system. Last year, DMS were installed at nine locations on the Interstate system in the Omaha metro area. Six additional signs are planned for the Omaha area within the next two years.

Real-time weather and road information is available on the Roads Department website, www.nebraskatransportation.org by clicking on the "511" icon at the bottom of the home page. Various weather links are also available on the website by clicking on the heading "Road Reports & Travel Info." Information about 511 can also be obtained by clicking on www.safetravelusa.com.

Travelers are reminded to follow basic rules of the road for winter driving conditions, including making sure their vehicle is tuned up, traveling at reduced speeds, leaving extra space between vehicles and always buckling up. When planning a trip, travelers are advised to check the weather forecast for their planned destination. Remember: "If the snow is blowing, should you be going?"

#NDOR#

For additional or localized information, please contact your state highway District Maintenance Superintendent:

District 1 – Lincoln Roger Kalkwarf (402)471-0850, Ext. 1041	District 2 – Omaha Dale Butler (402)595-2534, Ext. 203	District 3 – Norfolk Thomas McCoy (402)370-3470	District 4 – Grand Island Allen Horak (308)385-6265, Ext. 204
District 5 – Bridgeport Chris Ford (308)262-1920	District 6 – North Platte Roger Klasna (308)535-8031	District 7 – McCook Larry L. Peterson (308)345-8490	District 8 – Ainsworth John Stahl (402)387-2471, Ext. 204