

Nebraska Department of Roads  
District 4 Headquarters  
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# News release

March 6, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Work Begins on Highway 4 at Lawrence**

Work is scheduled to begin March 31 on Highway 4, beginning at Lawrence and running east to Highway 14, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads. Work includes grading, culverts, a new bridge, and asphalt paving.

The project will be closed to traffic during the 2003 construction season and a marked detour will be in effect from March 31 to November of this year. Traffic will detour along Highways 14, 136 and 78. Highway 4 is scheduled to reopen to traffic in November. Work on the project is anticipated to be completed in May 2004.

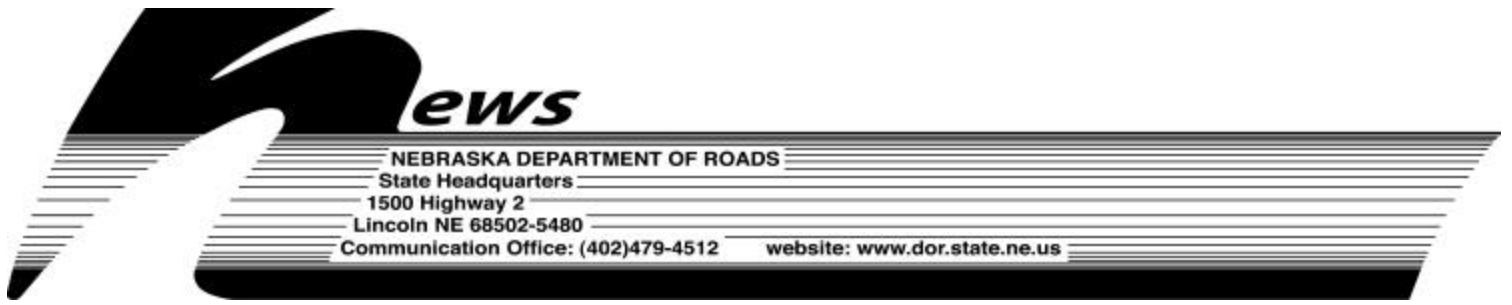
Werner Construction Co., of Hastings, is the prime contractor for the \$5,644,666 project. The Department of Roads' manager is Steve Meyer of Hastings.

#NDOR#

**For additional information contact:**

Steve Meyer, Hastings, (402) 462-1996  
EACSTPD4-5(103)

NR87



March 10, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Intelligent Transportation Systems Chapter Meets in Heartland**

The downtown Omaha DoubleTree Hotel will be the headquarters for the Fourth Annual ITS Heartland Meeting March 12-14, 2003. Transportation and academic representatives will meet to discuss Intelligent Transportation Systems issues, share ideas and learn about ITS activities in other states. Among the nationally known ITS officials appearing at the conference will be Jeff Paniata of the Federal Highway Administration and ITS Joint Program Office, Neil Schuster of ITS America, and Cheri Nolan of the US Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. Kicking off the meeting will be Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey and John Craig, Nebraska Department of Roads Director. Vendors will be on hand to showcase new products.

The ITS Heartland Chapter of ITS America is intended to facilitate information sharing for ITS projects and activities and to showcase ITS applications in four heartland states, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. For more information on the conference and ITS Heartland, visit their web site at <http://www.itsheartland.org>.

#NDOR#

NR88

March 12, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **I-180 Temporary Closure Needed for Interstate Work**

I-180, Lincoln, southbound lanes will be closed, temporarily, at Cornhusker Highway on Friday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The southbound entrance ramp off Cornhusker will also be closed.

The closure is for placing concrete on the second half of the Oak Creek bridge deck, and will allow replacement of damaged guardrail on the Oak Creek bridge.

Both exit directions on Cornhusker will remain open. A marked detour will be provided to route traffic east on Cornhusker, then south on 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Local motorists may wish to consider a different route to downtown. Northbound I-180 travel will not be affected.

Incoming southbound Boys State Basketball tournament traffic headed for the Devaney Center is encouraged to avoid the 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Cornhusker intersection. To avoid "detour traffic," basketball fans should exit I-80 at the 27<sup>th</sup> Street interchange (#403) and proceed directly to State Fair Park and the Devaney Center. Another route to the Devaney Center from the north would be via 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

#NDOR#

**For additional information contact:**

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

IM-BH-180-9(519)

NR/90

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# News Release

March 17, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Work to Begin on US-77 in the Wymore Area**

Work is to begin March 31, 2003 on US-77 North and South of Wymore. US-77 will be closed on this date and through traffic will be rerouted to a marked detour, using N-8 and N-112. US-77 will be closed from the junction of N-8 and US-77 to the junction of NE-112 and US-77.

Local traffic will be maintained, at a reduced speed on US-77 from N-112 to Wymore, using gravel detours at the bridge work zones. There will not be a local traffic detour at the bridge over Big Indian Creek south of Wymore. Highway 77 is anticipated to be reopened by December 2003.

Herbst Construction, Inc. of La Mars, Iowa has the \$2,148,000 contract for Grading, Asphalt Surfacing, Bridge Replacement, and Bridge Remodeling.

#NDOR#

**For additional information contact:**

Allen A. Vandegrift in Fairbury at (402) 729-3489

EACNH-EACBR-77-1(127), Wymore North & South

NR1000

March 18, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Resurfacing Work to Begin on I-80 Between Milford and Lincoln**

Work is scheduled to begin March 31 on I-80 between Milford and Lincoln. Werner Construction, Inc. of Hastings is the prime contractor on the \$4,409,865 resurfacing project. Work on this project is anticipated to be finished in October of this year. Work includes concrete patching, milling the existing asphalt and overlay with the new asphalt.

The project begins west of the Milford interchange and ends at the NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street interchange in Lincoln.

During the construction of this project, there will be one-lane road closures during the week on Interstate 80. These closures may continue overnight. All I-80 lanes will be open on weekends, holidays and home football games. Ramps at the Milford and Pleasant Dale interchanges may be temporarily closed for work on the ramp. In the event of a ramp closure, motorists will be instructed to use alternate routes to or from I-80.

Delays on I-80 may be expected due to lane closures. Motorists are strongly encouraged to use Highway 6 for their daily commutes.

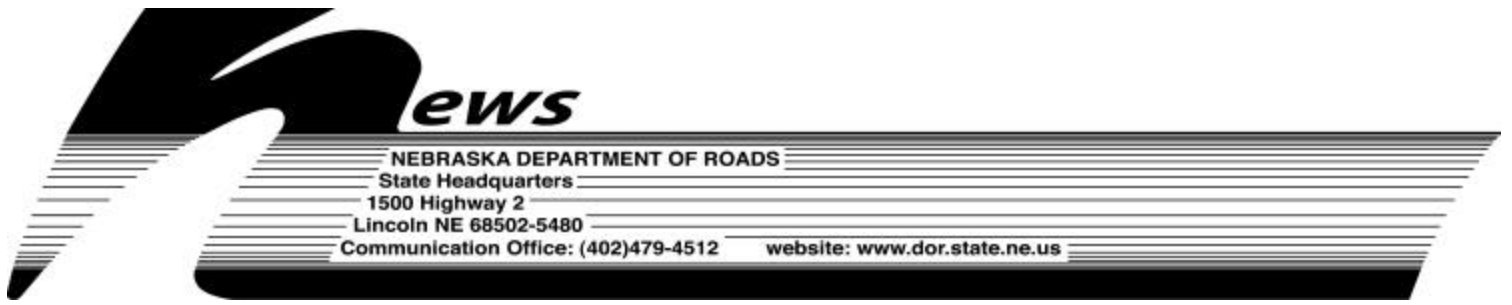
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### **For additional information contact:**

District Construction Engineer Mike Sklenar at (402) 471-0850, Ext. 1069 or  
Project Manager Babrak Niazi at (402) 471-0850, Ext. 1064

EACIM-80-8(120)

NR998



March 19, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **States Still Looking at Future of Historic Yankton Bridge**

Following location approval by Nebraska's Governor Mike Johanns and the South Dakota Department of Transportation, officials from the two states and the City of Yankton met on March 17, 2003, to discuss the next steps in completing a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Highway 81, Yankton Meridian Bridge replacement project.

A public hearing was held December 5, 2002, covering information presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, regarding location alternatives for a new structure, as well as alternatives for the existing structure. Many public and government agency comments have been received and are being evaluated. Responses to comments will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

One of the remaining issues to be resolved is the fate of the existing historic Yankton Meridian Bridge. The South Dakota Department of Transportation, Nebraska Department of Roads, and the City of Yankton are taking another look at what could be done to adequately preserve the existing bridge as a pedestrian/bike facility and still fit the project sponsor's budget. This issue will need to be resolved prior to preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

#NDOR#

**For additional information contact:**  
Cindy Veys, Lincoln, (402) 479-4410

NR997

March 25, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Work Begins March 31 on Hwy. 20 East and West of Orchard**

Dobson Brothers Construction Co., of Lincoln, will begin construction Monday, March 31, on U.S. Hwy. 20 from four miles west of Orchard to Royal, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

With a cost of nearly \$3.5 million dollars, this project includes storm sewer with curb and gutter installation in Orchard, and culvert installation, grading, and asphalt paving throughout the project.

Improvements include widening the roadway to 35 feet from Washington Street to Clara Street in Orchard, adding 8-foot asphalt shoulders in the rural areas and raising the grade 16 feet in a low area two miles west of Orchard.

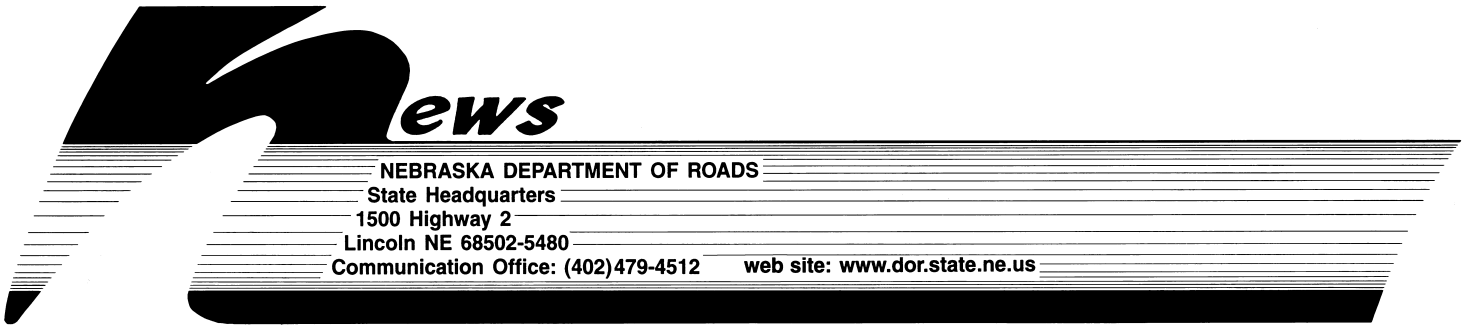
The contractor will remove trees and brush and install erosion control prior to beginning grading operations. This operation is planned to start east of Orchard to accommodate underground utilities.

Traffic will be maintained with flaggers and a temporary traffic signal in Orchard. Over length or over width traffic will not be permitted. Work on this project is anticipated to be completed this fall.

#NDOR#

**For additional information contact:**

Project Manager Gene Colfack in O'Neill, (402) 336-2051



March 27, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## It's "Great Nebraska Trash-Off" Time

The week of **April 12-19** has been designated as the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual "Great Nebraska Trash-Off." Sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Roads, this event gives volunteers an ideal opportunity to do some "spring cleaning" of their adopted highway areas.

Organizations wanting to participate in the April 12-19 Trash-Off should contact the Nebraska Department of Roads office in their area by April 2 to reserve the traffic warning signs, orange litter bags and safety vests.

Last year approximately 5,000 volunteers participated in the Trash-Off and over 1,900 miles of highway right-of-way became litter-free. This dedication of Adopt-A-Highway volunteers in preserving Nebraska's natural resources has made the program a huge success in Nebraska.

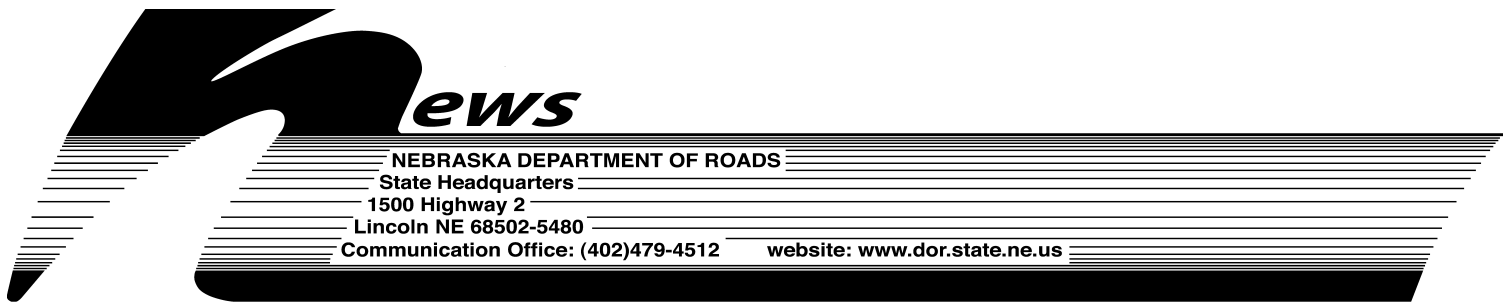
While this designated week is a great time for groups to conduct their clean-up activities, 100% participation is not always possible. The Department of Roads welcomes citizen and group litter pickup efforts anytime during the year.

#NDOR#

**For additional information contact:** Denise Wallman, Adopt-A-Highway Program Manager, at (402) 479-4843, in Lincoln.

Great Nebraska Trash-Off, 2003





March 27, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Kovar New District 8 Engineer for State Roads**

Mark Kovar has been named the new District 8 Engineer in Ainsworth for the Nebraska Department of Roads. District 8 includes Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Garfield, Holt, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock and Wheeler Counties. Kovar, a licensed professional engineer, has been acting District 8 Engineer since August 2002, succeeding Kris Winter, who was named the new District 3 Engineer in Norfolk.

For 11 years Kovar has worked at the Roads Department in a variety of capacities, including serving as Construction Engineer in District 8 for the past 5 years. He was born and raised in Ridgecrest, California, then moved to Wilber, Nebraska, and graduated from Wilber-Clatonia High School in 1981. Kovar attended college at Southeast Community College in Milford, graduating with distinction with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Automotive Technology in December 1982. He also attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1991.

Kovar worked as an automotive technician and as the assistant service manager at an auto dealership in Lincoln for about 10 years while attending UNL.

In 1992, Kovar began his career with NDOR as an Engineer in North Platte. In 1998, he was promoted to District 8 Construction Engineer in Ainsworth, and in 2002, he was named acting District 8 Engineer.

During his tenure as District 8 Engineer, Kovar said he would like to become a champion for safety in the district. He would also like to improve the quality and durability of the highways by using the latest in new technologies that will improve maintenance and construction efforts on the highway system.

Kovar and his wife, Tami, have two children, Matthew, 5 years old, and Mackenzie, 22 months old. In addition to spending time with his family, Kovar enjoys golfing, camping and Nebraska football.

**#NDOR#**

**For additional information contact:**

District Office in Ainsworth, (402) 387-2471.

NR994

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www.dor.state.ne.us

# News release

March 28, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Work is Scheduled to Begin Soon on Highway 281, North of O'Neill**

Werner Construction, Inc., of Hastings, will begin construction, Monday, April 7, on US Highway 281 from the north edge of O'Neill to 13 miles north of O'Neill, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

With the cost of nearly \$5.3 million, this project includes culvert installation, two new box culverts, grading, seeding and asphalt paving throughout the project. Improvements include construction of 8 foot surfaced shoulders in rural areas.

The contractor will remove trees and brush and install erosion control prior to beginning grading operations.

Traffic will be maintained with flaggers and two temporary road detours during construction of the two new box culverts.

Work is anticipated to be completed the fall of 2004.

#NDOR#

**For additional information contact:**

Project Manager Dan Ziska in O'Neill, (402) 336-2051

EACSTPD-281-4(114)

NR990

March 31, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Work Begins on US-385**

Construction work is scheduled to begin soon on US-385 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Alliance, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads. Simon Contractors and Subsidiaries, of Cheyenne, Wyoming is the prime contractor for the \$1.96 million project.

Work includes grading, culverts, concrete pavement, lighting and asphaltic concrete surfacing work on the half-mile project. The project will run from US-385 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street up to Cody Avenue. This five-lane design will have a center turn lane accommodating two-lane traffic traveling both east and west on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Construction will be completed in four phases. Phase I is scheduled to begin March 31 with temporary surfacing, culvert work and a temporary signal will be installed at the US-385 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street junction. Traffic will experience minor delays through the work zones. Two-way traffic will be maintained on US-385 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street throughout the project. Work is anticipated to be completed in the fall of this year.

Public information meetings will be held regularly during the project to discuss work progress, traffic and project-related issues. Check your local media for times and location.

**The Department of Roads urges all drivers to use caution when driving through the work zone and to be reminded that fines are doubled in a work zone.**

#NDOR#

**For additional information contact:**

Russ Frickey, Highway Project Manager, Bridgeport, Nebraska (308) 262-1929, Ext. 201

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