

Nebraska Department of Roads
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www.dor.state.ne.us

News Release

April 1, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work Begins on Highway 34 at Seward

Work will be beginning April 14 on Highway 34 east of Seward, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads. There will be single lane closures at the Middle Creek Bridge from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to aid traffic during the construction of this bridge.

Highway 34 will be closed on April 21 at Bemis Street at the east edge of Seward to allow for removal and building of a new bridge at Plum Creek. Middle Creek Bridge will be built in phases beginning with work on the south side of the eastbound lanes and traffic will be moved across this bridge with the aid of traffic signals.

The Department of Roads' detour for this project will be Interstate 80 from Seward to Lincoln. Highway 6 is also an alternate detour route.

Hawkins Construction Company will be building both bridges and anticipate to have them completed by October 4, weather permitting.

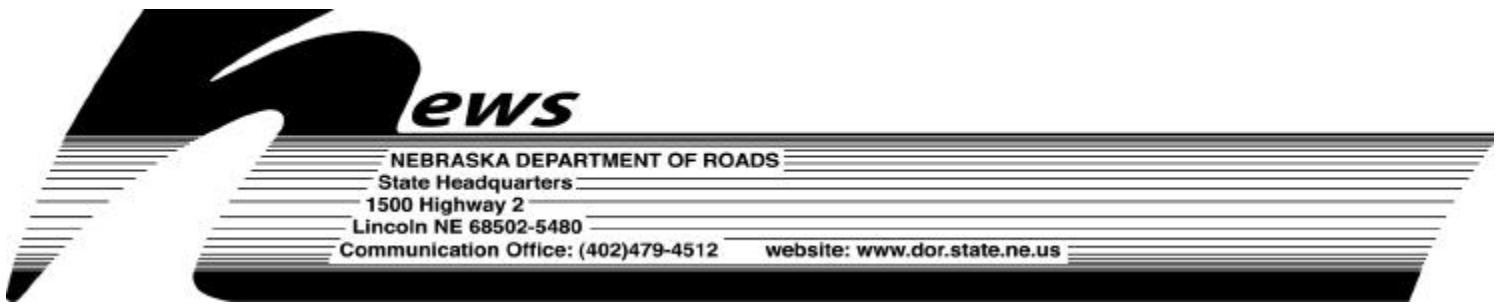
#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

Mike Sklenar, (402) 471-0850, Ext. 1069 or Project Manager Jim England, (402) 471-0850, Ext. 1103

STPD-34-6(129)

NR992



April 4, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Highway Work Zones Require Drivers' Patience and Vigilance

The 2003 construction season is underway in Nebraska. With more than 260 state highway construction projects planned for April through December, there is an increased potential for traffic congestion and safety challenges. The Nebraska Department of Roads urges drivers to use extra caution when approaching highway work zones. By slowing down and staying alert, motorists can help reduce or prevent accidents and injuries.

The key reason for most work-zone crashes continues to be drivers' failure to pay attention, according to law enforcement officers' reports. Drivers often contribute to construction zone accidents by speeding, running off the road or crossing into the wrong lane.

More motorists are injured in work-zone accidents than highway workers. Therefore, drivers need to stay alert when driving near highway construction sites any time of day. Drivers should observe lower speed limits, heed posted warning signs and be alert for variations of the roadway in work zones.

Roads Department and contractors' employees are at risk when working near moving traffic. In recent years, highway work-zone crashes have injured and claimed the lives of Department of Roads workers. The Roads Department wants to ensure the safety of its employees, contractor's personnel and motorists with public awareness of the need for extra caution when navigating highway work zones.

It is important to remember that highway work zones are much more than a temporary inconvenience. Work zones are essential to building safer, smoother, improved roads that may ultimately save lives. ***Remember: when you're in the driver's seat, you make the difference. Drive safely in work zones.***

#NDOR#



National

WORK ZONE

Awareness Week

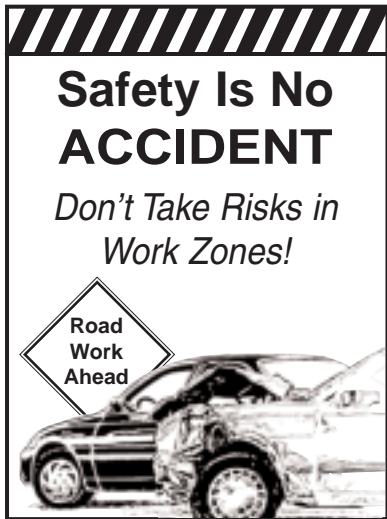
April 6-12, 2003

Safety Tips to Live By



1. Stay alert.
Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
2. Pay close attention.
Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
3. Turn on your headlights.
Workers and other motorists must see you.
4. Don't tailgate.
5. Don't speed.
Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone.
6. Keep up with the traffic flow.
7. Don't change lanes in the work zone.
8. Minimize distractions.
Avoid changing radio stations and using mobile phones while driving in the work zone.
9. Expect the unexpected.
Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
10. Be patient.
Remember the work zone crew members are working to improve your future ride.

*Sponsored by
Federal Highway Administration
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
American Traffic Safety Services Association
Nebraska Department of Roads*

Please use our safety messages and artwork as filler in your publication. Thank you for helping to keep the public informed of the many hazards of roadwork during the construction season. - State of Nebraska, Department of Roads




Safety Is No ACCIDENT
Don't Take Risks in Work Zones!




Road Work Ahead

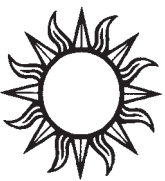
When You're in the Driver's Seat—
You Make the Difference!




Drive Smart in Work Zones.




Most Work Zone Accidents Occur in Daylight



Drive Smart, Drive Safe!

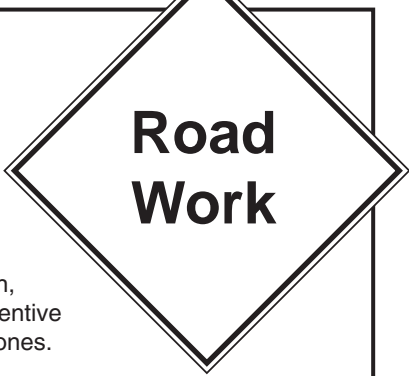


Highway Work Zone Safety
No Margin for Error!



Speeding Fines Doubled
in Work Zones

This Diamond is a Worker's Best Friend



During this construction season, please be extra careful and attentive when approaching roadwork zones.


Please Drive Smart in Construction Zones.



Most Work Zone Accidents Occur in Daylight

Drive Smart, Drive Safe!

Don't Magnify Your Risk of an Accident



Pay Attention in Work Zones!

**Notice of Highway Design Public Hearing
York North
May 13, 2003
7:30 p.m.**

The Nebraska Department of Roads, along with the State Highway Commission will hold a Highway Design Public Hearing regarding Project NH-81-2(125), known as "York North," on May 13, 2003, at 7:30 p.m., at the City Auditorium, 612 Nebraska Avenue, York, Nebraska.

April 10, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joint Sealing Work to Begin on I-80 Between Lincoln and Platte River

Work is scheduled to begin April 14 on I-80 between Lincoln and the Platte River, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Realm Construction, Inc. of Blue Springs, Missouri is the prime contractor on the \$203,500 joint sealing project. Work on this project is anticipated to be finished in May of this year. Work includes sealing the joints in the pavement.

The project begins west of the NW 48th St. interchange in Lincoln and ends at the Platte River Bridge.

During the construction of this project, there will be one-lane road closures during the week on Interstate 80 except during the peak traffic hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. These closures may be overnight Monday through Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. All I-80 lanes will be open on weekends and holidays. The contractor will be required to have all ramps open to traffic. 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 alternate routes for their daily commutes.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

District Construction Engineer Mike Sklenar at (402) 471-0850, Ext. 1069 or
Project Manager Ernest Murillo at (402) 471-0850, Ext. 1123

RD-80-9(1139)

nr989

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News release

April 15, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work to Begin on I-80, Shelton to Wood River

Work is scheduled to begin April 21 on Interstate 80 between Shelton and Wood River, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Western Engineering Company, Inc. of Harlan, Iowa, has the \$2.5 million contract for this project. Work includes milling, concrete patching and asphalt surfacing of the interstate surface and the shoulders. The I-80 entrance and exit ramps at Shelton will also be milled and resurfaced.

Traffic will be maintained during the construction with lane closures, flaggers, a 12' width restriction and a 55 mph speed limit in work areas. All lanes will be open to traffic from 3:00 p.m. Friday to the following Monday.

Work is anticipated to be completed in September. The Nebraska Department of Roads' manager for this project is Lyle Kohmetscher of Hastings.

Motorists are reminded that speeding fines are double in work zones.

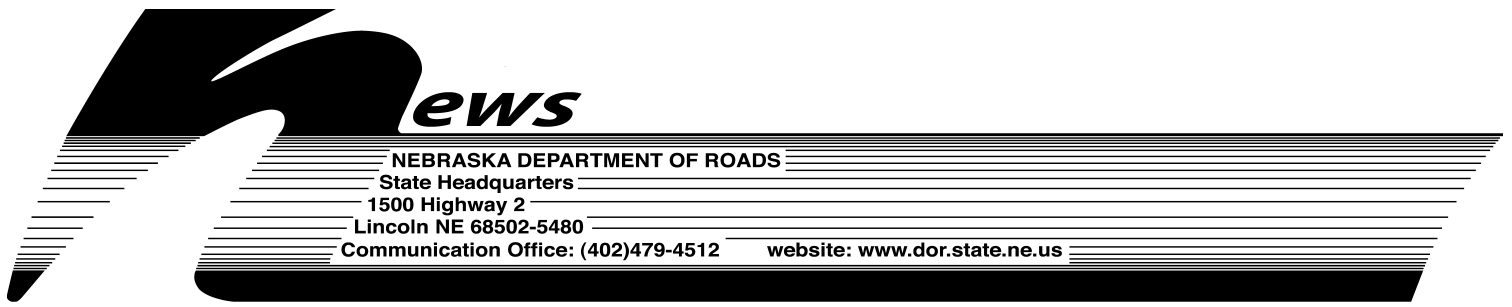
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For additional information contact:

Lyle Kohmetscher in Hastings, (402) 462-1996

IM-80-6(75)

nr988



April 17, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hoebet New District 5 Construction Engineer for State Roads

Doug Hoebet has been named the new District 5 Construction Engineer in Bridgeport for the Nebraska Department of Roads. District 5 includes Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sioux and Sheridan Counties. Hoebet, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Craig R. Lind, who was recently named the new District 5 Engineer in Bridgeport.

For six years, Hoebet has worked at the Roads Department in several areas, including consultant coordination and expressway design units in the Roadway Design Division. He also served as railroad liaison engineer in the Rail and Public Transportation Division.

Born and raised in Scottsbluff, Hoebet worked in the District 5 construction office in Scottsbluff for five summers while attending college. In 1997, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

Hoebet, 30, and his wife, Jennifer, are both from the Scottsbluff area and many family members are still living there. In his spare time, Hoebet enjoys designing and building furniture, sketching and spending time outdoors.

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For additional information, contact:
District Office in Bridgeport, (308) 262-1920

April 18, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Locust St. Interchange & Grand Island South Projects Resume

Construction on the Locust St. Interchange project (at Milepost 314 of I-80) and construction on the Grand Island South project will resume on Monday, April 21, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Beginning April 21 and continuing through November, South Locust St. will be closed to through traffic. Initially, South Locust St. will be closed from Wildwood Drive to Schultz Road, $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile south of I-80. Beginning in June, the closing of South Locust St. will be from $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of Schimmer Road to Schultz Road.

Construction work for the Locust St. Interchange project will include bridge removal and construction, including removal of the existing overhead bridge on South Locust St., over I-80, and phased reconstruction and widening of the existing bridge on South Locust St., just north of I-80. Anticipated completion for construction of the bridges on South Locust St. is late September. Work on the interchange project will also include construction of the on- and off-ramps for the future interchange, along with the continued construction of a bridge across the Platte River for the westbound I-80 off-ramp. Construction work for both projects will include grading and paving operations, and construction of drainage structures along South Locust St.

Werner Construction Company of Hastings has the \$9.8 million contract for this project. The interchange project will be completed in four phases with an anticipated completion in July 2004. The South Locust St. project has an anticipated completion date of November 2003. The NDOR manager assigned to this project is Kirk Weber of Grand Island.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

Kirk Weber in Grand Island, (308) 385-6888, Ext. 212

EACIM-STPAA-80-7(100) and EACSTPE-2235(3)

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News Release

April 22, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milford I-80 Interchange Ramps Closing Temporarily

Werner Construction Company, the prime contractor, is planning to lay 2 inches of asphalt on all ramps of the I-80 Milford Interchange (Exit 382) on Thursday, April 24, weather permitting. All the ramps will remain closed for the day. Motorists are encouraged to use the Pleasant Dale Interchange (Exit 388) or the Seward Interchange (Exit 379).

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

District Construction Engineer Mike Sklenar in Lincoln, 471-0850 Ext. 1069, or Project Manager Babrak Niazi at 471-0850 Ext. 1064.

EACIM-80-8(102)

nr985

**Notice of Highway Corridor Public Hearing
Central City Viaduct Study
May 28, 2003, 7:30 p.m.**

The Nebraska Department of Roads, along with the State Highway Commission will hold a Highway Corridor Public Hearing regarding Project S-14-2(1014), known as "Central City Viaduct Study," on May 28, 2003, at 7:30 p.m., at the City Community Room, 1515 17th Street, Central City, Nebraska.