

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

August 1, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information Open House August 14 for Hwy. 77 Improvements In Lincoln

The Nebraska Department of Roads will hold an Information Open House on Thursday, August 14, regarding construction of an interchange on the West Bypass in Lincoln. The open house will be from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the Roper Elementary Gymnasium, 2323 S. Coddington, in Lincoln.

The proposed project in Lancaster County is located at the existing intersection of Capitol Parkway West and U.S. Highway 77.

The interchange would replace the existing signalized, at-grade intersection. One of the U.S. 77 bridges over Middle Creek would be redecked as part of the project.

A temporary intersection south of the existing intersection will be constructed to maintain traffic during construction of the interchange. Temporary closure of U.S. 77 at night may be required during placement of bridge girders.

The project will require acquisition of some right-of-way from one tract of private property. Control of access to U.S. 77 will be perpetuated.

Construction will impact wetlands areas and mitigation is required for about two acres. Replacement wetlands have been established at Arbor Lake, north of Interstate 80 near 27th Street and Arbor Road.

Personnel from the Department of Roads will be available to visit one-on-one about the project. Displays will be available for public inspection, and NDOR personnel will receive comments and questions. No formal presentation is planned.

Preliminary plans will be available for review at the NDOR District 1 Office, 302 Superior Street, in Lincoln, and at the Roadway Design Division, NDOR Central Headquarters, 1500 Highway 2, in Lincoln.

#NDOR#

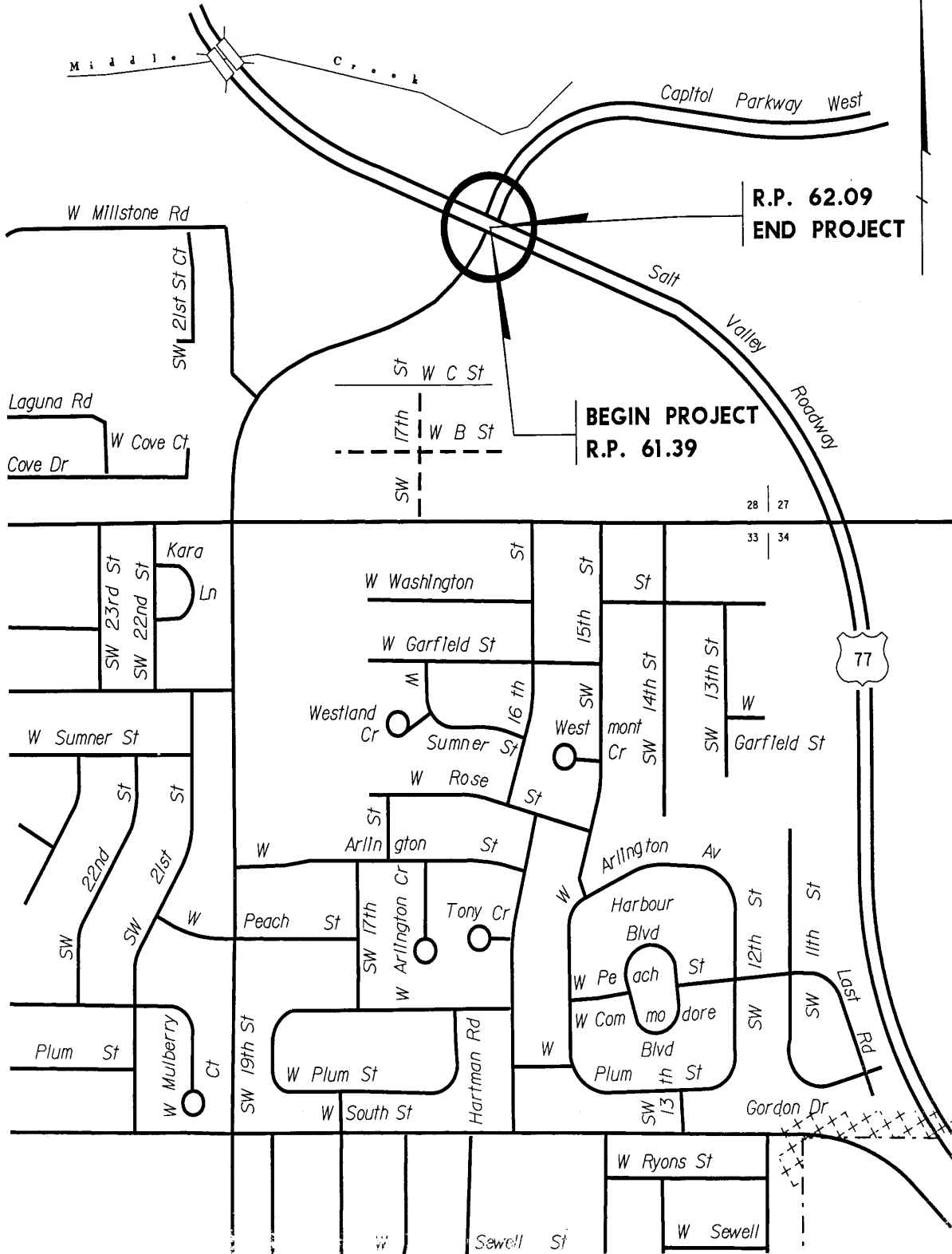
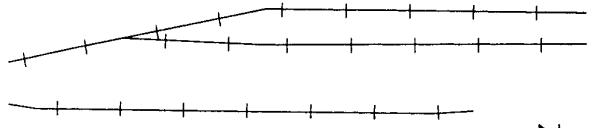
For additional information contact:

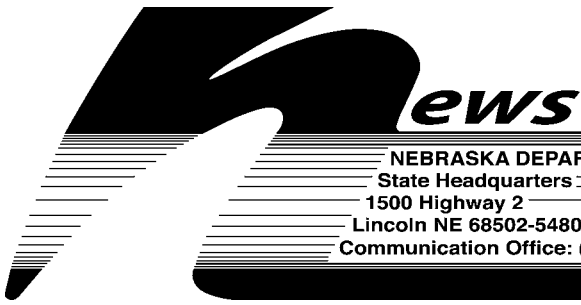
Syed Ataullah, Roadway Design Division in Lincoln, (402) 479-4601.

S-77-2(1021)

K & L INTERCHANGE 77-2(1021)

C.N. 11395 BOOK *
LANCASTER COUNTY





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August 8, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work Begins on Highway 75 in the Julian Area

Work has begun on Highway 75 north and south of Julian, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads. Traffic will be maintained with a 12' width limit. Work is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2005. The Department's manager for this project is Jerry Mueller of Tecumseh.

Dobson Brothers Construction Company of Lincoln has the \$12,645,541 contract for grading, culverts, concrete pavement, surfaced shoulders and seeding.

Motorists are reminded to be attentive when driving through construction zones.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

Project Manager Jerry Mueller in Tecumseh, (402) 335-4131.

NR958

August 11, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Temporary Closures Needed on I-80 (Locust Street Interchange Project)

Interstate 80, westbound, will be closed from Exit 318 to Exit 312 for 8 hours on Monday, August 11, at 10:00 p.m. until Tuesday morning, August 12, at 6:00 a.m., and again on Tuesday, August 12, at 10:00 p.m. until Wednesday morning, August 13, at 6:00 a.m. Traffic will be detoured on Hwy. N-2 north for 3 ½ miles to U.S. Hwy. 34 West. The detour route will follow U.S. Hwy. 34 west for 6 miles to the junction of U.S. 34 & U.S. 281, then will proceed south on U.S. 281 (U.S. 34 West) for 4 ½ miles to I-80. The closure is due to construction operations required for setting girders of the new overhead bridge structure at I-80 Ref. Post 314 (Locust Street Overhead Bridge).

Interstate 80, eastbound, will be closed from Exit 312 to Exit 324 for 8 hours on Wednesday, August 13, at 10:00 p.m., until Thursday morning, August 14, at 6:00 a.m., and again on Thursday, August 14, at 10:00 p.m., until Friday morning, August 15, at 6:00 a.m. Traffic will be detoured on U.S. Hwy. 34 east to the Giltner Spur. The detour route will be north on U.S. 281 (U.S. 34 East) for 4 ½ miles to the junction of U.S. 34 & Hwy. N-2, then east on U.S. 34 for 12 miles to the Giltner Spur, and then south 3 ½ miles to I-80.) The closure is due to construction operations required for setting girders of the new overhead bridge structure at I-80 Ref. Post 314 (Locust Street Overhead Bridge).

#MORE#

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Werner Construction Company of Hastings has the \$9.8 million contract for this project. The interchange project will be completed in 4 phases with an anticipated completion in July 2004. The South Locust Street project has an anticipated completion date of November 2003. The NDOR manager assigned to this project is Kirk Weber of Grand Island.

Motorists are urged to drive cautiously through work zones and detours, and buckle up!

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

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

EACIM-STPAA-80-7(100) and EACM-STPE-2235(3)

NR957

**Notice of Information Open House
"N-15 Bridge over I-80 at Seward Interchange" and
"In Seward & South"
September 3, 2003
4:00-6:00 p.m.**

The Nebraska Department of Roads will hold an Information Open House meeting regarding Project IM-80-8(139), known as "N-15 Bridge over I-80 at Seward Interchange" and Project STPD-BR-BH-15-2(116), known as "In Seward & South," on September 3, 2003, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center, 616 Bradford Street, Seward, Nebraska.

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

August 20, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bridge Work Begins in Peru

Work has begun on California Street in Peru, according to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

TCW Construction of Lincoln has the \$313,731.00 contract for this project. Work consists of removing the old bridge and replacing it with a new box culvert. Work also includes new concrete pavement, sidewalks, and other miscellaneous street construction items.

Work is anticipated to be completed this winter.

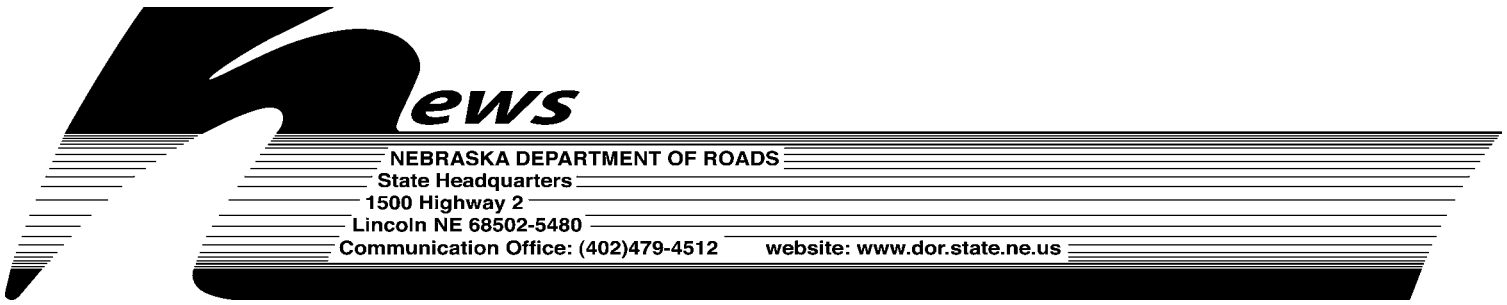
#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

Don Hitzeman, Project Manager, Tecumseh, (402) 335-4131.

BR-3697(1)

nr954A



August 20, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Travel Conditions Good for Home Football Saturdays

This has been another busy year for the Nebraska Department of Roads. But, motorists coming to Lincoln for the Nebraska State Fair or UNL home football games will find most of the roads open for traffic. There are still several construction areas motorists should be aware of.

Work on I-80 in the Omaha and Lincoln areas continues. There will be no closures, but motorists might experience lane shifts between Highway 50 and Highway 370 west of Omaha. Work on I-680 and West Dodge may need temporary, nighttime closures. The Cornhusker and I-180 Interchange, in Lincoln, is under construction and motorists should exercise caution traveling through this work zone.

There is intermittent work on I-80 west of Lincoln to the Wyoming state line. There will be lane shifts and reduced speed zones, but no lane closures.

There is work on Highway 81 in Columbus and south of Columbus that may slow motorists down briefly. Traffic is detoured on Highway 92, at the junction of Highways 92 and 30 near Central City. Highway 34 traffic is detoured at the east edge of Seward, with I-80 and Highway 6 as the detour routes. Highway 77 is detoured south of Wymore, with traffic following Highways 8 and 112.

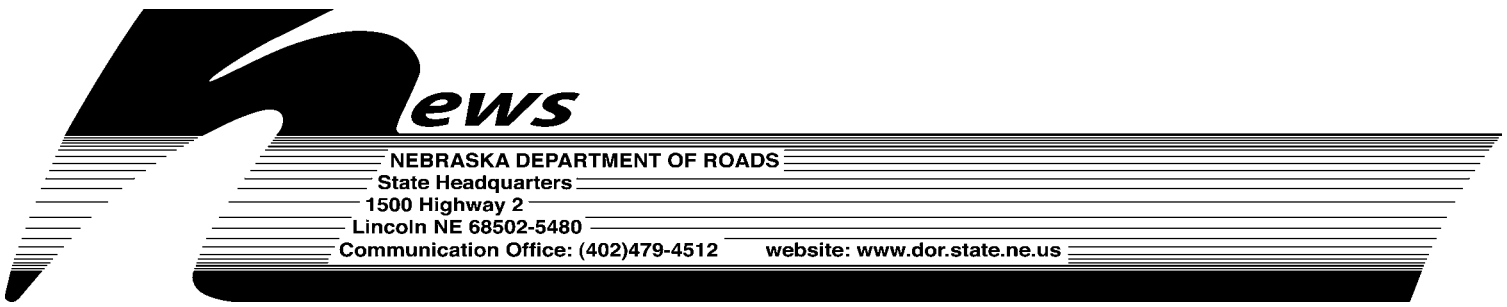
Motorists are reminded to use extra caution when driving through a work zone whether the work crews are present or not. Speeding fines are doubled in a construction area. Always allow more than enough time to arrive at your destination safely.

#NDOR#

nr956

**Notice of Highway Design Public Hearing
Plattsmouth to Bellevue
September 23, 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-75-2(155), known as "Plattsmouth to Bellevue," on September 23, 2003, 7:30 p.m., at the Lied Activity Center, 2700 Arboretum Drive, Bellevue, Nebraska.



August 29, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NDOR's Automated Permit System Operational September 2

Applying for overweight and over dimensional permits for use on Nebraska's highway system will be much easier for those who log on to the Nebraska Department of Roads' new automated permit system, according to Ellis Tompkins, Rail and Public Transportation Engineer.

Beginning September 2, customers may access the new permit system to order the Conditional Interstate Use Permit on the department's web site, www.nebraskatransportation.org. All other permits will be available on the new system November 3, according to Tompkins.

The Conditional Interstate Use Permit allows a truck that is hauling 94,000 pounds to operate on the interstate in Nebraska at this limit. The limit is normally 80,000 pounds under federal regulations. Tompkins noted that over 100,000 overweight and over dimensional permits are issued annually, and 30,000 of those are for Conditional Interstate Use Permits. The remaining 70,000 permits are primarily single trip permits for overweight and over dimensional loads.

According to Tompkins, prior to the new automated system, the Conditional Interstate Use Permit was processed by the Department of Motor Vehicles. With the new system, processing will revert back to the Department of Roads beginning November 3.

Tompkins said with the new automated permit system, customers ordering their permit over the Internet can obtain it in five to ten minutes. The system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for added convenience.

Another new feature, the use of credit cards to pay for permits, will further add to customers' ease and efficiency in using the system. Tompkins said this is the first time credit cards have been approved for making payments at the department, and he believes use of the cards will be expanded to other areas in the future.

Tompkins said one of the objectives in selecting a new system was that simple permits could be approved by the system automatically without a clerk ever having to look at it. He said Nebraska differs in this respect from several states that have similar systems.

#MORE#

With the current system, four clerks issue approximately 300 permits a day. According to Tompkins, by allowing simple permits to be approved automatically, clerks will have more time to work with some of the more difficult permits, increasing efficiency.

The automated permit system allows repeat customers to set up an escrow account and access it regularly. In addition, company and vehicle information that may be repetitive can be saved, eliminating the need to re-enter the information each time a similar permit is requested.

Because a test version of the automated permit system has been available online since July 28, Tompkins said he anticipates minimal difficulties in customers' transition to the new system.

"The most important thing is efficiency...I think this is going to be a big benefit to the customers," Tompkins noted.

#NDOR#

For additional information contact:

Ellis Tompkins, Rail and Public Transportation Engineer, (402) 479-3797.