

February 3, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Information Open House Feb. 17 for Improvements to Highway 14 at Aurora**

The Nebraska Department of Roads will hold an Information Open House on Tuesday, February 17, regarding a project to improve Nebraska Highway 14 from Aurora to Marquette. The open house will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the Bremer Community Center, East Room, 1604 L Street, in Aurora.

The proposed project in Hamilton County involves roadside grading, shoulder construction, resurfacing and replacement of the Big Blue River Bridge.

Nebraska 14 will be reconstructed just north of U.S. Highway 34 so the existing three-lane section of Nebraska 14 can be extended north about ¼ mile. About 12 ½ miles of the highway will be resurfaced north to the Marquette Spur.

Ten-foot-wide shoulders, of which eight feet will be surfaced, will be added to Nebraska 14 throughout the length of the project. Spur 41C from Nebraska 14 to Marquette will be resurfaced.

Nebraska 14 will remain open to traffic during construction. A temporary road across the Big Blue River will be used during bridge replacement.

Additional property must be acquired for highway right-of-way throughout the length of the project. Temporary easements for construction will be acquired at some locations. Control of access will be acquired along Nebraska 14, from the U.S. 34 junction north about one mile.

Construction will impact wetland areas and mitigation will be required. Replacement wetlands for about 0.2 acre will be established on public right-of-way along the project or at the Rainwater Basin Bank Site in Fillmore County.

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 developed by the Nebraska Department of Roads are available for public inspection at the NDOR District 4 Office, 1409 B Street, in Aurora, and at the Roadway Design Division, 1500 Highway 2, in Lincoln.

#NDOR#

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

Mick Syslo, Roadway Design Division in Lincoln, (402) 479-3741.

STPD-BR-14-2(119)

NR917

# AURORA NORTH 14-2(119)

C.N. 41859 BOOK X196  
HAMILTON COUNTY

R 6 W

T 13 N

R 7 W

R.P. 77.27  
STA. 674+00.00  
END PROJECT

T 12 N

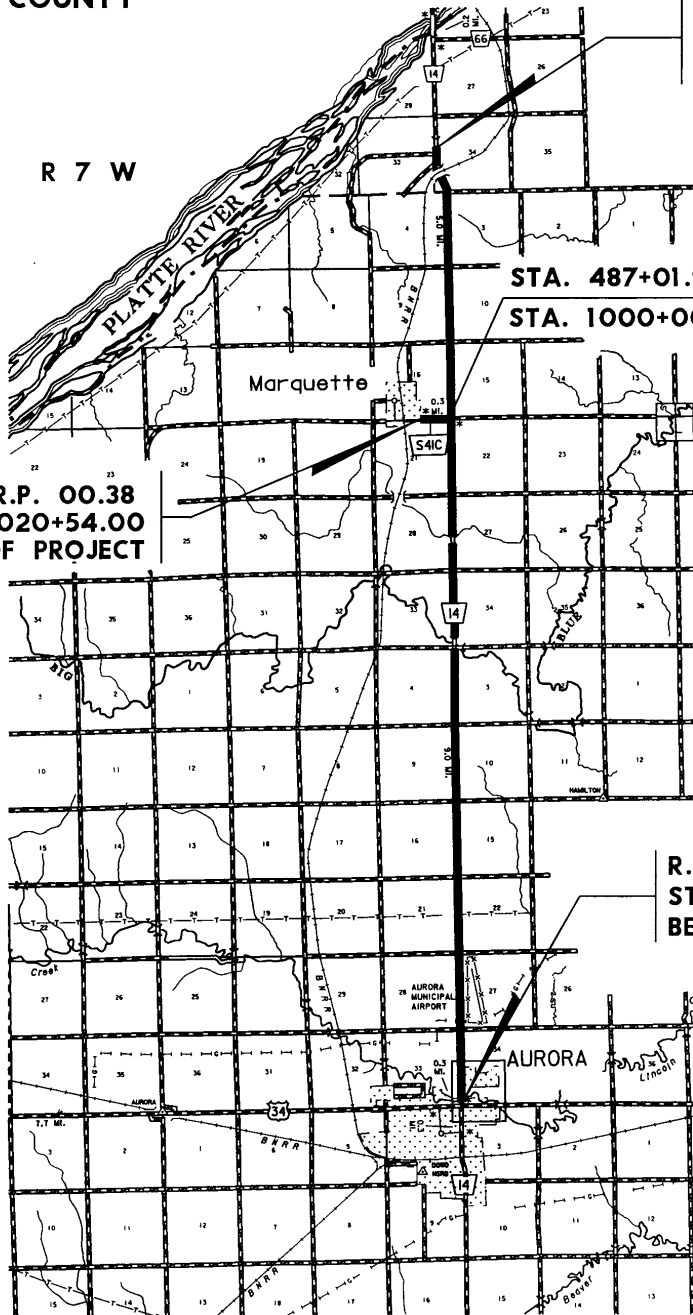
STA. 487+01.90 (HWY. 14) =  
STA. 1000+00.00 (SPUR 41C)

R.P. 00.38  
STA. 1020+54.00  
LIMITS OF PROJECT

T 11 N

R.P. 64.69  
STA. 18+15.00  
BEGIN PROJECT

T 10 N



## NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS NOTICE OF INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE

**Date:** Feb. 17, 2004  
**Time:** 4 – 6 p.m.  
**Place:** Bremer Community Center  
East Room  
1604 L St.  
Aurora, Nebraska

The Nebraska Department of Roads will hold a public information meeting regarding a project to improve Nebraska Highway 14 from Aurora to Marquette.

Personnel from the department will be available to visit one-on-one about the proposed improvement. Displays will be available for public inspection, and NDOR staff will receive comments and questions. No formal presentation is planned.

The proposed project in Hamilton County, identified as STPD-BR-14-2(119) and known as **Aurora North**, involves roadside grading, shoulder construction, resurfacing and replacement of the Big Blue River bridge.

Nebraska 14 will be reconstructed just north of U.S. Highway 34 so the existing three-lane section of Nebraska 14 can be extended north about ¼ mile. About 12 ½ miles of the highway will be resurfaced north to the Marquette Spur.

Ten-foot-wide shoulders, of which 8 feet will be surfaced, will be added to Nebraska 14 throughout the length of the project. Spur 41C from Nebraska 14 to Marquette will be resurfaced.

Nebraska 14 will remain open to traffic during construction. A temporary road

across the Big Blue River will be used during bridge replacement.

Additional property must be acquired for highway right-of-way throughout the length of the project. Temporary easements for construction will be acquired at some locations. Control of access will be acquired along Nebraska 14, from the U.S. 34 junction north about 1 mile.

Construction will impact wetlands areas and mitigation will be required. Replacement wetlands for about 0.2 acre will be established on public right-of-way along the project or at the Rainwater Basin Bank Site in Fillmore County.

Preliminary plans developed by the Nebraska Department of Roads are available for public inspection at the NDOR District 4 Office, 1409 B St., in Aurora, and at the Roadway Design Division, 1500 Highway 2, in Lincoln.

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 Feb. 3, 2004. 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.

For further information regarding the proposed project, contact Mick Syslo in the Roadway Design Division at (402) 479-3741.

February 4, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## State Highway Commission Elects New Officers

Ronald W. Books, North Platte, State Highway Commissioner representing District 6, was elected, during the January 2004 Highway Commission meeting, to serve as Chairman for the ensuing year. Commissioner Books, who previously served as Chair of the Commission in 2000, was appointed to the Commission by former Governor Ben Nelson in 1995. Books was reappointed by Governor Johanns in 2001 to serve a second six-year term.

Richard S. Reiser, Commissioner from Omaha, District 2, was elected to serve as Vice Chair.

The State Highway Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Director of the Nebraska Department of Roads in the establishment of broad policies, advises the public of the policies and activities of the department, holds public hearings and performs other duties which are conducive to providing adequate and safe highways in the State. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor.

#NDOR#

NR915

February 5, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Public Hearing February 19 for Hwy. 61 Improvements in Ogallala Area**

The Nebraska Department of Roads and the State Highway Commission will hold a Public Hearing Thursday, February 19, regarding location and design of a viaduct on Nebraska Highway 61 north of the Kingsley Dam. The hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m., MST, at the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center, 1 mile south of Kingsley Dam, in Ogallala.

The proposed improvement in Keith County also involves highway reconstruction and resurfacing north of the dam.

The two-lane viaduct carrying Nebraska 61 over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks will be constructed in the location of the existing at-grade crossing. Highway approaches to the new bridge will be reconstructed.

The intersection of Nebraska 61 with Nebraska Highway 92 north of the viaduct will be reconstructed. South of the viaduct, Nebraska 61 will be resurfaced to Kingsley Dam.

Temporary roads will be constructed nearby to maintain traffic on Nebraska 61 and Nebraska 92 during construction. An at-grade rail crossing with signals on the temporary road will be in place during construction.

Acquisition of property for public right-of-way, including acquisition of the Martin Bay Convenience Store, will be required. Control of access to the new roadway will be required for safety near the viaduct.

Construction will encroach some State Recreation Area property. Access to Cherie's and Junie Mae's restaurants will be altered by the realignment of one public road near the new viaduct.

Interested persons are invited to stop at the hearing location from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., MST, before the hearing, for informal discussions with Department of Roads' personnel on any aspect of the project.

Preliminary plans developed by the Nebraska Department of Roads are available for public inspection at the District 6 Office, 1321 N. Jeffers Street, in North Platte, and at the Roadway Design Division, 1500 Highway 2, in Lincoln.

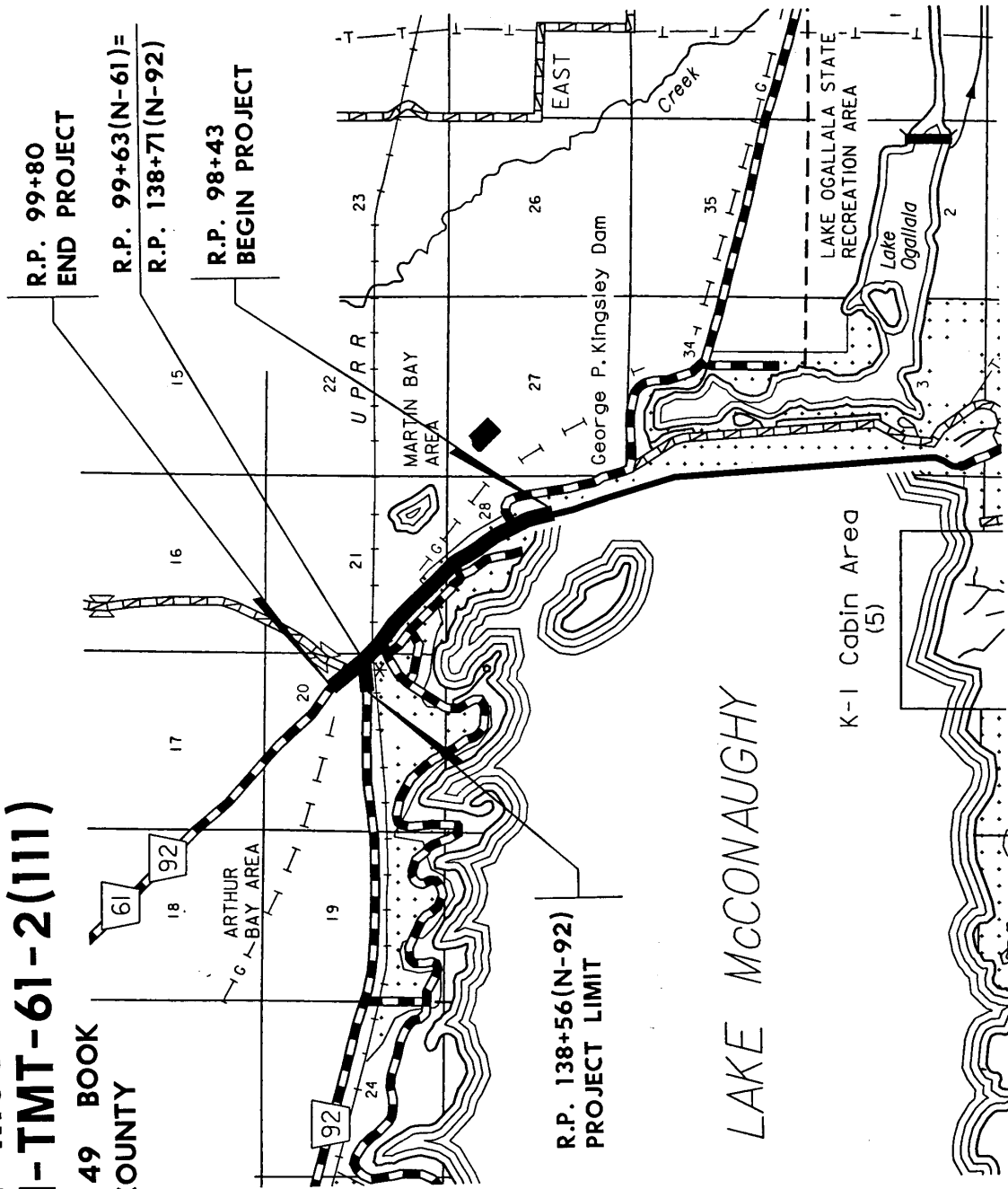
#NDOR#

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

Dawn Allyn, Roadway Design Division in Lincoln, (402) 479-4601.

# LAKE McCONAUGHY STPN-TMT-61-2(111)

C.N. 61149 BOOK  
KEITH COUNTY



LAKE McCONAUGHY

Website: [www.dor.state.ne.us](http://www.dor.state.ne.us)

State Headquarters  
1500 Highway 2  
Lincoln, NE 68502-5480  
Communication Office: (402)479-4512

February 6, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Roads Standards Board to Meet

The Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards will meet at 9:00 a.m. on February 13, 2004, in the Nebraska Department of Roads' Central Building Auditorium at 1500 Highway 2 in Lincoln.

The agenda includes:

- ◆ Addition of projects to the Cities of Clarkson and Superior and the Village of Brunswick One- and Six-Year Road and Street Improvement Plans.
- ◆ State-Aid Bridge Fund applications from Cuming and Webster Counties.

The meeting is open to the public.

#NDOR#

Detailed agenda as of February 6, 2004 enclosed

**For additional information contact:**

LeMoyne Schulz (402) 479-4436.

AC/NR914

**Agenda**  
**for the Meeting of**  
**Board of Public Roads**  
**Classifications and Standards**  
**February 13, 2004, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Nebraska Department of Roads Central Headquarters Building Auditorium**  
**1500 Highway 2, Lincoln, Nebraska**

Call to Order – Chairman

Roll Call – Secretary

Changes to Published Agenda – Secretary

Minutes of the January 16, 2004, meeting

Status Report – 2003-2004 Standardized System of Annual Reports (*NDOR, 93 County and 491 Municipal reports received, 39 Municipal reports are delinquent*)

Status Report – 2004 One- and Six-Year Highway, Road, and Street Plan Submittals (*9 County and 116 Municipal plans received*)

2003 One- and Six-Year Highway, Road, and Street Plan Revisions (*number of projects in parentheses*):

- A. City of Clarkson (2) – grading and asphalt surfacing on existing armor coat streets.
- B. City of Superior (13) – armor coat surfacing on existing concrete, asphalt and bituminous streets, and asphalt surfacing of an existing alley.
- C. Village of Brunswick (1) – asphalt surfacing on an existing bituminous street.

State Aid Bridge Fund Applications (13) – Cuming and Webster Counties; Application withdrawal (2) – Adams and York Counties.

Update regarding contested case hearing of Banner County's request for Relaxation of Minimum Design Standards on 35 Local roads (*nothing to report as of 2/6/04*)

Other Business:

- Update on LB 500 Implementation (*Class A Superintendent's License & Higher Incentive Payment*) by Board of Examiners for County Highway and City Street Superintendents and by NDOR
- Legislative Report

Correspondence and General Information:

- Miscellaneous correspondence

Acknowledgement of visitors

Next meeting March 19, 2004, 9:00 a.m., Nebraska Department of Roads, Central Headquarters Building Auditorium, 1500 Highway 2, Lincoln, Nebraska

Adjournment



February 10, 2004

## STATEMENT RELEASE

### **NDOR Disagrees With The NTSB'S Conclusion of Probable Cause**

On October 13, 2001, a tragic accident involving a Seward Public School bus occurred on West Dodge Road, in Omaha, Nebraska. Four people lost their lives and many others were injured. The Nebraska Department of Roads ("NDOR") again conveys its deepest sympathy to the victims, their families, and loved ones who suffered as a result of this terrible tragedy.

The National Transportation Safety Board ("NTSB") recently completed its investigation of the accident, and today issued its findings, conclusions and recommendations. The NDOR fully cooperated in this investigation. The investigation involved an examination of numerous facts involving the bus, the bus driver, the weather, the construction site, the construction contractor, opposing traffic, and the location of the accident.

The NTSB made certain findings, conclusions, and recommendations based on their evaluation of these facts. *The NDOR agrees with some of these findings, **but disagrees with the NTSB's conclusions concerning probable cause of the accident.***

#### **The facts in the NTSB report establish that:**

- The work zone in place at the time of the accident met or exceeded safety guidelines required for safe travel through a construction project;
- The lane widths, lane shifts, speed limit, and lane separation in the work zone complied with all applicable engineering standards for safe travel; and,
- Over 33,000 drivers per day safely traveled through the work zone during the eighteen months preceding the accident.

**The NDOR fulfilled its duty to the traveling public, and maintains that the probable cause of the accident was through no fault of the NDOR or the State of Nebraska.**

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**Media Contact: Mary Jo Hall, NDOR, (402) 479-4512**

nr912

February 10, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Amber Alerts are New Addition to Nebraska's 511 System**

Have you ever overheard an Amber Alert broadcast but missed the details? As we all know, when a child's life is in danger and time is of the essence, the more we know, the more quickly we can react. In Nebraska, that problem has been solved with the addition of a new Alert tool on the Nebraska 511 traveler information telephone system. Now, you can dial 511 to hear active Nebraska Amber Alerts. The Alert System can also disseminate information on major highway incidents, when warranted.

Both types of messages are made available to 511 callers within minutes of their being recorded and played before a highway selection can be made. Once the alert message has been delivered, 511 users can proceed to select the highway segment of interest and receive road and weather conditions as usual. In the near future, Kansas will activate its 511 alert system and callers in Nebraska will have the option to listen to alerts posted in Kansas.

Partial funding for development and installation of the 511 alert feature was provided by a federal Amber Alert grant, obtained with the assistance of Nebraska's Congressional delegation. 511 is a partnership project between the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Nebraska State Patrol.

511 can be accessed from landline or cellular telephones. Nebraskans now have the added feature of automatic voice recognition, which can be turned on by pressing the \* (Star) key when prompted.

Make 511 a part of your travel toolbox. Avoid travel during inclement weather and always plan ahead by checking all available sources for road and weather information. It is especially important during winter to dress for conditions, keep a winter survival kit in your vehicle and, as always, buckle that seatbelt.

#NDOR#

**For additional information contact:**

Jaimie Huber, NDOR 511 System Manager, (402) 471-1810.

nr913

February 13, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Road and Street Examiners to Meet**

The Board of Examiners for County Highway and City Street Superintendents will meet at 10:00 a.m., February 20, 2004 in Room 103, Department of Roads, Central Headquarters Bldg., 1500 Highway 2, Lincoln.

The principal agenda items are:

- ◆ Licensing for one Professional Engineer
- ◆ Approval of candidates for the April 2, 2004 Examination
- ◆ Final preparations for the March 1-3 Applicants' Workshop and the April 2, 2004 Examination.
- ◆ Reconsideration of licensing regulations and rescheduling of implementation steps for a Class A License

The meeting is open to the public.

#NDOR#

Agenda as of February 12, 2004 enclosed.

**For additional information contact:**

LeMoyne D. Schulz (402) 479-4436.

LDS/NR911

**Agenda**  
for the Meeting of  
**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR COUNTY HIGHWAY  
AND CITY STREET SUPERINTENDENTS**  
February 20, 2004, 10:00 a.m.  
Nebraska Department of Roads  
Central Headquarters Building Highway Commission Room 103  
1500 Highway 2, Lincoln Nebraska

Call to Order – Chairperson

Roll Call – Staff

Changes to Published Agenda – Staff

Minutes of January 9, 2004, Meeting

Professional Engineer application for a City Street Superintendent license:

- Mr. Mark E. Rosso, *Scottsbluff*

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 January 9, 2004:

- Richard E. Heinrichs, Hebron – City Street Supt.

Review of (3) new applicants and (1) re-applicant for the April 2, 2004, County Highway Superintendent and City Street Superintendent examination (2 new applicants were approved at the previous meeting.) (*Reminder postcards were sent on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to 2 persons who had received application packets; since then, 3 more packets were mailed.*)

Final 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 and review of distribution list (*Deferred*)

2003 Incentive Payment Report (*92 Counties and 530 Municipalities will receive payment*)

Late License Renewal – Extenuating Circumstances Request:

- 10:30 a.m. – Mr. Jerry R. Wagner, Wahoo
- 10:40 a.m. – Mr. Gregory T. Vossler, Ashland

Final Status Report for 2004 License Renewals and automatic cancellations

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

- Recall of adopted Licensing Rule and Regulation, 425 NAC 2, from Attorney General's office
- Feedback concerning Class A procedures and forms
- Status of revised Operating Procedures (under the Regulations)
- Status of revised Class A Application Logs & Affidavits
- Approve Class B Application Form (*Deferred*)

Other Business

- Rescind approval of Licensing Rule and Regulation, 425 NAC 2 (with related filing documents)
- Adopt 2004 Work Plan
- Legislative Update

Correspondence and General Information

- NDOR Letter to York County regarding Incentive Payment Criteria
- Letter of Member Thomas F. McDonald resigning effective January 30, 2004

Acknowledgement of visitors

Next Meeting: April 2, 2004, 8:45 a.m., Nebraska Department of Roads, Central Headquarters Building, Room 103, 1500 Highway 2, Lincoln, Nebraska, in conjunction with administration of the examination (9:00 a.m., Auditorium.)

Adjournment

February 19, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Conductive Concrete Bridge at Roca is a Research Project**

A unique bridge located on Highway 77 in Roca is equipped with the technology to prevent ice from forming on the bridge, or to melt snow and ice that has already accumulated on the bridge. The system will not be turned on at all times due to continued research on this technology; therefore, drivers are reminded to use caution when traveling on the bridge during icy or snowy conditions.

The Roca Bridge, constructed in March 2003 by the Nebraska Department of Roads, in cooperation with the University of Nebraska's Chris Tuan, is the first conductive concrete bridge of its kind.

Conductive concrete is special type of concrete that contains small steel fibers (about the size of a hairpin) throughout the mix. Only the driving surface of a bridge is constructed with conductive concrete. Wires connected to an energy source are installed underneath the driving surface. When the system is turned on, electricity from the wires travels through the small steel fibers in the concrete and generates just enough heat to melt or prevent snow and ice from forming on the driving surface.

This technology is quickly gaining national and international attention. A television special featuring the Roca Bridge will be aired soon on the Discovery Channel. Keep watching for more details.

Currently the research team is investigating the most efficient uses for this technology. This evaluation will continue for the next several years. The system will be turned on and off at various times throughout the winter season in order for the research team to learn more about the capabilities of this technology. Drivers are asked to consider this and use caution when traveling on the bridge.

#NDOR#

**For additional information contact:**

Amy Starr, NDOR Research Engineer, at (402) 479-3687.

nr910