

the Roadrunner

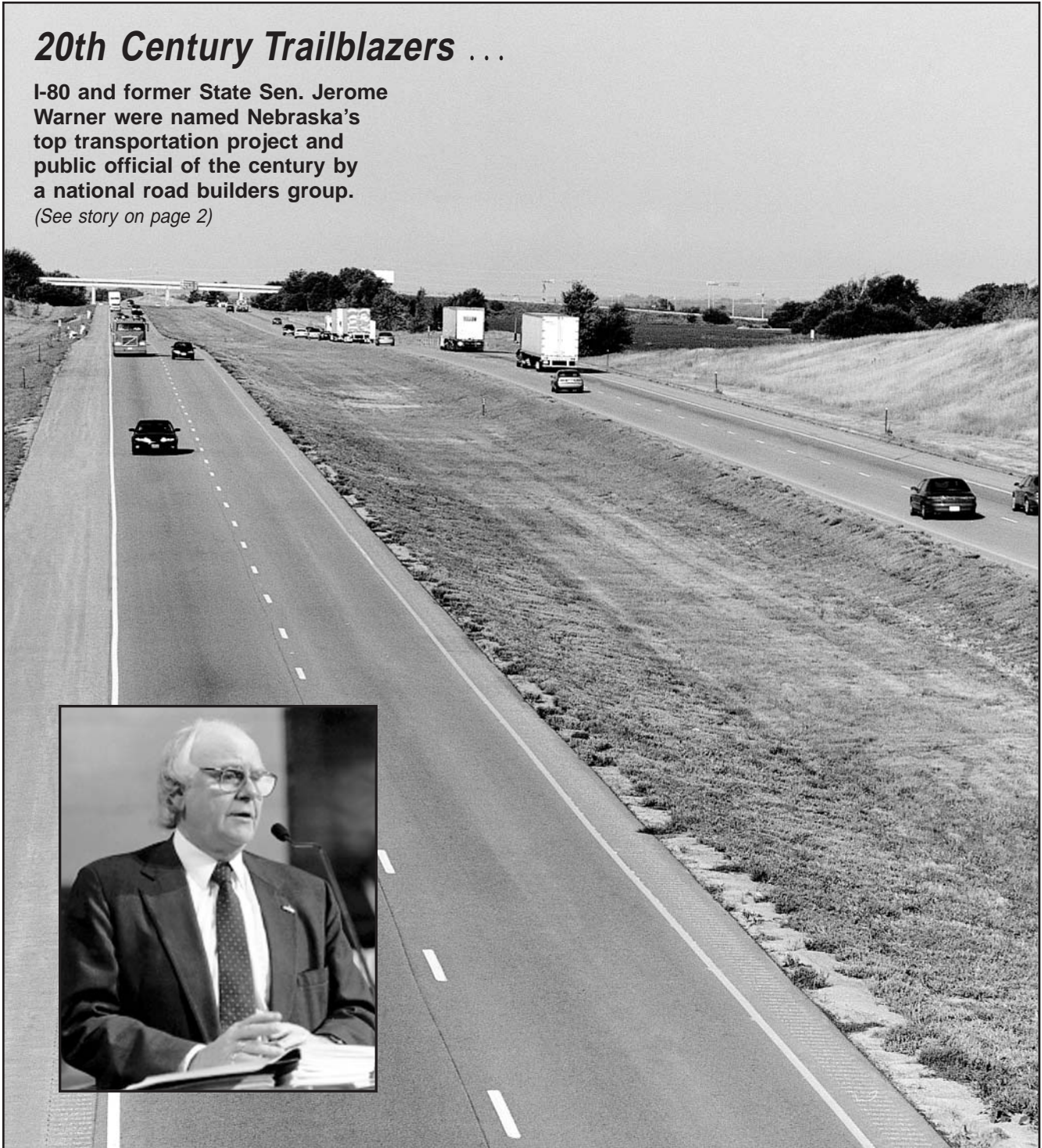
Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

June/July 2002

20th Century Trailblazers . . .

I-80 and former State Sen. Jerome Warner were named Nebraska's top transportation project and public official of the century by a national road builders group.

(See story on page 2)



I-80 photo by Jay Bailey. Sen. Warner photo courtesy of Unicameral Information Office.

Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *June* and *July*.

40 Years

Charles Bowlby, Information Systems
Wayne Hobelman, Construction
Myron Petr, District 4

30 Years

Sam Banister, District 2
Brenda Hain, Controller
Jill McAuliffe, Director & Staff
Rodney Napue, Right-of-Way

20 Years

Dwayne Amerson, District 1
Raymond Caspers Jr., District 2
Richard Fisher Jr., District 2
Vicki Garton, Logistics
Steven Halsey, District 2
Charles Hubbard, District 6
Mark Kai, District 3
Bradley Lovejoy, District 3
Michael Tinius, Right-of-Way
Janelle Vander Hamm, District 4
Daniel Waddle, Traffic Engineering
Barbara Williams, Bridge

10 Years

David Wietecha, District 3
Delson Cox, District 4
Kimberly Jirkovsky
Troy Kirby, District 4
William Schneider, District 4
Harvey Winslow, District 4
Jay Jimenez, District 6
Selma Vasa, District 6
Ronald Berry, District 7
Carlene Burrows, District 8
Stuart Hopper, District 8
Steven Sandall, District 8
Theodore Henderson, Logistics
Jennifer Meyers, Roadway Design
Douglas Christensen, Roadway Design

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Published every two months by the Nebraska Department of Roads Communication Division (402)479-4512.

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printed on recycled paper

The information presented in this newsletter is contributed by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.

National Road Builders Group Names Nebraska's Top Transportation Project and Public Official of the 20th Century

(Washington, D.C.)—Interstate 80 has been selected as Nebraska's top transportation infrastructure project of the 20th century by the Washington, D.C.-based American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA). Former Nebraska State Senator Jerome Warner was also named the state's top transportation public official of the past century for his advocacy of transportation development and investment.

ARTBA, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, conducted a national survey to help identify the top transportation infrastructure projects and public officials of the past century in all 50 states. The survey was sent to members of Congress, the nation's governors, state transportation department heads, newspaper editors, state and local chambers of commerce executives and college history professors.

Interstate 80 (I-80) was recognized because of its importance to the Nebraska economy and for providing unparalleled mobility to the state's motorists.

Nebraska's portion of I-80 was begun in 1955 and completed in 1974, nearly 12 years before it was finished across the rest of the United States. At a cost of \$390 million, I-80 was the most significant and largest public works project ever undertaken in Nebraska. I-80 is considered the lifeline of Nebraska with most of the state's development linked to the highway. From Omaha on the east to Wyoming and Colorado in the west, I-80 binds the state together both economically and culturally.

ARTBA also recognized a former Nebraska public official.

Jerome Warner, a Republican state senator from 1963-97, was regarded as the "dean" of the Nebraska legislature and was the leading proponent for

strong investment in transportation. In 1969, he was elected speaker and over three decades successfully enacted laws that established a road classification system, a weighted formula for distributing state dollars, a variable gas tax correlated to the budget for roads and long-range planning of roads over a 20-year period.

ARTBA gave "honorable mention" to Eppley International Airport in recognition of its important role to the state's economy and growth.

For 100 years, ARTBA has exclusively represented the U.S. transportation construction industry in the Nation's Capital. The association has played a key leadership role in the development and passage of every major piece of federal transportation legislation enacted by Congress over the past century.

The transportation construction industry the award-winning ARTBA represents generates \$200 billion in U.S. economic activity annually and sustains the employment of 2.2 million Americans. Additional information about the association can be found online at www.artba.org. ♦



NDOR Sponsors Work Zone Safety Summit

As part of activities during the third annual National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 8-12, NDOR held a State Work Zone Safety Summit April 11 at the department's central headquarters. Representatives from the department, other agencies, contractors, educational institutions and safety organizations attended the summit.

The goal of the summit was to generate constructive feedback and improve highway work-zone safety for workers and the driving public in Nebraska. During the meeting, those in attendance examined the latest research on construction work zones, reviewed work zone safety issues, discussed possible solutions and created an action plan to address these issues.

Speakers at the meeting included Dr. Pat McCoy, Director, Mid-American Transportation Center. He reviewed some work-zone safety crash data, noting that numbers of fatal crashes have been increasing since 1997. He pointed to several areas of concern, including interstate highways, rural roads, multi-vehicle collisions (rear-end), and driver behaviors. McCoy said the three driver behaviors responsible for most work zone crashes include driver inattention, improper lane change and failure to yield. Finally, McCoy discussed what works in reducing the number of work zone safety crashes, including speed control devices; advisory speed, delay and CB messages; and merge control systems.

Tom Stine, Assistant Attorney General in NDOR's Legal Division, shared information regarding tort liability issues relating to work zones. He discussed our responsibility to properly sign and warn the motorist of work zone conditions. Specific contractor liability issues were also discussed.

Terry King, Executive Director of the Associated General Contractors of America, Nebraska Chapter (AGC), provided information about mobility and safety in work zones. He said while there is increased pressure for contractors to expedite construction and minimize disruption, improved work zone safety is an industry goal.

Other presenters at the conference included Steve Bartos, NDOR


Assistant Construction Engineer, and Dan Waddle, NDOR Traffic Controls Engineer. Bartos discussed the importance of everyone working together to better understand the problems involved and the solutions required in highway construction work zones, and he emphasized the need to improve traffic control. Waddle identified some key problems affecting safety in work zones involving flaggers, drums and barricades, signs, and the need for more consistent, detailed traffic control plans.

Representatives from each of the eight NDOR highway districts gave brief overviews of work zone safety issues in their respective districts, identifying their biggest safety concerns and sharing innovations they've had success with.

The summit involved breakout sessions, during which groups selected action items to increase work zone safety and reported their top two action items to everyone. These were consolidated into a single plan, which was distributed to those attending the summit.

Final action plan items included: (1) Double fines in work zones—get fine amounts to the public; (2) Increase work-zone speed limit credibility; (3) Evaluate phased construction vs. detours/shoo-flies; (4) Need for work-zone traffic control checklist; (5) Enforcement of work-zone speed limit; and (6) Performance of NCHRP-350 Compliant Devices.

A follow-up report will be issued showing the outcomes of the action items. ♦



Safety is No Accident.

When you're in the driver's seat,
YOU make the difference!

Drive Smart thru Work Zones!

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads
www.nebraskatransportation.org

Crack Sealant Experiment Produces Positive Results

By **John Dageforde**
Bituminous Lab Supervisor
and **Amy Starr**
Research Engineer
Materials & Research Division

Crack sealing is a never-ending maintenance activity for district personnel across Nebraska. Constant evaluation of the products and procedures for this task enables NDOR to utilize the most time- and cost-efficient methods to keep the roadway surface well maintained. Over the past five years, a project evaluating two crack sealants with various application procedures has yielded interesting and educational results.

This experiment began on March 11, 1997, west of Whitman Nebraska, in District 6, between R.P. 158 and R.P. 159. Two types of crack sealant were evaluated on this project: one was a 10-15 percent crumb rubber polymer modified sealant, and the other was a 22 percent crumb rubber

sealant. The westbound lane was treated with 10-15 percent crumb rubber polymer modified sealant, and the eastbound lane was treated with the 22 percent crumb rubber sealant. Both sealants were used with three different application methods: (1) heat

by May 1997, and showed no penetration of the sealant in the cracks.

In comparison, the westbound lane, sealed with 10-15 percent crumb rubber polymer modified sealant displayed no evidence of failure in any of its three test sections, nor had any of the sealant been removed by snowplow operations at the time of the April 11, 1997 or May 1997 inspections.

By January 2002 (five years after the application of the crack sealant) all

Inspection Date	Crack Condition					
	10-15% Crumb Rubber Polymer Modified Sealant			22% Crumb Rubber Sealant		
	Heat Lance, Blow & Seal	Blow & Seal	Rout, Blow & Seal	Heat Lance, Blow & Seal	Blow & Seal	Rout, Blow & Seal
April '97	Sealed	Sealed	Sealed	Unsealed	Unsealed	Sealed
May '97	Sealed	Sealed	Sealed			Unsealed
January '02	Sealed	Unsealed	Unsealed			

All sealants were applied March 11, 1997.

lance, blow and seal; (2) blow and seal; and (3) rout, blow and seal.

One month following the application, on April 11, 1997, the experimental sections were evaluated. Upon visual inspection, sealant failures were found in the two out of three sections in the eastbound lane where the 22 percent crumb rubber sealant was applied. The two failing 22 percent crumb rubber test sections included the heat lance, blow and seal section and the blow and seal section.

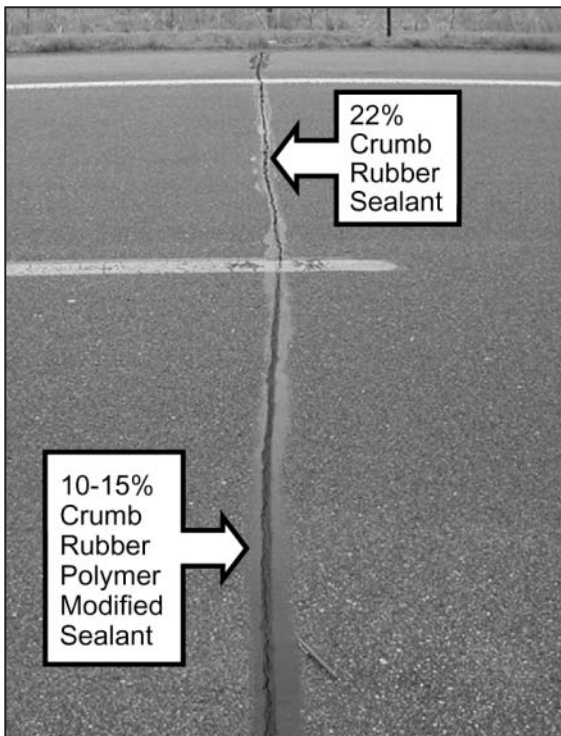
Roughly 70 percent of the cracks sealed in March 1997 with 22 percent crumb rubber were showing signs of adhesion and cohesion failures by April 1997. The cracks treated with 22 percent crumb rubber and sealed by the rout, blow and seal application were completely unsealed

sections had failed with cohesion, adhesion and loss of material, with the exception of the 10-15 percent crumb rubber polymer modified sealant that had been routed, blown and sealed.

To summarize, the results indicate that the 10-15 percent crumb rubber polymer modified sealant performed better in the routed section throughout this particular experiment.

The research into different types of material, with different types of application procedures is ongoing. Sealant technology is making progress, as cold temperature properties become the main focus.

The material costs of crack sealant are minimal when compared to the overall costs of a crack sealing operation. More expensive material does not always mean better performance. Matching a good sealant with a good application procedure in the right kind of crack, is essential in achieving a good seal in reflective and thermal cracks on bituminous roadways.◆



Searchable Data Base Added to NDOR's Web Site

By Anne White
Communication Division

In May, the NDOR's Technical Research Library became more accessible with availability of the Library's catalog on the department's web site. With this addition, Nebraska became one of the first state departments of transportation to have a searchable database.

NDOR's collection consists of over 17,000 books and videotapes. The focus of the collection is transportation, which includes roads, bridges, safety, history, management techniques, as well as other areas. Many magazines and other publications not yet listed in the online catalog are also available. NDOR's librarian, Don Robertson (Communication Division) may be contacted for assistance in locating these items.

Directions for using the Technical Research Library catalog:

Searching:

- Click on the link on the main page to connect to a search page.
- Enter your search request (word/author).
- Your query will rapidly show you what is listed in our collection.

Printing:

Use the "File" Print function in the upper left-hand corner of your Internet Explorer:

- To print all records searched.
- To print only an individual record.

Check Out:

- If you want to check out any publications, contact Don Robertson, NDOR's Librarian, by using the handy link at the bottom of the search page. He may also be reached by phone at 402-479-4316 or requests may be faxed to 402-479-3989.◆



Jim Wilkinson, *right*, accepts the Nebraska Governor's Points of Light Award from Governor Mike Johanns. Robert Goodwin, Chair and CEO of the National Points of Light Foundation, is pictured on the left.

Wilkinson Wins Governor's Points of Light Award

Jim Wilkinson, engineer in the Location Studies Section of the Planning and Project Development Division at NDOR, is the second recipient of the Nebraska Governor's Points of Light Award for adult volunteers.

Jim has volunteered over the past two- and one-half years with the Lancaster County Chapter of the American Red Cross, helping with several local disasters. His trip to "ground zero," the site of the September 11, 2001 disaster at the World Trade Center in New York City, was his first experience with a national disaster.

Jim took his vacation from NDOR to work in New York City. He helped some of the estimated 1 million people who were left without work either temporarily or permanently apply for aid. After almost three weeks of 13-hour days, Jim returned home to take his spot with the local disaster team.

"Being there, near ground zero, is an experience that will live with me forever," Jim said. "It felt good that my local training with the Red Cross put me in a position to actually help the people affected by the 9/11 disaster—to get involved and not just read about it."

Jim acknowledged many others who have volunteered their time in New York City and at home. He noted several local volunteers have gone to New York as many as four times. He also thanked Janine Brown and Randy Jones at Lancaster County Red Cross, who do a great job of mobilizing the local volunteer forces. He gave special thanks to his wife Susan, and daughters Nicole and Kristin, for their support.

The Governor's Points of Light Award was made possible by the Volunteer Service Commission, which was formed by executive order from former Governor Ben Nelson in 1994. Governor Mike Johanns and First Lady Stephanie Johanns, the honorary chairperson, have continued to support the Commission and its mission to promote, mobilize and support the efforts of all Nebraskans who are united in strengthening their communities, state and nation through community service.

This year, Governor Johanns began a new tradition by announcing the first Governor's Points of Light Award recipient. Nebraska is the eighth state to present such an award. The award will be presented monthly to a youth, adult or organization engaged in volunteer service in Nebraska.◆

Extra Mile Awards Presented

Nine NDOR employees received Extra Mile Awards at the quarterly Rewards and Recognition ceremony held recently at Central Headquarters in Lincoln.

Eight Controller Division employees were honored for accepting the challenge to add to their existing duties with the acceptance of the pre-audit function from the Department of Administration Services (DAS).

By statute, DAS is responsible for performing the required pre-audit of various accounting transactions to insure compliance with the State's rules and regulations. Starting on July 1, 2001, members of NDOR's Accounting Section took on this pre-audit function in addition to their previous duties. Acceptance of this additional duty shortened the amount of time it takes to process a payment and get the vendor or employee paid.

Larry Koves, Engineering Unit Supervisor in the Bituminous Aggregates Unit of the Materials and Research Division, started a Book Exchange in the basement break room of the M&R building. It has grown to two shelving units, with a variety of titles available, and is well organized.

Larry's section supervisor reports that he goes "above and beyond" to share his talents without seeking credit or recognition, and he does his utmost to boost morale, build community spirit and create a positive working environment in the M&R building. He accomplishes this without detracting from the consistent good performance of his duties. ♦

A Rewarding Thought

"Any time you make people feel better about themselves, you are building strong motivation."

- Rebecca Boyle, Empire of America
Federal Savings Bank

**Brought to you by the Rewards
& Recognition Agency Panel.**

Nomination forms can be found on the Intranet at <http://www.dor.state.ne.us> on the Human Resources page.

Rewards & Recognition

January, February, March 2002

Employees & Managers of the Quarter

Employees

Managers

District 1

John Coonce
Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr.
Falls City

Bob Traudt
Hwy. Project Manager
Lincoln

District 2

Diane Love
Hwy. Construction Tech III
Omaha

Sam Banister
Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor
Papillion

District 3

Rick Tschirren
Auto/Diesel Mechanic
Norfolk

Ray Brandstiter
Hwy. Maintenance Supt.
Neligh

District 4

Bryce Ewoldt
Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr.
Grand Island

Dennis Heermann
Engineer IV
Grand Island

District 5

Merle Thornton
Hwy. Construction Tech II
Chadron

Doug Heibult
Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor
Crawford

District 6

Karen Swedberg
Staff Assistant I
North Platte

None

District 7

Mark Dietz
Hwy. Construction Tech III
Holdrege

Lyle Stabenow
Hwy. Maintenance Supt.
Holdrege

District 8

Tony Guggenmos
Auto/Diesel Mechanic
O'Neill

None

OE 200 Divisions

Bob Malmquist
Electronics Design Specialist
Logistics

Dan Rosenthal
Engineer V
Rail & Public Transportation

OE 300 Divisions

Pat Brunken
Hwy. Designer III
Roadway Design

Mark Traynowicz
Engineer V
Materials & Research

Awardees receive a certificate, pin and a monetary award of \$250 before taxes.

New Safety Vests Required at NDOR

As of April 1, 2002, new safety vests that meet Class II American National Standard Institute (ANSI) requirements for high-visibility safety apparel are mandatory for all NDOR employees working on the highway right of way.

Safety is the Nebraska Department of Roads' number one priority for our employees. The improved visibility provided by the vests helps to ensure the safety of employees working on the right of way.

The new safety vests are constructed using a solid material, compared to the thin mesh fabric on the old vests. Tests show that this new material is more visible than that used on the old vests. The old vest depended on what was worn underneath. For example, if the old vest was worn over a black t-shirt,

it was much more visible than if worn over a white t-shirt.

The Velcro straps on the sides of the old vests have been replaced by high visibility material on the new vests. The additional material on the sides of the vests, and the vest's increased reflectivity, makes it easier for the motorist to see people working along the right of way. Orange vests are still required when working on the railroad right of way.

NDOR has contacted manufacturers and is asking them to develop cooler vests that would provide the same safety features as the current vests. In the meantime, our employees will be better protected by our new safety vests that meet Class II ANSI requirements for high-visibility safety. ♦



Ray Beeman, left, District 1 Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor at Salt Valley Maintenance Yard, wears the older style safety vest, and Janie Vrtiska, Hwy. Maintenance Superintendent, also at Salt Valley Maintenance Yard, wears the new safety vest. The new vest provides improved visibility and is mandatory for all NDOR employees working on highway right of way. ♦

A Walk in the Park...

May 18, 2002 marked the first year NDOR was represented in the American Heart Association Annual Heart Walk. Despite the chilly weather, between 30 and 40 NDOR employees gathered at Pioneers Park in Lincoln and participated in either a 1-, 2-, or 3-mile walk. Many divisions were represented, including Logistics, Materials & Research, Bridge and Human Resources.

The American Heart Association provided several activities throughout the morning. A "Best Dressed Pet" Contest, and a visit from Jared, The Subway Guy kicked off the Walk. Throughout the morning, various vendors provided "heart smart" snacks and the Capitol City Cloggers provided entertainment.

As part of continued wellness efforts, NDOR encouraged employee participation in this year's Heart Walk. We look forward to an even-better participation level next year! Special thanks to Cindy DeCoster and Verneda Kelly, Human Resources, who helped organize and coordinate NDOR's involvement in this event. ♦

Staff Development on Intranet

By **Cindy DeCoster**
Human Resources Division

The Staff Development section of Human Resources now has a web site on the Human Resources Intranet. The site provides information in Leadership Development, Training Opportunities, Rewards and Recognition, Safety, and Wellness.

The Leadership Development section contains information about phases of the NDOR Leadership Development Program.

The training calendar, which lists all courses scheduled, course descriptions and agendas can be viewed in the Training Opportunities section. You can also find video resources available in the resources section.

Rewards and Recognition has been moved into the Staff Development site. There you can view the Rewards and Recognition Catalog and Prize Catalog, and download nomination forms. Information has been added about upcoming awards and awards that we've applied for outside NDOR, a database of all the awards available

throughout NDOR, and information about the Employees and Managers of the Quarters.

Look in the Wellness section for pictures of the American Heart Association Heart Walk held in May and other information regarding the Wellness Program at NDOR.

The Safety section is currently under construction. Check back soon to see what information you'll find in this section of the web site.

To access the new Staff Development Web Site:

- Open Internet Explorer.
- Type <http://www.dor.state.ne.us> in the address box, to get to the NDOR home page.
- Mouse over "Agency Contacts".
- Click on Agency Intranet from the pull down menu.
- Click on Human Resources Link.
- Enter your User ID and Password in the appropriate box (contact your IT representative if needed).
- Find a link to the Staff Development site. Click on it and you'll be there. ♦

Preserving Historic Roads Conference Spurs Interest

Historic roads advocates, engineers and planners from across America came together April 11-14 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Omaha for the third national conference on historic roads. They participated in four days of tours, educational sessions, dialogue and debate regarding the identification, preservation and management of historic roads.

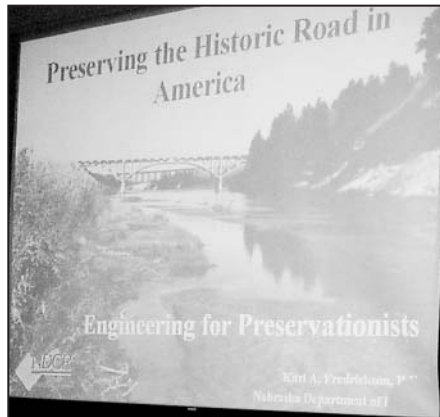
According to Cindy Veys, NDOR Environmental Section Manager, who helped plan and coordinate the conference, Omaha was selected to host the conference in large part due to the Nebraska Department of Roads' excellent relationship with the Nebraska State Historical Society, which is recognized and respected across the country. Also, Nebraska's central location was a factor.

About 200 people attended the conference, with 12 Departments of Transportation and 16 State Historical Societies represented. Hawaii's DOT traveled the farthest to attend the conference.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation was the primary conference sponsor. Other sponsors included the Historic American Engineering Record of the National Park Service, America's Byways Resource Center, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers, Mead & Hunt, Olsson Associates, Embassy Suites Old Market, the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Department of Roads. Also, this year the conference included two new national sponsors: the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Federal Highway Association (FHWA).

An opening reception and tour was held the first evening of the conference at the Western Heritage Museum. Welcoming remarks were presented by Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey, Roads Director John Craig and State Historical Society Associate Director Bob Puschendorf. Jim Pearson, Program Manager in NDOR's Government Affairs Division, presented the Historical Society with the first ledger of vehicles ever registered in the State of Nebraska.

Several conference sessions drew heavy interest, including "Historic Roads 101." Dan Marriott, Director of the Rural Heritage Program



Karl Fredrickson, Hwy. Contract Lettings Manager, shared information about "Engineering for Preservationists" at the national conference on historic roads held April 11-14 at the Embassy Suites in Omaha.



of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, centered on topics preservationists would like engineers to know about. Karl Fredrickson, NDOR's Hwy. Contract Lettings Manager, countered with information pertaining to items engineers would like to educate preservationists about. He noted that safety was the primary concern, and shared many of the terms engineers use in their work that aren't known to the general public. Both sessions sparked lively debate between both sides of the issue.

A representative from the Federal Highway Administration talked about "policy and regulations for the confused." Also, a presentation was

held regarding Nebraska's completion of their historic highway survey. This session was heavily attended, since Nebraska is one of the pioneers in conducting that type of survey.

Several timely topics were addressed. "Traffic calming," a term for slowing down traffic through historic areas or utilizing diversionary techniques to keep heavy traffic away from the narrower streets in historic areas, is an area a lot of communities are investigating.

The session on "context sensitive design," a buzz-phrase relating to designing roads to fit within the context of a historic community, was also well attended.

In addition to these educational sessions, several tours were conducted, including "Saving the Old Lincoln Highway" near Elkhorn, to showcase the Lincoln Highway Preservation project planned for a 3-mile original brick-paved segment.

Drake Hokanson, author of the book "The Lincoln Highway," also hosted a tour.

A tour of the Loess Hills Scenic Byway in Iowa offered participants the opportunity to view the scenic and historic landscape, and discuss issues associated with its origins and development. A downtown walking tour of the

Old Market area and a tour of Omaha's park and boulevard system were also offered.

According to Veys, an outcome of the conference was a heightened awareness on both the engineering and preservation sides of what issues each is facing: On the engineering side, acknowledging there are people who are very sincere and serious about preserving our nation's transportation history; and on the preservationists' side, realizing there are people on the engineering side of the fence who aren't necessarily out to destroy resources, but are out to do their job, to build a very good and very safe road system. ♦

We Get Letters ...

May 2, 2002

The April Roadrunner issue with the Snyder East (Hwy. N-91) project caught my interest (2001 Paving Awards - nominations for 2002).

I haven't driven it lately, but from the description of the work, there is apparently close to 50% of the current surface area being the same concrete that was placed there fifty years ago—Impressive!

In the summer of 1952 Marv Nuerenberger was Project Engineer on two concrete paving projects: Hwy. N-91, Snyder East (Contractor Dobson and Robinson), and Hwy. N-32, Craig to Tekamah (Contractor Able Construction – now scheduled for an overlay).

The Snyder East state crew included Jerry Mallatt, Laurel - Slab Inspector; Tom McCarthy, Concrete Batch Plant Inspector; and Earl Snyder as Scale Inspector at the batch plant.

The Craig–Tekamah project staff core was Walter Witt and Ray Plouzek. That project featured many spiral curves. The east end tied into the street system of Tekamah, which incidentally was laid out about two years before the overall Nebraska State Survey began in May, 1855 (page 104, "History of Nebraska" by Sheldon). In the summer of 1952, probably longer, both Nuerenberger and Witt lived in Craig, Nebraska, which surely now expects more prominence on the state map!

2002 would be a good time to honor Marv's two 1952 projects for a longevity under traffic award!

Tom McCarthy

Editor's Note: Tom McCarthy is the former District Engineer for District 3 and resides in Norfolk. His comments are appreciated and we hope sharing his letter will duly recognize the 1952 projects he calls to memory.

The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.

March 18, 2002

Dear Mr. Ruby,

Personally, I would like to thank the hard working men from the State of Nebraska Roads Eagle headquarters.

Being a commuter into Lincoln for my job traveling Highways 1 and 34, I can always count on the guys being on "top of things" for road safety, snow removal, etc.

Hearing about other highways in the area from co-workers, I am proud to say "my roads were great coming into work!"

The men from Eagle always put forth the safety of the public first. Such a great attribute to them ... which I'm sure without regard, just consider it their job. They provide much more to us than "doing their job," they provide safety to each of us and our loved ones. What possibly could you give someone more than that?

Please pass along a "big thank you" to our hard working men at Eagle!

Sincerely,

Bev Fischer

Elmwood, Nebraska

Editor's Note: Thank you to Eldon Schoen, Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor for Adams and Eagle; Andy Stander, Crew Chief; Roger McKay and Mike Franson, Sr.Hwy. Maintenance Workers.

March 16, 2002

Good Work

Road crews from city, state helped keep ice from causing more woes.

As is prone to be the case in March, last weekend was a nasty scene in Northeast Nebraska.

But it could have been a lot worse if not for the efforts of City of Norfolk and Nebraska Department of Roads workers.

Mother Nature blessed—and we use that term loosely—Northeast Nebraska with periodic freezing rain that left highways, streets, parking lots, sidewalks and driveways slicker than Bill Clinton. The situation had the potential to be dangerous for motorists and pedestrians alike.

Greatly improving the situation was the work of road crews from the city and state roads departments. Their trucks were out in force, spreading gravel and liquid de-icing solvent on streets and roads. Their work didn't prevent every accident from occurring, but it undoubtedly kept many from taking place.

Road crews often are on the receiving end of criticism when bad weather strikes. Some of it may be deserved, some of it may be just frustration being expressed. But the crews also should be praised for good work. This is one of those occasions.

- Reprinted from Norfolk Daily News

Appreciation Award to John Craig

Roads Director John Craig received a plaque at the NDOR District Maintenance Conference on May 7 in appreciation of his support and continuing commitment to improve the equipment fleet for the department. District Maintenance Superintendents and the NDOR Fleet Manager presented the award on behalf of all employees who operate, maintain and manage equipment.



Pictured, front row, l to r: Dale Butler, District 2 Maint. Supt.; John Craig; Thomas McCoy, District 3 Maint. Supt.; Roger Kalkwarf, District 1 Maint. Supt., and Tom Sands, Fleet Manager, Logistics Division. Back row: Allen Horak, District 4 Maint. Supt.; Chris Ford, District 5 Maint. Supt.; Roger Klasna, District 6 Maint. Supt.; and Larry Peterson, District 7 Maint. Supt. Not pictured: John Stahl, District 8 Maint. Supt.

District Maintenance Safety Awards Presented

The 2001 District Maintenance "Safe Working" and "Safe Driving" Awards were presented to the district winners at the NDOR Maintenance Conference in Kearney May 7th. Roads Director John Craig made the presentations.

District 7 received the "Most Improved Safe Working Award" and the "Safe Working Award." District 2 was the winner of the "Most Improved Safe Driving Award." They improved the vehicle accident frequency rate more than any other district in 2001 over the year 2000.

District 5 had the lowest vehicle accident rate in 2001 and won the "Safe Driver Award." ♦

TURF & GARDEN

By Dick Gray
Agronomist



Prime Time for Pest Control

Turf - The grubs are coming!! MERIT or MACH 2 are the best chemicals on the market for grubs. You can apply these about mid-June and be assured that the grubs will be controlled. For a quick green-up of the lawn for that special event, use a liquid fertilizer 3 to 4 days ahead of the event. You will get the green up for the party and the growth from the fertilizer after the party. Keep the blade sharp and the mowers at 2¹/₂" in June and go to 3" to 3¹/₂" in July. The higher the better in the heat of the summer. We will need about 1¹/₂" of water to keep our the lawns at their best. Our friends in the Panhandle and southwest Nebraska may need more to keep up with the evaporation rate.

Trees - The nurseries still have good trees and shrubs in stock—it's not too late for container or B&B trees and shrubs. Take time to sharpen your pruners. A smooth cut heals faster. The trees and shrubs will need water this summer, too. Check the soil under the mulch before watering. The soil should be damp, but not soggy. Look for more tree insects this year. The mild winter allowed many to overwinter. Sevin will provide a quick knock-down of the pests. Spider mites are an exception, use an insecticidal soap or a miticide.

Garden - Blossom-end rot of tomatoes is a result of moisture stress and/or calcium deficiency. Calcium can be applied as pelleted limestone, or save your egg shells and put them in the garden. Expect more garden insects too this year. If you can, use the "leaky hoses" to water your garden. The hoses are very water efficient. Mulch your garden and put the hoses under the mulch. Train cucumbers to climb a fence—makes picking easier. Use "Grass be gone" to take the grass out of your flower and shrub beds. Clover giving you fits? Try TRIMEC and follow the label.

General - Phone numbers that may be handy:
Poison Center in Omaha: 800-955-9119.
National Pesticide Network for medical and consumer information: 800-858-7378. ♦

NDOR Events Calendar

— June —

- National Safety Month**
- 1 National Trails Day**
- 3-7 National Managers Week**
- 6 Certified Managers Day**
- 4 New Employee Orientation Program**
NDOR Central Headquarters
contact Steve Olson @ 479-3601
- 13 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
NDOR Central Headquarters
contact Diane Holthus @ 479-4580
- 14 Project Scheduling Meeting**
8:30-11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 21 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569
- 27 Letting** 1:30 p.m. NDOR Auditorium
contact Karl Fredrickson @ 479-4528
- 28 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m. Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530

— July —

- 4 State Holiday – Independence Day**
- 9 New Employee Orientation Program**
NDOR Central Headquarters
contact Steve Olson @ 479-3601
- 12 Project Scheduling Meeting**
8:30-11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666

- 17-18 Transportation Technology & Operations Conf.**
Embassy Suites Hotel, Lincoln
contact Jaimie Huber @ 471-1810
- 19 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569
- 25-26 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
Outstate Meeting – Norfolk

— August —

- 1 Letting** 1:30 p.m. NDOR Auditorium
contact Karl Fredrickson @ 479-4528
- 6 New Employee Orientation Program**
NDOR Central Headquarters
contact Steve Olson @ 479-3601
- 9 Project Scheduling Meeting**
8:30-11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 23 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m. Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 23 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
10:00 a.m. Materials & Research Conf. Rm.
Contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569

If you would like key events included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail lwilson@dor.state.ne.us. Information for the August/September Roadrunner should be received by July 19.

Groups Beautify Nebraska Roadsides

By Denise Wallman
Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator

Daykin Rescue, Neighborhood Kids 4-H, Loup City Education Association, Starlighters Extension Club...these organizations along with approximately 470 other groups, participated in the Adopt-a-Highway

Great Nebraska Trash-Off sponsored by NDOR. This statewide event was held in April and involved over 8,000 volunteers as they walked their adopted areas and picked up litter.

Currently, a total of 1,456 groups have adopted over 3,000 miles of right-of-way and are committed

to keeping Nebraska roadsides beautiful. A big "thank you" goes out to all the Maintenance Superintendents, Supervisors, Staff Assistants, and other Maintenance personnel in the Districts who helped coordinate and promote this worthwhile program.♦

Nebraska Department of Roads
Communication Division
1500 Hwy 2
PO Box 94759
Lincoln NE 68509-4759
27-6900

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