

# Service Awards

**Congratulations** to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. The following people celebrate their service dates in *December* and *January*.

## 40 Years

Harvey Bouwens, Materials & Research  
Jack Pittman, Controller

## 30 Years

John Baker, Roadway Design  
John Beavers, District 6  
Richard Jensen, District 4  
James Hughes, District 5  
Roger Ripley, Right-of-Way

## 20 Years

Martin Kurtz, District 2  
David Schwartz, District 4  
Lindsey Stark, District 2

## 10 Years

Craig Bristol, District 6  
Daniel Foreman, Roadway Design  
Janet Gordon, District 5  
Michael Haney, District 8  
Sandra Prieb, Traffic Engineering  
Larry Theilen, District 3  
Patty Fischer, District 8  
Rock Krzycki, Roadway Design  
Eva Sears, District 8



## the Roadrunner

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## From the Director

# The Future is Going to be Great!



John L. Craig

The future is important since that's where we'll live and it's going to be great!

As we begin the New Year, it's important for each of us to reflect on past successes and forge ahead into the future, staying on the course that we've started until we reach our goals. The NDOR vision, mission and strategic plan will continue to serve as our guide during this process.

In our future efforts, we will remain focused on achieving our vision through building the team, partnering and strategic management. We will continue to build upon the six strategic emphasis areas: (1) workforce development, (2) equipment management, (3) capital facilities management, (4) leveraging technology, (5) construction and maintenance management, and (6) more efficient business practices.

We have laid the groundwork for increased capability in the key areas of research, transportation technology, long-range collaborative planning and maintenance. Summits have convened regarding truck parking, oversize/overweight rules and regulations, research, innovations in transportation technology, environment, rail, public transit and safety. The attendance and involvement of our industry partners in these meetings was outstanding. Follow-up evaluations and meetings to discuss summit results are planned.

The next few months are critical to our future and include significant events such as our annual report to a joint Transportation-Appropriations Committee of the State Legislature, labor contract negotiations and defending our budget before the State Legislature.

As we set our course for the future both in plans and in the budget, I also want to quickly refine our "Plan for the Future" so that everyone knows where we're headed and we reduce the level of anxiety. From some perspective, the above becomes just stuff—important, but still stuff—and we can manage that. By contrast, it's all about *people*—families and organizations.

Finally, the Department of Roads is a family and we all contribute to making transportation operate efficiently and effectively in Nebraska. On a more personal note, I am proud of our family. Keep up the good work. Our challenges will not cease and work will not go away, but remember that your contribution to the Department and transportation in Nebraska is very important. My heartfelt thanks!

As we look to the New Year, I wish every employee and their families a very joyous, peaceful and safe holiday season. ♦

# Technology Tops Road Crews' Winter Weather Arsenal

Nebraska's highway snow removal fleet stands ready to meet winter weather head-on by combining the latest in technology with traditional approaches. Liquid chemical processes used for frost, ice and snow control on roadways have worked well in the past and will receive expanded use this year. Road condition reports are accessible on the NDOR website again this year, in addition to being available at Interstate 80 rest areas via DTNs (Data Transmission Networks).

Over 1,000 trained employees are prepared to handle weather-related highway emergencies across Nebraska. Approximately 900 units of equipment make up the Department of Roads' fleet, including trucks, snowplows, front-end loaders and motor graders.

The Department plans to manage snow removal using a variety of methods that have been used successfully the past several years. Again this year, maintenance crews in five districts, including Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 will use liquid chemical processes, including salt brine, magnesium chloride and Ice Ban for frost, ice and snow control on roadways. Also, Districts 1 and 2 are trying the chemical Caliber for the first time.

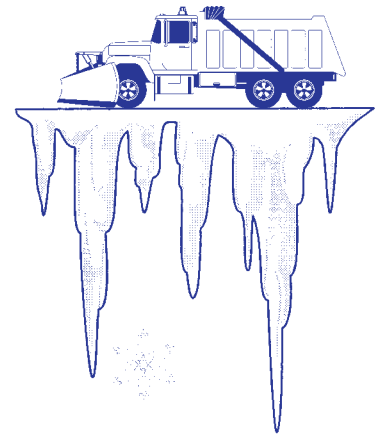
Ice Ban and Caliber are agricultural-based mixtures resulting from ethanol production that help to prevent ice and snow from bonding to the pavement surface or they may be applied as de-icing materials to help remove ice and snow buildup on the roadway. They may also be used as pre-wetting agents to make other chemicals more effective. They are used in various concentrations from 10-50% in association with magnesium chloride or sodium chloride. Caliber is advertised to have fewer odors and solids than similar materials. Salt brine is a chloride solution that may be applied to roadways up to two hours

before a winter storm to prevent ice and snow from bonding to the pavement surface.

**The Districts' plans for chemical applications are as follows:**

- ❄ District 1 will continue to use Ice Ban on new concrete roadways and will expand areas for using liquid salt brine for anti-icing, de-icing and as a pre-wetting agent. They will also use sand, salt and calcium. For the first time, they will use Caliber for treating salt and sand stockpiles. Treating stockpiles with this chemical increases the rate at which salt begins working as well as the overall ice penetration. It allows for effective use of salt at colder temperatures.
- ❄ District 2 will also try Caliber. They will continue to apply salt brine as an anti-frost material on all bridges. They may try more anti-icing prior to predicted storms.
- ❄ District 3 crews plan to expand their use of liquid de-icing. They will use salt brine and Ice Ban for anti-icing and de-icing on selected roadways and bridges.
- ❄ District 4 will use salt brine for the first time this year for pre-treating selected sites. Some sites will also use Ice Ban and magnesium chloride for frost control, anti-icing and de-icing operations. Salt/sand mix will also be used across the district.
- ❄ District 5 will use salt and gravel as their primary chemical treatment.
- ❄ District 6 will use a salt, gravel and calcium mix as needed at all locations.
- ❄ District 7 will use salt, gravel and calcium mix for snow removal.
- ❄ District 8 will use salt/sand as their primary chemical treatment. They will also evaluate the use of liquid salt brine for pretreating hills and curves on selected roadways.

***Beware when you go on ice and snow.***



Forty-eight Changeable Message Signs (CMS), including 25 positioned along Interstate 80 from Kimball to Lincoln and 23 to be used on other highways throughout Nebraska, will be used to alert motorists of immediate and/or upcoming closures. Over 100 pre-programmed messages are available. State Roads personnel will be able to access the signs using personal computers and modems to either initiate or verify the messages.

Information on winter road conditions continues to be available on DTN monitors at the 25 I-80 rest areas across the state. In addition, information will be available on the Roads Department web site, [www.dor.state.ne.us](http://www.dor.state.ne.us), under the heading "Road Reports & Travel Info." Various weather links are also available on the website.

Also, the Nebraska State Patrol maintains a Winter Road Condition Report via a toll-free telephone number when calling from Nebraska: 800-906-9069. ♦



NDOR Director John Craig and Colonel Tom Nesbitt, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol, cut the ribbon for two new weigh stations, located on Interstate 80 just east of Waverly.



# State-of-the-Art Weigh Stations Commence Operation on I-80

The Nebraska Department of Roads and Nebraska State Patrol, along with motor carrier industry partners, in October dedicated two new weigh stations along Interstate 80 that will improve safety and increase productivity.

The new weigh stations are located near the Cass County line (just east of Waverly.) The \$7.3 million stations replace the antiquated Greenwood weigh stations. Federal and State funding was provided through NDOR. Construction began in the fall of 1999 and concluded in October.

NDOR's Roadway Design Division, under the direction of Eldon Poppe, was responsible for the design of the ramps and parking areas, as well as coordinating the design of the buildings and the weigh-in-motion (WIM) systems with the Carrier Enforcement Division of the State Patrol. The following members of Roadway Design's Interstate Section completed work on the project: Terry Gibson, section leader; Eric Dixon, design unit leader; and Tim McCarthy, designer. Elements of design performed by the Interstate Section included horizontal and vertical alignments, geometrics, grading and

drainage. Other areas within Roadway Design that contributed to the project included lighting, roadside development and drafting.

District 1 was responsible for completion of the construction project, with Abdul Sidiqi as the project manager. Constructor's Inc. of Lincoln, Nebr. was the prime contractor. First tier subcontractors were Judd Brothers Construction Company of Lincoln, Nebr. and Hawkins Construction Company of Omaha, Nebr.

A new architectural design will improve safety at the new stations. Both the eastbound and westbound sites feature longer entrance and exit ramps to prevent weigh station traffic from backing up onto the Interstate. The exit ramps at both stations also feature a slight decline, which assists commercial vehicles in achieving highway speeds to merge more smoothly.

## Increased Safety

The new stations are equipped with two state-of-the-art technologies that will also increase safety while improving productivity. The high-speed weigh-in-motion technology weighs trucks at highway speed. The scales are installed in the right lanes of

the Interstate. Officers communicate with drivers via electronic signs. Signs and signal lights will direct trucks to either enter or bypass the station.

The second technology is electronic screening, funded and installed by the PrePass Company. It allows trucks to be checked for compliance with state-required credentials. Trucks participating in the screening program are equipped with a transponder inside the truck's cab that identifies the vehicle as a PrePass member. If the member is in good standing and meets weight requirements, the driver could be signaled via the transponder to bypass the weigh station.

Both technologies help to eliminate the hazards related to trucks merging into and leaving Interstate traffic. Both increase productivity, as they ensure every vehicle is weighed and inspections are focused on vehicles most likely to be in violation.

NDOR Director John Craig said, "These new state-of-the-art weigh stations are yet another improvement to Nebraska's Interstate system. The design, location and technology provide facilities that will serve the needs of public safety for years to come." ♦



# Motorist Assist Program Offers Lifeline to Travelers

Help is on the way for Interstate 80 travelers in the Lincoln area who need assistance. NDOR has combined forces with other major partners to start the Nebraska Motorist Assist Program, or NeMAP. Dedicated on October 6 by Governor Mike Johanns, the program provides a variety of services to motorists, courtesy of volunteers in a well-marked white Ford Windstar minivan. Volunteers will patrol the Interstate between the Utica exit and the Platte River every morning and evening during rush hours and Sunday nights.

Trained by the Nebraska State Patrol, which oversees the operation, volunteers will help motorists find gas or change a tire, give jump-starts, pick up hazardous debris and check and tag abandoned cars. Two volunteers will be on duty at a time, dressed in blue shirts, gray pants and glowing green vests and hats.

The program is modeled after a successful project in the Omaha area that's been around for two years, called the Metro Area Assist Program. Omaha volunteers cover interstate and major highways in and around Omaha and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

According to Rose White, AAA Nebraska, the Omaha program used more than 40 volunteers and two cars to make 10,000 motorist assists in its first two years. State Patrol Col. Tom Nesbitt noted that volunteers put in about 14,000 hours last year, saving the patrol about \$110,000.

NDOR had a key role in development of the Omaha program as well as the new program in Lincoln. According to Jim Pearson, who is programs administrator for NDOR and serves on steering committees for both the Metro Area Assist Program and NeMAP, the department provided \$15,000 to the Omaha program during the past two years and will provide \$15,000 for the next two years to each program. The van, purchased with donated funds, is painted with logos of NDOR and other major sponsors, AAA/Cornhusker Motor Club and Nebraska Office of Highway Safety. AAA has donated \$5,000 over the past two years to the Omaha program and will donate \$5,000 to NeMAP over the next two years. The Nebraska Office of Highway Safety has donated \$10,000 to the Omaha program over the past two years and will donate

\$10,000 over the next two years. Also, they will contribute \$12,339.79 to get NeMAP started.

Other major NeMAP sponsors include: Kawasaki, Olsson Associates, Buggy Bath, Gas 'N Shop, Alltel Communications, State Farm Insurance, Schwarz Printing and S.T.O.P.-Lancaster County.

According to Pearson, \$95,800 has already been raised for the Omaha program, and this strong support base is expected to extend to NeMAP as well. Pearson noted, "The Motorist Assist Program provides the perfect private/public volunteer partnership. It's a win-win situation for taxpayers, volunteers, motorists they help and enforcement agencies."

NeMAP has twelve volunteers, including retired military personnel, truck drivers and a bank president. Additional volunteers are needed, as well as funds to support continued growth of the program. To become a NeMAP volunteer, call the Nebraska State Patrol at (402)471-4680. To donate money, call the Nebraska State Patrol Foundation, a non-profit group that supports the patrol, at (402)466-2231.♦

## Highway Maps Ready for Travelers

The official Nebraska Highway maps for 2001 to 2002 have arrived and a two-year supply is available for distribution. While retaining many features incorporated in the 2000 edition of the map, several changes and updates are included for added traveler convenience.

The efficient size—20 inches by 36 inches when unfolded—remains the same, as well as the two-fold design, which allows for greater ease in handling when used in a vehicle.

New or revised items include:

- ▶ The Expressway and Highway Systems have been updated.

- ▶ Nine byways are now highlighted on the map and listed on the reverse side, reflecting the addition of eight official byways over the past year.
- ▶ Revised commemorative highways and bridges list.
- ▶ Corporate Limits of cities over population of 5,000 have been revised, if changes occurred.
- ▶ The towns of Princeton and Grafton have been added to the map.
- ▶ Historic Trails were added.
- ▶ The inside front flap of the map promotes Nebraska tourism.

The front cover featuring Nebraska roadside wildflowers and the back cover including a photograph of Governor Mike Johanns and First Lady Stephanie, along with their welcoming message, remain the same.

Several standard features remain, including blowups of the state's larger communities (10,000 population or over), as well as a listing of Nebraska State Park areas, Nebraska's major rules of the road and local radio stations.

The printing cost for 1,521,500 new maps is \$133,499, about 9 cents per map.♦

# Improvement Team Receives National Honors

Nebraska Department of Roads recently submitted three of their improvement teams to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) for recognition. One team was recognized by the AASHTO Standing Committee on Quality for their excellence in quality team achievement.

The District 4 Preliminary Survey Improvement Team was awarded the "Pathfinder Award," which is AASHTO's second place recognition. The team's accomplishments included rewriting the District 4 Survey Manual to incorporate all improvement recommendations the team had made.

## D-4 Team

Members of the team included: Jerry Woodgate, Grand Island (team leader); Russ Hintz, Geneva (facilitator); Keith Meyer, Grand Island (process owner); Mae Meyer, Hastings (sponsor); Terry O'Neel, Grand Island; Dan Arndt, Kearney (no longer employed at NDOR); Rick Meyer, Hastings; Ray Kounovsky, North Platte (formerly District 4); and Arlen Zaruba, Ord.

The other two NDOR teams submitted for recognition were the District 8 Distributor Safety Team and the Field Computer Application Committee (FCAC). Both of these teams are to be complimented and commended for meeting the AASHTO Standing Committee on Quality criteria qualifying them as legitimate competitors in this prestigious national competition.

## D-8 Team

The District 8 Distributor Safety Team recently received the Team of the Year Award from the National Management Association (NMA). Members of the team are: Chuck Osborn, Ainsworth (team leader); Carlene Burrows, Ainsworth (facilitator); Kris Winter, Ainsworth (sponsor); Corvin Hinrichs, Ainsworth; Lee Kleeb, Spencer; Ernie Bennett,

Merriman; Helen "Betsy" Messenger, Burwell; Ken Bacon, Valentine; and Don Linquist, O'Neill.

## FCAC Team

The Field Computer Application Team, which also received a nomination for Team of the Year from NMA, is being featured in a NDOR video production highlighting the characteristics of a successful team.

The FCAC's mission was to identify and provide the computer applications

Muetting and Bill Mainquist, District 3; Terry O'Neel and Scott Griepentstroh, District 4; Scott Clinger and Russ Frickey, District 5; Ronda Lewis and Teresa Gibson, District 6; Jerry Quinn and Travis Zwickle, District 7; Jay Gustafson, Gene Colfack and Mark Kovar, District 8.

## Award Criteria

AASHTO's Standing Committee on Quality established the Recognition Program in 1996 to encourage team

formation and team function by recognizing outstanding team efforts in state and federal transportation organizations throughout the country.

Teams are recognized at three levels of achievement: Exemplary Partner, first place; Pathfinder, second place; and Trailblazer, third place. National evaluation teams scored team applications based on a point system using the



**District 4 Preliminary Survey Improvement Team members include, seated (l to r): Russ Hintz (facilitator), Terry O'Neel, Jerry Woodgate (team leader). Standing: Dan Arndt (no longer employed at NDOR); Rick Meyer, Ray Kounovsky and Arlen Zaruba. Not pictured: Mae Meyer (sponsor) and Keith Meyer (process owner).**

and associated applications support required by the district construction staff to accomplish their work in the most efficient and effective manner.

Members of the FCAC team are: Bill Hitzeman, Construction (team leader); Claude Oie, Construction (sponsor); Jon Ogden, Information Systems (advisor); and Tim Weander, District 5 (advisor); Shirley Daugherty, Construction; Steve Brown and Venkatesh Hadli, Information Systems; Kate Stephens, Materials and Research; Jim Gross, Paul Dodson and Larry Winslow, District 1; Jodie Domenge, Darin Brown and Karl Burns, District 2; Steve Trosper, Curt

national Baldrige Criteria for Quality. The criteria used for scoring were leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, information and analysis, human resource management and development, process management, and organizational results.

This year, a total of 118 teams from FHWA units, and state highway and transportation departments applied for recognition with the AASHTO's Standing Committee on Quality. Six teams received the Exemplary Partner Award, 16 received the Pathfinder Award and 26 teams received the Trailblazer Award. ♦



# Roads' Safety Team Wins EXPO 2000 Award

The Nebraska Department of Roads' District 8 Distributor Safety Team received an award for Team of the Year at the EXPO 2000 meeting held October 5 at the State Capitol Building in Lincoln. Sponsored by the Nebraska State Chapter of the National Management Association, the event provided an opportunity to sharpen skills in leadership and management, and to recognize outstanding service and achievement of Nebraska State employees.

The Distributor Safety Team was formed in response to safety concerns arising from several accidents involving distributors within the agency. Their first meeting was held August 19, 1999, and they presented their results on September 1, 1999.

During that time, members of the team investigated causes of the accidents. They studied operating manuals and Material Safety Data Sheets, consulted with equipment manufacturers, material distributors and health care providers. Results were used to produce a set of recommendations leading to safer equipment operation, material handling and better emergency care

for burns. Their recommendations were fully accepted by management and distributed throughout the agency.

The team was recognized for producing outstanding results in a short time. Members of the team included: Chuck Osborn, Highway Maintenance Worker Sr., Ainsworth (team leader); Carlene Burrows, Highway Maintenance Worker Sr., Ainsworth (team facilitator); Kris Winter, District 8 Engineer, Ainsworth

(team sponsor); Corvin Hinrichs, District Mechanic, Ainsworth; Lee Kleeb, Highway Maintenance Crew Chief, Spencer; Ernie Bennett, Highway Maintenance Crew Chief, Merriman; Helen "Betsy" Messenger, Highway Maintenance Worker Sr., Burwell; Ken Bacon, Highway Maintenance Worker Sr., Valentine; and Don Linquist, Highway Maintenance Worker Sr., O'Neill.

Other NDOR Team of the Year nominees included the Field Computer Application Committee and the Smart Work Zone Research Team.

NDOR Manager of the Year nominees in the EXPO 2000 competition included Steve Maraman and Dave Brokaw. ♦



District 8 Distributor Safety Team members include (l to r): Corvin Hinrichs, Ernie Bennet, Chuck Osborn (team leader), Don Linquist, Lee Kleeb and Ken Bacon. *Not pictured:* Kris Winter (sponsor), Helen "Betsy" Messenger and Carlene Burrows (facilitator).

## Geisler Receives Extra Mile Award

Brad Geisler, Auto/Diesel Mechanic at District 7 in McCook, received an Extra Mile award at the Rewards and Recognition ceremony held recently at district headquarters in McCook.

Geisler was honored for handling a variety of responsibilities in addition to his own job duties. According to his supervisor, Dallas Hayes, Geisler goes the extra mile by helping take care of the shop when he is out on the road, including organizing and prioritizing work. He also makes decisions regarding problems other mechanics are having, and keeps Hayes apprised of all new developments. ♦



District 7 employee Brad Geisler (right) receives Extra Mile Award from District Engineer Jim Knott.



# "Spans In Time" Earns Nebraska Book Award

"Spans In Time: A History of Nebraska Bridges," co-produced by the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) and the Nebraska Department of Roads, was the recipient of an honor award at the 2000 Nebraska Center for the Book awards program. The book was one of five recognized at the Nebraska Center for the Book annual literature festival, held September 15-17 in Lincoln.

The Nebraska Book Awards program recognizes and honors books written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, and/or set in or related to this state. "Spans in Time" was recognized in the nonfiction category. The book resulted from a statewide survey of historic bridges and was produced by a committee of Nebraska State Historical Society and Department of Roads staff. The book design was provided by NSHS, and the Department of Roads funded the publication under the transportation enhancement program authorized by the Federal Highway Administration. The publication was distributed free to all public libraries in the state.

Winning books were displayed at the Nebraska Literature Festival, and copies were presented to Governor Mike Johanns to be included in the permanent collection at the Governor's Mansion. Winners are entitled to display award stickers on their covers.

The Nebraska Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Library of Congress, brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators and scholars. The Nebraska Library Commission announced the award.

A limited number of books are available from the Society's Museum Store at \$21.95 each. Please include \$4.00 shipping and handling plus local sales tax. Copies may be reserved by calling 1-800-833-6747. ♦

# Rewards & Recognition

July, August, September 2000

## Employees & Managers of the Quarter

### Employees

### Managers

#### Director, Planning & Administration

**Vicki Lange**  
Statistical Clerk II  
Transportation Planning Division

**Ron Henning**  
Safety Training Coordinator  
Human Resources Division

#### Engineering

**Mark Lindholm**  
Hwy. Designer III  
Roadway Design Division

**Kenneth Cheney**  
Engineer III  
Materials & Research Division

#### District 1

**Arthur Weber**  
Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr.  
Adams

**Roger Kalkwarf**  
Hwy. Maintenance Dist. Supt.  
Lincoln

#### District 2

**Charles Schwanke**  
Construction Technician II  
Fremont

**Edward Barnes**  
Hwy. Maintenance Supt.  
Elkhorn

#### District 3

**Steve Ronnebaum**  
Construction Technician III  
Norfolk

None

#### District 4

**John Gorecki**  
Hwy. Maintenance Crew Chief  
Ravenna

**Michael Wood**  
Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor  
Greeley

#### District 5

**Scott Clinger**  
IT Infrastructure Support Analyst  
Bridgeport

**Gerald Frerichs**  
Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor  
Sidney

#### District 6

**Connie Lyons**  
Office Clerk III  
North Platte

**Kitty Shaner**  
Construction Tech IV/Supvr.  
North Platte

#### District 7

**Lynn Otto**  
Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr.  
Arapahoe

**Dallas Hayes**  
Hwy. Mechanic District Supvr.  
McCook

#### District 8

**James Scholtes**  
Construction Technician III  
Ainsworth

**Randy Havranek**  
Hwy. Maintenance Supvr.  
Spencer

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

# Kudos Awarded to NDOR Employees

NDOR individuals and teams received special honors at the Rewards and Recognition Ceremony held in October. In addition to recognizing employees and managers of the year who were unable to attend the September ceremony in Grand Island, employees and managers of the quarter were honored. Also, there were additional award recipients for both individual and group achievements.

Members of the Integrated Highway Inventory (IHI) Data Collection Division Unit Improvement Team (DUIT) were credited for their work in reviewing the Road Inventory process and establishing a realistic inventory cycle. Team members include: Ron Disney, Dave Brokaw, Dennis Vodehnal, Les Lawson, Deb Schubert, Dan Bruegman, Bob Jaeger and Jill Smith, all from Transportation Planning; Kathy Pahre, Controller; and Lemoyne Schulz, Local Liaison.

Construction Plan Quality Improvement Team members were recognized for their efforts. Representatives from

the contracting industry and design consulting profession were also part of the team. Members included: Eldon Poppe Roadway Design Engineer; Chuck McCann, District 4 Engineer; Sam Fallaha, Bridge; Cindy Shockey, Bridge; Dennis Hatfield, Roadway Design; Frank Brill, Construction; Jim Hertz, Right-of-Way; Rick Fisher, District 2; Gerald Mueller, District 1; and Dallyce Ronnau, Logistics. Also honored were Mike Miller, Schemmer & Associates, and Dan Hevelone, Western Plains/Dobson Brothers.

The GEOPAK Team received the Extra Mile Award for their efforts in organizing training for GEOPAK, the CADD platform MicroStation, and additional software, reviewing documents and the training manual, and getting everything operational within a year. Over 1,200 people were trained within six months. Members of the team include: Jon Haring, Bridge; Jim Hertz, Right-of-Way; Bill Wehling, Bill Baird, Mike Buckner, Tom Sawyer, Jon Starr and Scott Haynes, Roadway Design; Ryan Hobelman and

Craig Washburn, District 1; Mary Weander and Jodie Domenge, District 2; Kevin Domogalla, Dave Wietecha and Bill Mainquist, District 3; Terry O'Neel, District 4; Scott Clinger and Ronda Lewis, District 6; Kurt Vosburg and Travis Zwickle, District 7; and Mike Kovar, District 8.

Membership Panel Awards were given in recognition of each individual's commitment and dedication. Recipients of the membership awards for the Engineering Satellite Panel were Abe Anshasi, Traffic Engineering; and John Orrell, Bridge. Membership awards for the Director and Operations Satellite Panel were given to Marilyn Hayes, Controller; and Cindy Raridon, Materials and Research. Hayes received the membership award for her contributions as an original member of the 100/150 OE Satellite Panel for Director and Operations from 1996-99. A membership panel award went to Cliff Thege, Logistics, for his service on the Central Complex/Hill Safety Committee. ♦

## D-7 Team Places 8th at National Snow Rodeo

Two District 7 employees finished eighth in the recent Western Snow and Ice Conference snow rodeo competition held in Estes Park, Colorado. Norm Evans of Elwood and Ed Rinehart of McCook competed against 58 teams from other states and Canada.

The team operated a tandem-axle truck, equipped with a snowplow, through an obstacle course representing parked cars, narrow alleys, left- and right-hand turns. During the competition, every team drives the same truck. Each team member must drive part of the course.

Evans and Rinehart qualified for the national event when they placed runner-up in the NDOR Snow Rodeo at Kearney in August. ♦



### A Rewarding Thought

*"It's not enough to tell people they should be happy to have a job here. At a time when people are asked to really stretch themselves with fewer resources, you want to reward them for that stretch."*

- Bruce Donatuti

Program Development and Communications, Citibank

Brought to you by the  
Rewards & Recognition Agency Panel.

Nomination forms can be found on DORSRV50 in the Public Folder or by calling Denise Sears at (402)479-4581.



# State Highway Commission Insures Citizen Involvement

The Nebraska State Highway Commission was created by the 1953 Legislature to insure citizen input in the planning, design and operation of the state highway system. It acts as a liaison between the public and personnel of the Department of Roads regarding highway matters.

The Commission consists of eight private citizens appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature. Each commissioner represents one of the eight State highway districts and each serves a six-year term.

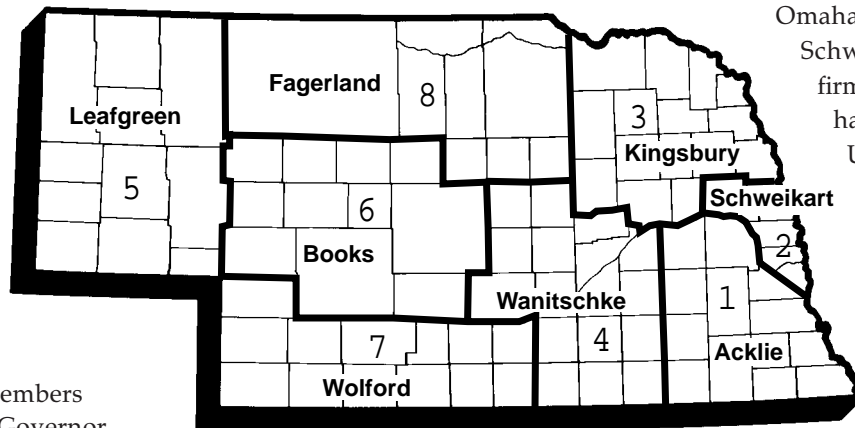
Monthly meetings are held at NDOR's Central Headquarters building, except for one meeting a year, which is hosted by one of the eight respective districts. All meetings are open to the public.

The Commission has several major responsibilities and members report directly to the Governor. The group advises the Director in establishing operating policies for NDOR. They conduct hearings, investigations and studies related to providing an adequate and safe highway system for the State. Members advise the Governor, through the agency, on feasibility for abandonment of existing routes or portions of routes on the state highway system as may be proposed by NDOR.

Commissioners also provide assistance in advising the public regarding policies, programs and

activities of NDOR. Members maintain continuity of proceedings through a full-time executive secretary. They also advise the Governor, upon request, regarding appointment of a Director.

Following is a brief biography of each Highway Commission member.



**Duane Acklie** is originally from Norfolk and lives in Lincoln. He represents District 1. Acklie is in the transportation/trucking business and has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska, as well as LL.B. and J.D. degrees from the University of Nebraska College of Law. He has served on the Commission since September 1981. He also serves on a number of other boards, foundations and committees. Acklie is married to Phyllis Osborn

Acklie. They have three daughters, three grandsons and one granddaughter. Hobbies and other interests include traveling, boating, snow skiing, reading and spending time with family.

**Judith A. Schweikart** is originally from Summit, New Jersey and lives in Omaha. She represents District 2.

Schweikart is a partner in the law firm of Kutak Rock in Omaha. She has a law degree from Creighton University and a Master's degree in Counseling.

Schweikart has served on the Commission since 1995. She serves on many other boards, foundations and committees. She has a son who is a freshman at St. Louis University. Hobbies and other interests

include politics, travel and golf.

**John F. Kingsbury**, from Ponca, represents District 3. He is in the banking and insurance business and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations from the University of South Dakota. Kingsbury has served on the Commission since 1996. He participates on a variety of other boards, foundations and committees. Kingsbury's wife, Myra Alley Kingsbury, is a Certified Financial Planner at American Express Financial



2000 Highway Commission - Seated (l to r): Duane Acklie, Judith Schweikart, Ronald Books (chair), John Craig (director), Greg Wolford. Standing: Jerome Fagerland, Douglas Leafgreen, Donna Wanitschke, John Kingsbury, Shirley Schafer (secretary).

Services. Hobbies and other interests include golf, racketball, travel and community service.

**Donna Wanitschke** is originally from Loup City and lives in Grand Island. She represents District 4. She is the Senior Vice President and Trust Officer at the Bank of Doniphan. Wanitschke is a graduate of Loup City High School and various banking and trust schools. She has served on the Commission since 1989 and has served as Chairman for three years. She is a member of many other boards, foundations and committees. She is married to George Wanitschke and they have four daughters, two living in Nebraska and two in California. Hobbies and other interests include golfing, reading, drinking coffee and visiting with people.

**Doug Leafgreen**, from Gering, represents District 5. He is a Marketing Manager for Regional Care, Inc., and has a Bachelor of Science degree from Chadron State College. Leafgreen has served on the Commission since 1999. He has also participated in many community, state

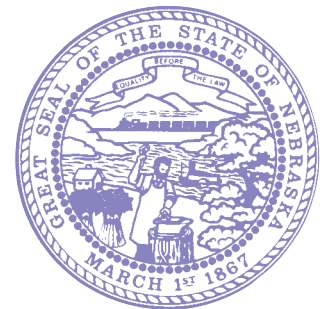
and national activities. Leafgreen is married to Melody and they have a daughter, son and one granddaughter. Hobbies and other interests include golfing, fishing and turkey hunting.

**Ronald W. Books**, from North Platte, represents District 6 and serves as chair. He is in the credit and collections business and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Phillips University in Enid, Okla. Books has served on the Commission since 1995. He has participated on a variety of other boards, committees and foundations. Books is married to Lois and they have two daughters. Hobbies and other interests include NEBRASKAland Days and water sports.

**Greg A. Wolford**, from McCook, represents District 7. He is President and Consulting Engineer of W Design Associates and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Wolford has served on the Commission since 1999. He is a member of several professional organizations. Wolford is married to

Pam and they have a son and a daughter. Hobbies and other interests include hunting, fishing and traveling.

**Jerome A. Fagerland**, from Atkinson, represents District 8. He is a bank executive and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Economics from Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. Fagerland has served on the Commission since 1999. He is a member of many other boards, committees and foundations. Fagerland is married to Cheryl and they have three children. Interests include outdoor activities. ♦



# Transportation Research Conference Promotes Progress and Partnership

Transportation research was in the limelight October 12, when more than 200 people with diverse backgrounds gathered at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln to share and discuss innovative research ideas.

Participants at the Nebraska Cooperative Research Conference (NCRC), hosted by the Materials and Research Division of the Nebraska Department of Roads, included representatives from private industry, cities, counties, University of Nebraska, the Federal Highway Administration and NDOR. Cooperation and involvement among



Hosted by NDOR's Materials and Research Division, the conference brought more than 200 participants together for discussions about innovative transportation research ideas.



Gale Barnhill, NDOR Research and Ratings Engineer, shares his knowledge about conductive concrete at the Nebraska Cooperative Research Conference.

these transportation industry partners were keys to a successful conference.

Mark Traynowicz, Research Engineer in the Materials and Research Division, presented the "Direction of the NDOR Research Program." He outlined the key components of the conference, including promoting public/private partnerships, demonstrating

University research capabilities, showcasing improvements from research, sharing current research in progress, as well as identifying areas for possible future research.

A wide range of topics was covered at the conference, including pavement, bridges, crash testing of roadside safety hardware, work-zone safety, operations and maintenance. Experts in these fields presented research from the past few years and examples of its applications in the Nebraska transportation industry.

The next step will occur in January 2001 when a group formed as an outgrowth of this conference, the Nebraska Transportation Research Council (NTRC), will meet to discuss the conference and generate new transportation research ideas. That group will form four focus groups: (1) materials, pavement and maintenance; (2) roadway, traffic, safety and ITS; (3) planning and environmental; (4) structures and geotechnical. These focus groups will review the pool of research ideas, brainstorm new ideas and prioritize ideas consistent with NDOR's strategic plan.

The NDOR Research Advisory Committee (RAC) members will then review prioritized projects and approve the research program. Research projects may include University conducted projects, NDOR in-house projects and/or pooled fund projects.

According to Traynowicz, the success of the entire research process depends on continued active involvement of all transportation industry partners by communicating and sharing research ideas.

"The end result will be better research and stronger relationships, which will benefit everyone involved and most important, all citizens of Nebraska, by providing a more efficient and cost-effective transportation system."

Appreciation is extended to conference sponsors, including the Nebraska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, Mid-America Transportation Center, Federal Highway Administration, Midwest Roadside Safety Facility and National Bridge Research Organization. In addition, NDOR Materials and Research Division staff Amy Starr and Leona Kolbet assisted in planning and presenting the conference. ♦





Ben Timmerman, Highway Maintenance Worker Sr. at District 8 in Burwell, discusses his innovation, the air compressor hose bracket, with a guest at the Midwest Equipment Innovations show in St. Joseph, Missouri.

*"This type of show offers transportation employees the opportunity to examine what others are doing and to realize the value of developing and sharing our best ideas."*

- Tom Sands  
NDOR Fleet Manager

# Equipment Elicits Excitement at Innovations Expo

NDOR joined area transportation departments in sharing their latest ideas during the second Midwest Equipment Innovations, a multi-state maintenance equipment show held September 13 in St. Joseph, Missouri.

The innovations displayed by all states were inventions created by employees that improved efficiency, cost effectiveness and/or field operations safety. The goal of the expo was to share successes and generate enthusiasm toward working together to improve field operations.

"This type of show offers transportation employees the opportunity to examine what others are doing and to realize the value of developing and sharing our best ideas," noted Tom Sands, NDOR Fleet Manager.

The show, sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and the

Missouri Department of Transportation, featured innovations from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska transportation departments. Exhibits ranged from a \$50 bridge-deck-form jack to higher-priced items like a \$27,000 truck that was converted to transfer concrete barriers from a trailer to a highway.

More than 1,000 people attended from the four participating agencies, other surrounding states, counties and cities. Besides the employee exhibits displayed at the show, 30 manufacturers showcased new commercially built equipment.

Altogether there were 38 innovations displayed at the show. Nebraska had seven innovations this year, along with two new snow trucks. A complete listing of innovations is included on this page. According to Sands, NDOR submitted fewer items this year, but the quality of ideas was exceptional. ♦

## Equipment Innovations

- **Tractor Loader with Guardrail Spray Attachment**  
*Designed by Robert Dobesh*
- **Wing Blade Cradle**  
*Designed by Gail Cunningham*  
(This innovation also won the NDOR Employee Suggestion Award.)
- **Attenuator Mounted on a Semi-Tractor**  
*Designed by Jeff Kostbahn and Denny Jardine*
- **Spray Truck**  
*Designed by Steve Ptacek*
- **Heat Pot for One-Ton Dump Truck**  
*Designed by Brad Geisler*
- **Sign Trailer**  
*Designed by Mike Chambers*
- **Air Compressor Hose Bracket**  
*Designed by Ben Timmerman*

# NDOR Holds First Environmental Summit

By Cindy Veys  
Project Development Division

On October 17, Project Development Division sponsored an Environmental Summit to bring together environmental agencies involved in permits and approvals for NDOR projects. It was the first time that all of these agencies were assembled under one roof, focused solely on NDOR project development environmental issues. The event was designed to educate the agencies on NDOR's project development and environmental review process, to develop a better understanding of how the agencies interact on our projects, and to identify opportunities for improvement in review and response time.

Thirty-five individuals attended the summit, representing the following ten state and federal agencies: Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality, Nebraska State Historical Society, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

The morning session of the Summit consisted of a series of presentations by NDOR personnel, designed to educate the agencies on how environmental concerns are factored into the project development process. Presentations were given on topics such as: where projects come from, project timing and scheduling, early corridor and engineering review studies, environmental document development, archeology, threatened and endangered species reviews, wetlands and waterways permits, noise and air quality, engineering design, landscaping, and how environmental commitments are worked into project construction.

During the afternoon session, agencies were given the opportunity to educate NDOR and one another on their environmental responsibilities in permitting transportation projects.



Edward Kosola, FHWA Right-of-Way Officer, was one of the presenters at NDOR's first Environmental Summit. Over ten state and federal agencies were represented at the summit.

They discussed areas of successful coordination with NDOR as well as areas where improvements could be made.

The agencies then split into small groups to consider what is going well now, areas needing improvement, key factors in their agency that might impact how we do business together, and brainstorm suggestions for how we can improve the process.

Many suggestions were received that will be evaluated and implemented to improve our relationships as well as the permitting process. NDOR will take the suggestions and seek to implement those that are feasible.

At the end of the day, attendees were enthusiastic about the excellent opportunity to learn from one another and to network with other agencies. ♦

## December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

**You Drink and Drive. You Lose.** It's that simple. That's the message the Nebraska Department of Roads wants everyone to hear this holiday season. Nationally, while the number of alcohol-related fatalities during holiday periods is at an all-time low (down 34 percent since 1995), impaired driving is still a leading cause of death for people under the age of 30.

In 1999, nearly 16,000 people were killed and more than 300,000 were injured as a result of alcohol-related crashes. The Nebraska Department of Roads joins the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration in support of their national goal to lower the death toll to no more than 11,000 by 2005.

During National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, and all year long, please join NDOR and other organizations in getting this message out to everyone: **You Drink and Drive. You Lose.** It's that simple. Don't drink and drive, and don't let your friends or loved ones drink and drive, either. ♦



# A Truckload of Transportation Technology



**Above:** USDOT's Advanced Traffic Technologies mobile showcase made a three-day stop at central headquarters in Lincoln.

**Left:** Rick Denney, of Iteris Corporation, shares the latest in Intelligent Transportation Systems technologies with workshop participants.



**By Jim McGee**  
Transportation Technology Group

In October, the Nebraska Department of Roads Transportation Technology Group hosted USDOT's Advanced Traffic Management Technologies mobile showcase in both Omaha and Lincoln. The showcase, which is geared to planners and transportation practitioners, provided a comprehensive, hands-on overview of many commercially available Intelligent Transportation Systems technologies that have been loaned to the USDOT Federal Highway Administration by industry partners.

The Advanced Traffic Technologies tractor/trailer is 48 feet in length, 13.5 feet tall, and 72,000 pounds in weight. While

just 9.5 feet wide on the road, it expands to a width of 23 feet when on display. The 40-foot mast of the trailer sports two traffic surveillance cameras that are used for demonstrations.

There is more than \$1,000,000 worth of advanced traffic technology equipment aboard the showcase, which was demonstrated during the three-day event at each location. This included two Executive Summary presentations on the first day and a two-day Advanced Traffic Management Technologies workshop on the second and third days.

Attendance for both stops totaled more than 150. Traffic management professionals from NDOR, FHWA, and the cities of Lincoln and Omaha, as well as other jurisdictions attended. The national coordinator of the showcase is Jeff Gersen of California Polytechnic Institute. Rick Denney and Sharom Malek of Iteris Corporation taught the two-day workshop. ♦

## Wetlands Acquired at Lincoln Bend Missouri River

Ducks Unlimited recently joined with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Environmental Trust, and Nebraska Department of Roads to purchase in fee-title 347 acres of wetland and floodplain habitat at Lincoln Bend. This area is located adjacent to Indian Cave State Park in extreme southeast Nebraska near Barada in Nemaha County. The State of Nebraska will own the new acquisition, which will be managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Initial wetland restoration work on Lincoln Bend will include plugging the drain ditches and closing drain tubes and culverts. A water control-structure will be placed at the lower end of the chute connected to the Missouri River to allow the capture of high flows and management of water levels for wetland habitat benefits. Higher upland areas will be seeded to native grasses.

Restoration of Lincoln Bend will return significant environmental benefits for myriad wildlife, including

numerous waterfowl species that use the Missouri River as a migration highway each spring and autumn. Mallards, blue-winged and green-winged teal, pintails, gadwalls, redheads, ring-necked ducks, and Canada, snow, and white-fronted geese will once more find attractive shallow wetland habitat along the Lincoln Bend stretch of the Missouri River.

*Article excerpt courtesy of Ducks Unlimited, November/December 2000.*



# We Get Letters ...

September 27, 2000

Dear Sirs,

I am writing on behalf of the six Department of Tourism Travel Counselors who staff the information centers at Exits 133 westbound and 124 eastbound, I-80 rest areas, Ogallala. The Department of Roads' staff that manage these rest areas are Stan Compton, Kim Bray, Roy Whiteley and Megan Shadle. I would like to express our sincere appreciation for all their help to us and for their making our jobs easier.

They carry our heavy boxes of freight into the centers and then haul all bags and boxes of out-dated materials and trash out. They readily help us with maintenance problems inside the centers, in addition to keeping the entire park areas attractive and restroom facilities in clean and working condition—often a real struggle in these older complexes.

Every day, more than once a day, we hear compliments on these rest areas. This summer was intensely hot and dry, yet the trees, grass and wildflowers were thriving under their diligent care. The parks are considered welcome oases to tired travelers. Often the comments are, "These are the best rest areas we've ever seen!" We are proud to work here.

Travelers are often overtired, unpleasant and critical. These Road Department persons are patient and certainly show dignity in their reactions dealing with Nebraska's visitors. They do a thankless job, but they do it exceedingly well. We are grateful to be working with them

Sincerely,

Bonnie Harrington  
Department of Tourism  
Ogallala, Nebraska

**Editor's Note:** Stan Compton and Kim Bray are Hwy. Maintenance Workers Sr. and Roy Whiteley is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker at District 6 in Ogallala. Megan Shadle was a temporary Maintenance Worker.

October 16, 2000

Mr. Fred Zwonecheck  
Highway Safety Division  
Dept. of Motor Vehicles

Dear Sir,

My wife and I are very thankful for the rumble strip that I encountered east of Kearney. We were returning from an out-of-state trip and I fell asleep and veered onto the right side. Thank God for no other vehicles and your well engineered strips. They work!

Sincerely,

Milford & Evelyn Hansen  
Lincoln, Nebraska

**Editor's Note:** Mr. Zwonecheck received this letter and credited the Department of Roads for installing the rumble strips.

November 6, 2000

Department of Roads  
Broken Bow Office

We want to express our appreciation to your crews for their assistance following the tornado in our service area. Our linemen relayed that your folks diverted traffic to free our crews to make the area safe and to begin the restoration of service.

Their willingness to pitch in to assist to insure their neighbor's safety and well-being is a credit to them and reflects the community spirit that makes Central Nebraska such a great place to live.

Thanks again from the entire Custer Public Power Team.

Sincerely,

Lloyd H. Ramsey & Carl Olson  
Custer Public Power District  
Broken Bow, Nebraska

September 29, 2000

District Office  
Norfolk, Nebraska

The Korean War Vets wishes to thank you for your generous donation of the case of the Nebraska - 2000 - Millennium state highway maps. They are beautiful and were well received at our 14th Annual Korean Veterans of Nebraska Reunion held August 25-27 in Kearney. Our final count was 650 veterans and family members. It was a wonderful reunion and I'm sharing one of the clippings from the Omaha World Herald.

By the end of the reunion, there were only 15 maps left on the display table which carried your Department name as donor. I left those 15 maps on the hotel desk. Thank you so much.

Loretta Ludemann  
Committee Member

September 25, 2000

Governor Johanns,

I want to advise you of the wonderful job the Nebraska Department of Roads did during the Saw Log Fire in northwest Nebraska in September. During the early stages of the fire, my deputies were unable to cover all of the tasks asked of them. I contacted Chris Ford of the Department of Roads, and he had his people fill the gaps for us. I was contacted by Chris and he advised that NDOR Director John Craig had given him approval to do anything needed to assist. This was the kind of help we needed to complete our tasks.

Since that time, there have been several other fires in Dawes County. The Department has been there to help every time. I and my staff are grateful.

This fire season has been difficult for all of us. The work done by the Department during these fires made things a little less difficult and I appreciate what they did.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Karl Dailey  
Dawes County Sheriff  
Chadron, Nebraska

October 1, 2000

Re: Hwy. 15 road construction at Fairbury.

Asem Al-Turk,

During the construction, Armin Daubendick managed to be polite, understanding, helpful and courteous while trying to explain everything, deal with all the problems and find ways to solve them to everybody's satisfaction. He, Denny Endorf and James James (as well as the other workers) were polite and very understanding of what we were all going through—dust, noise, machines and inconveniences. They tried to help us understand and cope with everything. Theirs was not an easy job.

They were right. It all came together finally. The lights are up, the sod is down and everything is looking much better.

Just wanted to let you know how much we appreciated all their help and consideration.

Thank you,

Wanda & Robert Hurst  
Fairbury, Nebraska

**Editor's Note:** The three NDOR workers mentioned work at District 1 in Fairbury. Armin Daubendick is a Hwy. Project Manager, Dennis Endorf and James James are Hwy. Construction Tech III's.

**Editor's Note:** The helpful District 5 employees' are: Chris Ford, Hwy. Maintenance Supt.; Paul Howard, Hwy. Maintenance Supvr.; Terry Frederick and John Lutz, Hwy. Maintenance Workers Sr., all from Chadron. Doug Heibult, Hwy. Maintenance Supvr.; Jim Hughes, Hwy. Maintenance Crew Chief; Mike Reynoldson, Vehicle Operator I; Scott Norgard and Steve Green, Hwy. Maintenance Workers Sr.; and Chester Woodden, Hwy. Maintenance Worker; all from Crawford. And Frank Piper, Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr. from Harrison.

**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.**