
BUILD NEBRASKA ACT

THE NEXT 10 YEARS

Build Nebraska Act Regional Meeting Lexington, NE - January 14, 2016

In the second of four regional meetings, NDOR staff met with mid-Nebraska citizens on Thursday, January 14, in Lexington to talk about how to best invest \$600 million for state highway capital improvement projects under the next cycle of the Build Nebraska Act (BNA).

NDOR is talking with Nebraskans across the state about expanding the capital improvement project prioritization process to better consider economic impacts and include more stakeholder input. A candidate list of projects for funding was shared and participants were asked if additional projects should be considered. Discussions in Lexington were positive about expanding the process, and additional projects were suggested for consideration. Specific topics included:

- **Support for updating the prioritization process** - Attendees overall support the enhancement of economic and stakeholder input into NDOR's project prioritization process.
- **Influence of traffic counts and population on the prioritization process** - Attendees support the use of engineering data in the process, but some are worried about how heavily traffic counts or population might influence both engineering and economic performance.
- **Economic performance considerations** - Participants in the Lexington meeting would like the following issues to be considered as the economic performance evaluation process is developed:
 - Consider consistently or historically economically distressed regions differently than recently economically distressed
 - Safety is key when weighting, but some favored weighting economics higher than engineering
 - Improving access to healthcare facilities can be important to the economy of a region.
 - While economic analysis should focus on the impact of transportation investments on the economy of a region or the entire state, broader economic inter-state impacts should also be considered, particularly the north/south flow of freight and tourism. Nebraska has good east/west mobility, but poor north/south mobility.
 - Make sure the economic impact factors reflect the differences between urban and rural areas.

Participants also suggested several projects be added to the candidate list. As a practical matter, it was suggested that not all improvements have to be four-lane highways. "Super-two" improvements can provide important improvements to the regional transportation system at a lower cost than constructing a four-lane highway.

Based on feedback from the meetings, NDOR staff will refine the expanded prioritization process and begin scoring projects. Additional meetings will be held in spring 2016 to discuss specific projects, and announcement of the next round of BNA projects is planned for summer 2016. Future meeting dates

and locations, as well as all the information being presented at the meetings, can be found at:
<http://www.roads.nebraska.gov/projects/bna/next10/>.

Don't forget to share your input – look for the comment card on the website.