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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NDOR Announces Working Group for County Bridge Match Program

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) has announced members of the County Bridge Match Program working group. The working group was created as a result of the Transportation Innovation Act (TIA), which was signed into law by Governor Pete Ricketts on Monday. The working group is comprised of leaders from across Nebraska that represent statewide associations, county officials, and bridge authorities. The group is responsible for defining the program criteria and guidelines but not the actual selection of the bridges, which will occur at a later date.

Members of the working group include: Larry Dix, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Executive Director; Steve Riehle, Hall County Engineer and President of the Nebraska Association of County Engineers, County Highway Superintendents and County Surveyors (an affiliate of NACO); Chris Jacobsen, Custer County Highway Superintendent; Steve Mika, Saunders County Highway Superintendent; Kevin Barta, Knox County Highway Superintendent; Tim Ryan, Keith County Highway Superintendent, and Dennis Wilson, Sarpy County Engineer and member of NDOR Innovation Task Force.

The working group and NDOR staff responsible for coordination will meet over the spring and summer months to further define the program in preparation for 2016 implementation. The NDOR is required to present details of the program, to include participation criteria and matching fund requirements for counties, to the Appropriations Committee and the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature on or before December 1, 2016. Working group member Steve Riehle noted, "It is encouraging, especially to those aware of the issues with county bridges in Nebraska, that NDOR has put so much emphasis on ensuring stakeholders are involved in defining the process and program selection criteria."

The County Bridge Match Program is one of three programs established by TIA, other programs include the Accelerated State Highway Capital Improvement Program and the Economic Opportunity Program. TIA authorizes up to \$40 million in funds from the Transportation Infrastructure Bank to be used for the County Bridge Match Program, which would terminate in 2023.

According to NDOR Director, Kyle Schneweis, "We are excited about the opportunity to implement innovative solutions to improve our bridge infrastructure. NDOR looks forward to working with our bridge partners to develop program criteria as we move forward with these much-needed improvements to our county bridges."

#NDOR#

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