

## WHAT WE'RE HEARING FROM YOU

NDOR is providing daily updates as we travel the state discussing regional priorities. More detailed meeting summaries will be developed and posted after the comment period ends on July 29. Please be sure to share your thoughts with us at <http://roads.nebraska.gov/projects/grow-ne/cap-improve/>.

### Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – the first day on the east side of the state

**Beatrice** – We had about 30 participants at the Southeast regional morning meeting held in Beatrice, including city and county representatives, economic development professionals and state patrol officers. All breakout groups were practical and budget-conscious with initial project packages reported out within the investment range. A few new projects were added to the list, and a few participants suggested removing projects.

Recognizing that the purpose of these meetings is to better understand regional priorities, facilitators worked with each group to identify how projects could address regional concerns and trends. Key issues in the Southeast include:

- Safety
- Increased traffic
- Growth in communities and the need to link communities in the region

Participants said they very much appreciated the data the Department provided on safety, engineering, economic impacts and project costs to support the tradeoff discussions.

**La Vista** – In the afternoon Southeast regional meeting, more than 80 participants discussed regional priorities and projects that support those priorities. Traffic and economic development were key issues. In what might be a trend, groups continued to be budget-conscious with five out a six groups reporting out packages of project priorities that met or were below the investment range limit. Like Beatrice, a few new projects and scope options were suggested; however, no one suggested removing projects.

A quote from one participant was particularly memorable and represents much of today's vibe. He said, *"While I represent a city, I'm a citizen first and I understand projects need to be built in lots of cities. I appreciate understanding how much work NDOR does when spending money and I'm glad to know they really think about my tax dollars."* He went on to remark that NDOR sharing that much data for the tradeoff discussion was very impressive.