



Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEBRASKA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION
Nebraska Department of Transportation
1500 Highway 2
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502
(402) 471-4567

8:30 a.m., Friday, October 27, 2023
State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes

On Friday, October 27, 2023, the Nebraska State Highway Commission convened at Holdrege Maintenance Yard Large Conference Room located at 1013 W 4th Ave in Holdrege, Nebraska. The agenda, a recording of meeting, attendance sheets, and handouts relevant to the business of this meeting are a part of the permanent minutes of record and are on file at NDOT Central Headquarters. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act (Statutes 84-1407 to 84-1414) was posted in the meeting room.

MEETING NOTICE

- Notice of the regularly scheduled meeting, including the time, location, and agenda, was advertised on the Department of Transportation and the State of Nebraska’s websites no less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- The agenda was emailed or mailed to commission members, NDOT staff, and interested persons no less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- A media release was emailed to all statewide outlets on October 20, 2023.
- The meeting agenda was kept current and available to the public in the Communication Division of the Nebraska Department of Transportation, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, Nebraska. No changes were made to the agenda within 48 hours prior to commencement.
- Copies of the meeting agenda were posted and available to the public at the entrance to the meeting room.
- There were 17 in attendance via Webex.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Commissioner Richard Meginnis | District 1 |
| • Commissioner | Vacant |
| • Commissioner David Copple | District 3 - Attended via WebEx |
| • Commissioner James H. Kindig | District 4 |
| • Commissioner Doug Leafgreen | District 5 |
| • Commissioner Jim Hawks | District 6 |
| • Commissioner Greg Wolford | District 7 |
| • Commissioner Jerome Fagerland | District 8 |
| • Director Vicki Kramer | |

Sarah Soula, NDOT External Affairs Manager, was recording. A transcript of the meeting is available upon request. Nebraska State Highway Commission meetings are conducted in compliance with the statutes of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

CALL TO ORDER

- Commissioner Kindig called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
- Commissioner Kindig requested an attendance roll call. A quorum was present.

MINUTES

- Approval of September 22, 2023, meeting minutes
 - Motion for approval made by Commissioner Hawks; Commissioner Meginnis seconded.
 - Motion carried by rollcall vote, 7-0, Commissioner Copple attended via WebEx.

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No introductions or announcements.

MEETING BUSINESS

- **Director's Remarks**
Vicki Kramer, NDOT Director
 - Our focus the last two weeks has been on safety. As most of you know, we lost a member of our team earlier this year and another one a few months ago. It's been over a decade to now two within the same year of each other requires a look at safety and asking the question, how can we provide a safer environment for our staff?
 - Leadership is working internally and externally on areas in need of improvement. I'm meeting with employees personally that have been with us for less than a year to ensure they understand the importance of on-the-job safety while supporting the districts with any resources they need.
 - November is safety month and the "Buckle Up Phone Down" is big for us. We're working with multiple schools as part of this initiative to get the message out.
- **Commissioner Welcome**
Greg Wolford, District 7 Commissioner
 - These meetings allow the public in District 7 to bring forward projects in front of the Commissioners and voice concerns.
 - District 7 covers a large area of 13 counties but is not very populated.
- **District Presentation**
Kurt Vosburg, District 7 Engineer
 - 2023 Accomplishments
 - N-61 Enders South
 - 3.7miles resurfaced
 - Repaired/Preserved bridge.
 - US-6 Palisade - N-25
 - 6.4 miles resurfaced and widened to 28'
 - Repaired/Preserved bridges.
 - Modify N-25 Jct.
 - N-47 Cambridge South
 - 4.7 miles graded and resurfaced.
 - Culvert
 - Repaired/Preserved Bridge
 - RR crossing replaced.
 - US-6/34 N-46 - Atlanta
 - 9.9 mile resurfaced.
 - Repaired/Preserved bridge.
 - 6.6 miles resurfaced.

- 3 lane conversion in Atlanta
- US-136 In Orleans and East
 - 5.2 miles resurfaced.
 - Repaired/Preserved bridges.
- N-10 Minden North
 - 11.6 miles resurfaced.
 - Pavement repair/grinding
 - Culverts
 - Repaired/Preserved bridge.
 - Traffic signal installed.
- US-136 Naponee- Bloomington
 - 5.8 miles resurfaced and widened to 28'
 - Culverts and grading
 - Repaired/Preserved bridges.
- System Preservation
 - Goal of preventable rather than reactive maintenance
 - Crack sealing, chip seals, cold milling, hot-mix asphalt, earth shoulder reconstruction
- FY-24 Highway Program
 - N-4 N-44-N-10
 - Resurface 10.9 miles and widen to 28'
 - N-18 Stockville East and Curtis South
 - Bridges replaced.
 - N-23 Loomis-Holdrege
 - Resurface 7.0 miles.
 - N-25 Kansas Line-Trenton South
 - Resurface 10.3 miles.
 - Bridge repairs/preservation
 - N-44 N-4-Wilcox
 - Resurface 5.5 miles.
 - Extend 2 culverts.
 - N-44 Wilcox- W. Jct. US-6/34
 - Resurface 7.0 miles.
- McCook- North Platte Super 2 Update
 - Project is installing passing lanes at regular intervals with a total of 16 passing lanes.
 - The project was delayed due to an endangered Beetle mitigation study.
 - The study cost \$2 million out of the budget.
 - The total price of the project went up due to the increase of construction costs and inflation.
 - The funds for the 2021 project are carried over each year and monitored in the cash flow.

PUBLIC INPUT

- **Summary of email received October 4, 2023, from Tom Nelson:** I live in Columbus and have an interest in the US-81 Expressway project between York and Columbus. I read an article in the Polk County newspaper that the US-81 Expressway was to go through the communities of Stromsburg, Osceola, and Shelby instead of bypassing them which I confirmed after viewing the January 2023 Commission Meeting minutes. There was a study done in 1995 that recommended those three communities be bypassed. The presenter at that January meeting stated that bypasses of Stromsburg, Osceola, and Shelby would be done sometime in the

- future if it becomes necessary. How much more will it cost to build through towns now and then bypass later when compared to just bypassing now? I appreciate trying to be good stewards of public money by recommending a less expensive alternative. But I cannot support having an expressway going through small towns if you intend to bypass later.
- **Nate Schneider, City Administrator McCook:** I am here to advocate for the extension of Super 2 on US-83 from McCook to the Kansas border. It would create Economic opportunities for the area and enhance highway safety. I ask that NDOT make it a priority. I have brought letters of support for the project to include in the minutes.
 - **Randall Smith, Kearney County Highway Superintendent:** I ask the Commission to consider in project planning adding lighting and a turn lane on Hwy 6 and road 26 instead of adding a turn lane to Hwy 6 and road 28, due to increase in traffic. With the ethanol plant on road 28 not in operation there is not a need anymore. The resources would be better spent on the intersection of Hwy 6 and road 26.
 - **Kurt Vosburg:** There was an evaluation done on Road 26 and it didn't warrant a turn lane at this time, but it would be monitored.
 - **Commissioner Wolford:** Requested that NDOT provide a response to public comments with the Commission following each meeting so the Commissioners can chair them with their constituents. Director Kramer agreed to provide a follow-up response.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

- No remarks from the chair.

PUBLIC MEETINGS CALENDAR

- There are public meetings being scheduled and everyone will be updated in December.
- The next scheduled highway commission meeting is December 8, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. NDOT Headquarters Auditorium located at 1500 Nebraska Parkway in Lincoln, Nebraska

ADJOURNMENT

- The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.