

Capital Improvement Projects Regional Meetings

La Vista, NE – July 13, 2016

In the second of eight regional stakeholder meetings, the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) met with Nebraska residents on Wednesday, July 13, in La Vista to provide the results of potential capital improvement projects analyzed under the expanded project prioritization process.

In addition to sharing the engineering and economic analysis results, NDOR also sought input on local and regional project priorities from the stakeholders. NDOR staff recognize that residents have important information about how projects can best support local priorities, and staff wanted to hear firsthand from stakeholders why some projects should be prioritized over others from the candidate list.

Participants expressed support for a variety of projects in the region, and NDOR described that there are always more transportation needs than funding. Based on facilitated discussions at that meeting, the breakout groups identified the following projects as their priorities for important reasons such as safety, high traffic volumes, better corridor connections, and economic development:

- **US-6/N-66 Ashland Bypass (4-lane divided highway, \$14M)**
 - Discussion: existing truck traffic, potential economic development, would provide an alternate route from Lincoln to Omaha, safety improvements.
- **US-6 at 192nd St and West Dodge Rd in Omaha (interchange improvements, \$17M)**
 - Discussion: existing traffic, traffic growth due to proximity of hospital, potential economic growth opportunities, potential redevelopment opportunities in the area, the interchange is currently designed for rural use and needs to be modernized.
- **N-50 from Louisville to Springfield (4-lane divided highway, \$63M)**
 - Discussion: existing traffic due to job growth and quarries in the area, reduce congestion and travel times, potential economic development.
- **N-64 from I-680 to N-133 (6-lane highway, \$25M)**
 - Discussion: safety improvements, existing crash rates, increased development occurring in this part of the city.
- **N-64 from N-31 to I-680 (6-lane highway, \$51M)**
 - Discussion: existing crash rate, reduce congestion on West Dodge Rd, increased development occurring in this part of the city.
- **US-75 from Douglas County Line to Blair (Super 2, \$20M)**
 - Discussion: existing traffic volumes in the area, better connectivity between communities in the area.
 - Scope options: stakeholder groups selected the Super 2 option, noting that it would be an effective use of limited funds.
- **US-77/Fremont Southeast Beltway (4-lane divided expressway, \$26M)**
 - Discussion: crash rate in the area, potential economic development opportunities, for example a business expected to bring 1,100 jobs to the area, existing truck traffic due to proximity of railroads.

- **I-80 and N-31 Interchange (interchange improvements, \$14M)**
 - Discussion: safety improvements, commercial development in the area – including a shopping mall and business park – that is scheduled to be completed in 2018.
- **I-80 and N-50 Interchange (interchange improvements, \$12M)**
 - Discussion: anticipated population growth in the area, traffic volumes, and existing capacity issues.
- **I-80 and 192nd St Interchange in Omaha (new interchange construction, \$16M)**
 - Discussion: congestion reduction, better regional connectivity, potential economic development in the area.
- **I-80 from Giles Road to Harrison St (add auxiliary lanes, \$15M)**
 - Discussion: expected high population growth in the area, existing capacity issues, and potential economic development in the area.
- **N-92 from Platte River East (4-lane divided highway, \$26M)**
 - Discussion: safety improvement, request turn lanes, existing traffic noise.
 - Scope options: stakeholder groups indicated that this segment was the most important part of the N-92/US 275 east of Yutan corridor.
- **N-370 from Gretna East to I-80 (6-lane divided highway, \$7M)**
 - Discussion: safety improvement, existing traffic and crash rate, improve connectivity to I-80.
- **N-370 from I-80 to Bellevue (6-lane divided highway, \$21M)**
 - Discussion: relief for existing traffic congestion, and potential economic growth.

More than 275 comments were also received online during the comment period, which was open through Friday, July 29. Comments related to candidate projects in the southeast region supported the projects above, including:

- US-6 at 192nd St and West Dodge Rd in Omaha
- N-64 from I-680 to N-133
- N-64 from N-31 to I-680
- US-77/Fremont Southeast Beltway
- N-92 from Platte River East

NDOR staff is now taking a hard look at some of the candidate project scopes and evaluating stakeholder feedback from the regional meetings. In addition to engineering performance, economic performance and stakeholder input, NDOR has to balance many other important considerations, such as geographic inclusion, corridor completion, and the availability of supplemental funding. NDOR will announce a list of initial projects selected under the Build Nebraska Act and Transportation Innovation Act programs this fall. It is likely that less than \$1 billion in projects will be selected so that some funds will be available in future years to address evolving capital improvement project needs. This approach will allow NDOR to create an ongoing evaluation process to identify sets of projects that are best suited to address Nebraska's needs.