

Capital Improvement Projects Regional Meetings

McCook, NE – July 15, 2016

In the sixth of eight regional stakeholder meetings, the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) met with Nebraska residents on Friday, July 15, in McCook 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 project as their priority for important reasons such as safety and economic development:

- **US-83 from McCook to North Platte (Super 2, \$92M)**
 - Discussion: safety improvements where seasonal fog, traffic, agricultural equipment, and wildlife exist, improve passing opportunities, community has been waiting for this project for 20+ years.
 - Scope options: stakeholder groups prefer the 4-lane option, but are willing to accept the Super 2, recognizing that there are limited funds available.

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 south region supported the project above:

- US-83 from McCook to North Platte

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.