

8:30 a.m., Friday, June 23, 2023
State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes

On Friday, June 23, 2023, the Nebraska State Highway Commission convened at Ainsworth Conference Center located at 606 E 4th St in Ainsworth, 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 June 16, 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, 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 16 in attendance via Webex

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Commissioner Mary K. Gerdes | District 1 - Absent |
| • Commissioner | Vacant |
| • Commissioner David Copple | District 3 |
| • 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 | Ex Officio |

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

MINUTES

- Approval of May 19th, 2023, meeting minutes
 - Motion for approval made by Commissioner Leafgreen; Commissioner Wolford seconded.
 - Motion carried by rollcall vote, 5-0

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NDOT District Staff were introduced

MEETING BUSINESS

- **Director's Remarks and Introductions**
Vicki Kramer, NDOT Director
 - Legislative Update
 - NDOT Budget Approved
 - \$100M Addition to support the IIJA
 - \$33M/Year
 - Cap of gas tax at \$.29
 - LB 706 & LB 727
 - Bills were combined. The Commission does have a role in bonding approval. The bonding option would only be utilized on the right projects, would be an innovative approach.
 - There is an education piece that would be needed internal and externally
 - LB 683 – Broadband
 - The approval of the bill moves the Broadband Office into NDOT which will ultimately support the Broadband Office with incoming BEAD Funds. The BEAD funds come from IIJA Funds, which NDOT has skills to support Federal Funding.
 - Once of three active programs, unique guidelines, and requirements for fund deployment.
 - Official Allocation is anticipated in one week. Once this is identified there is a 180-day clock that begins on identifying a 5-year plan for deploying funds.
 - Transportation Summit
 - IIJA is a complex bill, so NDOT is hosting a local workshop on August 23rd to support our local partners in identifying grant opportunities that are available and what they need to do to better position themselves to obtain those funding opportunities.
 - Governor's Economic Development Summit
 - This is to be held on August 9th. The debut of the new broadband fiber map will occur here. NDOT will participate on three panels, Broadband, Workforce Development, and Freight Planning/Intermodal Transportation.
- **Commissioner Welcome**
Jerome Fagerland, District 8 Highway Commissioner
 - Welcome everyone in attendance. The purpose of holding these meetings in the districts is to get us out, see projects in the area and talk to the locals.
- **District Presentation**
Mark Kovar, NDOT District 8 Engineer
 - District 8 consist of 9 counties.
 - 2023 Winter Operations

- \$3.7M was spending snow and ice removal in 2023.
- District Maintenance Staff did a great job clearing the snow as quickly as they did given the amount of snow that fell.
- There was local concern about the new Niobrara River Bridge near Spencer as the bridge does sit low. The bridge was designed to withstand these kinds of weather conditions and it did quite well.
- Current Highway Improvement Projects to note:
 - In Ainsworth
 - Urban Reconstruction
 - In Valentine
 - Urban Reconstruction. Once completed, another reconstruction project will begin on W 4th St.
 - Stafford – Holt/Antelope Co. Line
 - Long awaited, 8-mile Resurfacing project
- Future Highway Improvement Projects
 - Hwy 7 In Ainsworth
 - Reconstruction Project includes a detour. Currently scheduled for Dec 2023 Letting, spring 2024 construction
 - In Butte & North
 - Resurfacing and widening project. Currently scheduled for October 2023 letting, spring 2024 construction
 - Long Pine Bridge
 - Bridge Replacement requiring a long detour. Currently scheduled to let August 2023, spring 2024 construction
 - W 4th St., Valentine
 - Reconstruction project requiring a detour on city streets. Currently scheduled for December 2023, spring 2024 construction.

PUBLIC INPUT

- No public input received.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

- There wasn't a lot of attendance or questions today, we still feel it's important for the Commission to travel around the state.

PUBLIC MEETINGS CALENDAR

- NDOT will hold a public meeting for the US-275/72nd St, Interchange (72nd & L Street) Project from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on July 20, 2023, at Buena Vista High School in Omaha, NE.
- NDOT will hold a public meeting for the Hastings SE Project from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on July 25, 2023, at Hastings City Auditorium in Hastings, NE.
- The upcoming meetings hosted by NDOT will be held in:
 - Broken Bow – June 21, 5:30 PM; Broken Bow Public Library, 626 D St
 - South Sioux City – June 29, 5:30 PM; South Sioux City Marriott Riverfront, 385 E 4th St
 - *If you can't make it to one of these and are interested in participating, there will be meetings in Lincoln and Omaha in July 11&12 including a Webex link.
- The next scheduled meeting is August 25, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

- The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:19 a.m.