



Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, March 24, 2023
State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes

On Friday, March 24, 2022, the Nebraska State Highway Commission convened at La Vista Hotel & Conference Center located at 12520 Westport Pkwy in La Vista, 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 March 17, 2022.
- 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 11 people in attendance virtually.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Commissioner Mary K. Gerdes | District 1 |
| • Commissioner | Vacant |
| • Commissioner David Copple | District 3 – Absent |
| • 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 | Present |

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.
- The Vice Chair requested an attendance roll call. A quorum was present.

MINUTES

- Approval of January 20, 2023, meeting minutes
 - Motion for approval made by Commissioner Gerdes; Commissioner Hawks seconded.
 - Motion carried by rollcall vote, 6-0.

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Introductions:
 - No introductions or announcements

MEETING BUSINESS

- **Director's Remarks and Introductions**
Vicki Kramer, Director
 - Modernization
 - Update on legislation
 - LB 625 – Changing the funding formula for the Department. Prioritize funding based on population while removing the asset preservation criteria.
 - LB 706 – This is the Bonding bill; it's currently placed on General File with amendments. Projection 2042.
 - Questions:
 - LB 683 – Establishes broadband office that would move last mile buildout funding into NDOT. PSC has current jurisdiction. Has been moved to General File and would entail addition to NDOT. Broadband program is federally funded.
- **District Presentation**
Tim Weander, District 2 Engineer
 - Introduction and note of plans to retire in 2023.
 - Introduction of District 2 staff: Barb Gerbino-Bevins, Construction Engineer; Jim Laughlin, Operations Manager; and Damion Stern, Project Delivery Engineer.
 - Surface Transportation Meeting: District 2 Update Presentation:
 - Smallest geographic area comprised of 5 counties: Dodge, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, and Cass.
 - Largest population:
 - Largest traffic volumes:
 - Smallest system mileage:
 - 55% interstate, freeway, and rural expressway
 - 180 employees, largest State and Federal Representation.
 - Home to State Traffic Management Center.
 - Unique maintenance activities
 - Metro freeway night crews
 - Freeway cleaning
 - Emergency response
 - Traffic incident management
 - Winter operations
 - Dodge County projects: First completed project is US-30 Rogers – North Bend. US-30 North Bend – Fremont is under construction. Old US-30 would be relinquished to Dodge County. Currently have project to improve the highway to bring it up to standards. US-77 Fremont SE Beltway project to start construction this spring.

- Community concerns about speed on US- 30 North Bend – Fremont Expressway, led to implementation of a Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT).
- US-77 Fremont SE Beltway project would take US-77 entirely out of Fremont, meaning the city would have no highway traffic running through it.
- Additional projects in Dodge County include improvements to US-275 as part of expressway system expansion: West Point South, Scribner...
- Nebraska City – Omaha Expressway projects
- US-34/75 N-1 Intersection RCUT. NDOT will provide presentations to student drivers to demonstrate how RCUTs are driven.
- Precast concrete panel repair – unique process of installing improvements. Remove existing panels and install new precast concrete panels that are constructed off-site. Useful for high-volume roadways.
- 19 projects in District 2 this year, 6 specifically highlighted in presentation.
- NDOT utilizing interactive website called Moving the Metro to inform the public of Omaha Metro Area Construction projects.
- District 2 Expressway and Multilane Needs projects.
- New Build Nebraska Act and Transportation Innovation Act projects 2024-2028. 5 projects currently under construction, 5 projects selected to go into design, and one planning project selected.
- Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Study (MTIS) completed. Highlights major expansion projects or system preservation projects that are either already completed or in planning/design.

PUBLIC INPUT

- **Todd Pfitzer, Douglas County Engineer:** Heavy heart, worked with many engineers and wanted to acknowledge Tim for his service. Thanked Director and Commissioners for being here. For the last 16 years worked with City of Omaha as City Engineer. Care very much about this state, want to thank Moe and Khalil for all their help.
- **Mike Hilgersen, Executive Director of Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA):** Thank Tim for all his recent help. Been a tremendous asset to MAPA. Echo that MTIS is a transformative study for the area. Support new workers and support quality of life. Consolidated study for US-75 area. That came from funding from legislature and comes from original highway plan from the 1950's allows us to address flooding event as well as safety.
- **Jody Sanders, Fremont City Administrator:** Thank for attention given to area, and thank Tim for service. Relatively new to position, so this is hello and goodbye.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

- None

PUBLIC MEETINGS CALENDAR

- The next scheduled highway commission meeting is May 19, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the Highway Commission Room at NDOT Central Headquarters located at 1500 Nebraska Parkway in Lincoln, Nebraska

ADJOURNMENT

- The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.