

**Appendix K**

**Citizen Survey by  
Alliance Police Department**



## MEMORANDUM

To: Craig Lind, District Engineer Nebraska Department of Roads

From: J.D. Cox, City Manager – City of Alliance 

Subject: Heartland Expressway Survey

Date: March 3, 2011

Following our meeting on January 10, 2011 at the Knight Museum and Sandhills Center in Alliance, I asked E. John Kiss, Chief of Police to conduct a Citizen Survey regarding near miss incidents while driving on Highway 385 between Alliance and Junction 62E.

Attached you will find a copy of the memo sent to me by Chief Kiss summarizing the findings of the survey. There seems to be a genuine concern regarding the safety of motorists due to heavy traffic and the inability to pass safely.

Thank you for conveying the concerns of our residents that frequently drive this stretch of road to members of the Nebraska Department of Roads. If you have any questions regarding the survey or would like to discuss the Heartland Expressway project further, please feel free to call me.



**ALLIANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

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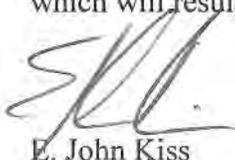
To: J.D. Cox, City Manager  
From: E. John Kiss, Chief of Police  
Subject: Survey for Heartland Express  
Date: February 23, 2011

As requested, a survey was made available for citizens to comment on traffic conditions they have experienced while driving on Highway 385 between Alliance and Junction 62E. The city has received twenty in all from citizens, but it does not include the feedback that I received from citizens whom personally told me of their experiences of driving on the highway.

Listening to citizens as well as reviewing the surveys the weather conditions was not much of a factor. The experiences individuals have had happen during all types of weather from winter to summer, night time to daylight hours and wet, snowy or dry road conditions.

All the individuals have stated that traffic conditions where close calls have occurred were when traffic was heavy or when traffic was backed up due to truck traffic from beets or hay haulers. There are drivers that are impatient and attempt to pass more than one vehicle at a time. Truckers that are passing other trucks when there is not enough clearance to make the pass safely is another problem. Many of the drivers have reported that almost every trip between Alliance and Scottsbluff they either experience or observe a close call involving other drivers. Many drivers have had to take evasive action in order to keep from being involved in an accident themselves. Drivers have reported that if not for the fact that they are aware of the dangers of the hills, curves and traffic that they probably would have been victims of accidents.

There was not much reported about the businesses that are on the highway south of Alliance as far as near misses of vehicle entering or egressing from the businesses. The individuals that I have talked to are very much in favor of expanding Highway 385 to a four lane road. They believe it is just a matter time before a severe accident will occur which will result in multiple fatalities.

  
E. John Kiss  
Chief of Police

**SURVEY SHEET**  
(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date: 1-31-11

Driver's Name: Gretchen Gearwood

Driver's Address: 150 W. 24<sup>th</sup> Alliance Phone #: 762-4596

Date of incident or approximate month: Fall 2009

Weather conditions at time of incident: dark - clear sky & roads

Description of event: My husband Max and another couple turned south at the intersection of 25<sup>th</sup> St. & Highway 385. Approximately 3/4 mile after our turn, we met 2 beet trucks on the curve. One was passing the other. I had to drive off the paving onto the shoulder of the road to avoid a head on collision.

Survey taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

**HEARTLAND EXPRESS**

**SURVEY SHEET**

**(Description of near miss incidents)**

**Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link**

**Today's Date:** 2-14-11

**Driver's Name:** Larry Lybarger

**Driver's Address:** 901 Cheyenne Alliance **Phone #:** 762-7475

**Date of incident or approximate month:** Sept 2010

**Weather conditions at time of incident:** Clear & Dry

**Description of event:** Hay hauler N Bound &  
numerous impatient vehicles  
behind passing in Hills  
w/ No Passing signs & Road  
Marks in Place - S Bound  
I had to take the shoulder  
to avoid -

Larry Lybarger 2-14-11

**Survey taken by:** \_\_\_\_\_

As an Adjuster I am driving the area 2-3 x Per Week - I see many of the same w/ other drivers ahead & behind - Time of year w/ Beet Trucks, Hay & Cattle mainly

**SURVEY SHEET**  
(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date February 2, 2011  
Driver's Name Jean Ryan  
Driver's Address 5851 #1 Serpy Rd. Phone # 702-4548  
Date of incident or approximate month May 2001  
Weather conditions at time of accident Clear & warm  
Description of event: I was driving to Wray, Colorado for my mother's funeral. As I came up over a small hill before the SB turn off, there was a car in my lane, passing another car. I had to take the shoulder and fortunately, nothing happened. I have also encountered a motorcycle driving in-between lanes, passing a vehicle.

Survey taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey's can be mailed to: City of Alliance  
PO Box D  
Alliance, NE 69301

Survey's can also be dropped off at the City Municipal Building or the Alliance Police Department.

**HEARTLAND EXPRESS**

**SURVEY SHEET**  
**(Description of near miss incidents)**

**Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link**

Today's Date: Feb 3 2011

Driver's Name: Joy D. Joice

Driver's Address: 1352 CR 68 Hemingford Phone #: 308 763 1552 or 487 5204

Date of incident or approximate month: Numerous occasions

Weather conditions at time of incident: Perfectly dry

Description of event: Oncoming vehicles will pass another and have no regard that it is not a wide road. It is very difficult to find a safe place to pass without risking a head on collision. The construction of passing lanes would be very helpful if we are unable to afford a four lane highway.

Thank You

Survey taken by: Joy D. Joice

SURVEY SHEET  
(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date 2-2-11

Driver's Name John Amateis

Driver's Address Bridgeport Phone # 279-1929

Date of incident or approximate month 1-25-11

Weather conditions at time of accident SNOWY

Description of event: tractor trailer rig passing in no-passing zone during limited visibility

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Survey taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

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**HEARTLAND EXPRESS**

**SURVEY SHEET**

**(Description of near miss incidents)**

**Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link**

Today's Date: 2-2-2011

Driver's Name: Melvyn Price

Driver's Address: 1352 CRAIG Hemingford Ne Phone #: 308-487-5204

Date of incident or approximate month: 1-2011

Weather conditions at time of incident: Clear and Dry

Description of event: Severe Traffic Congestion

and near head on at DOT weigh station

Angora Ne. officers working pull off.

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Survey taken by: Melvyn Price

**HEARTLAND EXPRESS**

**SURVEY SHEET**

**(Description of near miss incidents)**

**Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link**

Today's Date: 1-25-11

Driver's Name: DANA Bentley

Driver's Address: Alliance Ne Phone #: 308-762-2566

Date of incident or approximate month: All Fall and winter months

Weather conditions at time of incident: All weather conditions

Description of event: The traffic is so heavy during  
hunt and rehaul season that travel at  
best is risky. It is impossible to pass  
due high traffic and hunt rehaul vehicles  
being in groups. I travel 385 early  
on weekends to hunt and there is no  
light traffic times. People are taking chances  
while passing to clear truck traffic. We  
need a 4 lane throughfare.

Survey taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

762-4955

# DRAFT

## HEARTLAND EXPRESS

### SURVEY SHEET

Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date: 1/25/11

Driver's Name: PAT PIPER

Driver's Address: 2652<sup>nd</sup> 1/2 CR259 <sup>ALLIANCE, NE</sup> Phone #: 308-760-5784

Date of incident or approximate month: Nov 15 or so

Weather conditions at time of incident: Snow + Ice

Description of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Older person driving 25 mph  
with 15 cars behind them  
cannot pass

Survey taken by: PAT PIPER



762-4955

# DRAFT

## HEARTLAND EXPRESS

### SURVEY SHEET

Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date: 1-25-11

Driver's Name: Virginia Lenhart

Driver's Address: 1250 Heritage Dr Phone #: 308-436-2960

Date of incident or approximate month: 2- 2010

Weather conditions at time of incident: winter conditions

Description of event: Backed up Traffic that  
you can't pass. It's dangerous when  
someone tries to pass because of the  
danger to other people when they  
can't see far ahead.

Survey taken by: Virginia Lenhart

HEARTLAND EXPRESS

SURVEY SHEET

(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date: 1-25-11

Driver's Name: Rocky BELL

Driver's Address: Box 191 1417 EAST 3rd Phone #: 762-4880

Date of incident or approximate month: Dec 10 / Jan 11

Weather conditions at time of incident: CLEAR, CALM

Description of event: one occasion I had difficulty passing a beat re-haul as when he slowed uphill it was a no passing zone and of course downhill picks up speed, so you exceed the posted limit to finally get around. On another time I was 4th behind a slow driver including a semi behind the slow car. Not wanting to wait his turn to pass, someone in a pickup pulled out from behind all of us, passed the whole string of cars and the truck, on coming out took the shoulder.

Survey taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

HEARTLAND EXPRESS

SURVEY SHEET  
(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date: 1-27-11

Driver's Name: M.J. McGuire

Driver's Address: 331 Hillcrest Dr Phone #: 308-760-0193

Date of incident or approximate month: Jan 2011

Weather conditions at time of incident: Clear

Description of event: Comming West bound West of  
Rattlesnake park car passing at that  
location (close call).

Survey taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

# DRAFT

## HEARTLAND EXPRESS

### SURVEY SHEET

Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date: 1-20-11

Driver's Name: Rodney A. Mathewson

Driver's Address: 717 Park St - Scottsbluff Phone #: 701-641-2782

Date of incident or approximate month: May

Weather conditions at time of incident: Variable

Description of event: \_\_\_\_\_

I have driven this section of road at least twice a week for the last 8 years – both ways - & while I have never had an accident, it is more the fact that I'm lucky & a better driver than most & I've been able to avoid an accident.

I have had incident after incident on this highway – one of the most trying stretches of road that I travel.

While some of them are related to weather & the fact that many drivers choose to drive without their headlights on in inclement weather, the majority are related to slow moving vehicles in this stretch of road, the very short passing areas allowed, & then many vehicles getting stacked up behind the slower vehicle, until someone in the line gets tired of waiting & decides to try to pass the entire batch of vehicles, often speeding at very high speeds.

I don't know how many times I've seen speeding vehicles nearly side-swiped by others who are also tired of waiting & decide at the same time to pass the entire line.

A four-lane road here would be a life-saver. It's just a spooky highway.

Survey taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

SURVEY SHEET  
(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date 2/2/11

Driver's Name Richard A. Houck

Driver's Address 704 Laramie #12, Alliance, NE 69301 Phone # 308-762-5400

Date of incident or approximate month January

Weather conditions at time of accident Clear and Cold

Description of event: Traveling south on Hwy. 385 approximately 300 feet in back of semi. Speed of both was less than 65 mph. This was in the curvy/hilly portion of 385. A car came behind me rather quickly, was probably going in excess of 70 mph. The car came around me and passed and then had to pull sharply in front of me to avoid a north bound vehicle. I believe he was going to attempt to pass the semi also.

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SURVEY SHEET  
(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date 2-7-2011  
Driver's Name Ron Kelly  
Driver's Address 1023 Duncan Ave Phone # 762-4730  
Date of incident or approximate month Summer of 2010  
Weather conditions at time of accident \_\_\_\_\_

During the summer of 2010, I had to make twenty five trips from Alliance to Scottsbluff, for treatment related to my prostate cancer. As a result, I spent quite a bit of time on hiway 385 between Alliance and Angora. While I never had an accident, there were a number of times I did experience "close calls" as I tried to pass, because of the amount of traffic 385 carries, and the number of curves one has to negotiate, while driving from Alliance to the Scottsbluff turn-off and later returning to Alliance.

As I drove to and from Alliance to Scottsbluff, it gradually became clear to me that hiway 385 often carries more traffic than hiway 26.

My treatments were scheduled at various times of the day, so I was able to experience the impact of the traffic both on hiway 26 and hiway 385 at different times of the day.

I can honestly say that I felt much more safe travelling on hiway 26 than I felt travelling on hiway 385. Hiway 385 is not presently designed to safely handle the amount of traffic, that travels on it daily.

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HEARTLAND EXPRESS

SURVEY SHEET

(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385 -  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date: 1-28-11

Driver's Name: Julia A. Nepper

Driver's Address: H-3 Tower Plaza Phone #: 308-762-6278  
Alliance Ne 69301

Date of incident or approximate month: just about every trip

Weather conditions at time of incident: all roads

Description of event: in a stream of traffic and  
a driver in a hurry, pulls out to pass  
the whole string of cars with traffic coming  
at you in the other lanes, endangering everyone!

I have even had a driver ya pick up truck  
from 64 county follow me to my house and honk  
at me and scared the bejesus out of me.

Survey taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

SURVEY SHEET  
(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date February 17, 2011

Driver's Name Charlotte Moravek

Driver's Address 2009 Butte Box Avenue, Alliance, NE 69301 Phone 308.762.4462

Date of incident or approximate month Frequently

Weather conditions at time of accident Varied

Description of event: We travel this highway frequently and it happens more times than not that I have a near miss or get stuck behind a slow moving vehicle because there are very few safe passing zones.

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SURVEY SHEET  
(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date 2-17-11

Driver's Name Vickie Stenson-Mattex

Driver's Address 1443 Platte Ave. Alliance Phone # 762-8831

Date of incident or approximate month Numerous occasions

Weather conditions at time of accident dry

Description of event: traveling South on highway  
at speed limit. Passed by beet truck  
with on coming traffic. I moved to  
shoulder to allow enough room for  
all. Extremely dangerous situation, happens  
frequently because there isn't a passing  
lane.

Survey taken by: Vickie Stenson-Mattex

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SURVEY SHEET  
(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date February 17, 2011

Driver's Name A. James Moravek

Driver's Address 2009 Butte Box Avenue, Alliance, NE 69301 Phone 308.762.4462

Date of incident or approximate month Two or three times per month

Weather conditions at time of accident All kinds

Description of event: Every trip results in one or two close calls because of vehicles passing or being passed. Nearly every trip ends up behind a slow moving vehicles (50 to 55 mph), which results in a string of traffic several miles long that prevents anyone from passing.

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SURVEY SHEET  
(Description of near miss incidents)

Alliance/US Highway 385  
South to Scottsbluff Junction 62 E Link

Today's Date 2-18-11

Driver's Name Vickie Small

Driver's Address 2805 Toluca Ave Phone # 762-7597

Date of incident or approximate month December 2010

Weather conditions at time of accident Dark + Snowing

Description of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Going to work at 6:00 AM in the morning. Its dark and snowing traveling approx. 40 miles an hour came up on semi with a big load of hay on it. Could not see tail lights at all had to brake quickly.

Survey taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

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