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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Nebraska Department of Roads to Launch Innovation Task Force

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Director Kyle Schneweis announced today the formation of the Innovation Task Force for Transportation. The task force will focus on transportation issues in Nebraska and how those issues can be brought together for the benefit of the Nebraska economy. The task force will focus on ways that the public and private sectors can work together, provide opportunities to use new technologies and discuss how transportation investments can help Grow Nebraska.

Schneweis looks forward to working with the task force, pointing out, “As we explore less familiar areas, such as the economic impacts of our transportation investments and innovative funding, finance and project delivery, we need to look at these issues from all sides before we can decide which of these ideas make the most sense here in Nebraska. Our partners can help us to do that.”

Schneweis is eager to build upon transportation’s positive momentum in Nebraska through this task force. Following the recent announcement that the State is returning more than \$3 million to local governments due to project streamlining, Schneweis is ready to look for more ways to innovate at NDOR.

Governor Pete Ricketts encourages the creativity of a special task force while reminding them that fiscal responsibility continues to be the guiding principle. “Building a 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure is an important part of growing Nebraska. Good roads are important for public safety because they provide safe transportation corridors for our families commuting to work, dropping their kids off at school, and making a trip to the grocery store. As we continue to invest in building new infrastructure, we must continue to rely on the same fiscally-responsible financing principles that Nebraskans live by every day.”

The announcement of the task force comes as Schneweis wraps up a tour of the state where he talked with hundreds of stakeholders and NDOR employees about transportation in Nebraska. The task force will help identify ways to achieve Governor Ricketts’ and Schneweis’ goals to modernize NDOR’s business practices, increase transparency, encourage stakeholder engagement in transportation issues, and empower NDOR employees to make decisions that increase efficiency.

#NDOR#

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NR10-NV

Attached: Innovation Task Force Members



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## **Innovation Task Force List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Position</b>
Barbara Keegan	Hemingford	Box Butte Co. Hwy Supt
Denny Wilson	Papillion	Sarpy Co. Engineer
Tim Nelsen	Talmage	Otoe Co. Board of Commissioners
Bob Stubbe	Omaha	Omaha Public Works Director
Jim Hawks	North Platte	City Administrator, North Platte
Katie Wilson	Lincoln	AGC Executive Director
Jackie McCullough	Lincoln	ACEC NE Executive Director
Larry Johnson	Lincoln	Nebraska Trucking Association President
Thomas Wolf	North Bend	President, Platte Valley Bank
Dirk Petersen	Norfolk	VP & General Manager, Nucor
Barbara Cooksley	Anselmo	Pres. Elect Nebraska Cattlemen Association
K.C. Belitz	Columbus	Pres. Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Rawnda Pierce	Scottsbluff/Gering	Exec. Dir, Twin Cities Development Association, Inc.
Larry Rilett	Lincoln	UNL Professor of Civil Engineering
Dave Copple	Norfolk	Chair, State Highway Commission
EJ Militti	Omaha	Hwy Commissioner
Sen. Jim Smith	Papillion	Transportation & Telecommunications Committee Chair
Joe Werning	Lincoln	Division Administrator - Nebraska FHWA
Deb Gangwish	Shelton	PG Farms, Inc.