

the ROADRUNNER

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

October/November 2015



Harvest season near Rosalie, Nebraska

Photo by Dan Luedert

Nebraska Department of Roads

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Governor Pete Ricketts

Highway Commission

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Vacant | Doug Leafgreen |
| E.J. Militti, Jr. | Ronald Books |
| David Copple | Greg Wolford |
| James Kindig | Jerome Fagerland |

Administration

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Roads Director..... | Kyle Schneweis |
| Deputy Director | Moe Jamshidi |
| Deputy Director | Khalil Jaber |

Divisions

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bridge | Mark Traynowicz |
| Business Technology Support | Bill Wehling |
| Communication | Mary Jo Oie |
| Construction..... | Claude Oie |
| Controller | Marilyn Hayes |
| Government Affairs | Andy Cunningham |
| Human Resources..... | Sue Larson |
| Legal Counsel..... | Jeff Schroeder |
| Materials & Research | Mick Syslo |
| Operations | Tom Sands |
| Planning & Project Development..... | Mike Owen |
| Program Management..... | Amy Starr |
| Rail & Public Transportation | Ryan Huff |
| Right-of-Way | Robert Frickel |
| Roadway Design..... | James Knott |
| Traffic Engineering | Dan Waddle |

Districts

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| District 1 | Thomas Goodbarn |
| District 2..... | Timothy W. Weander |
| District 3 | Kevin Domogalla |
| District 4 | Wesley Wahlgren |
| District 5 | Doug Hoebet |
| District 6..... | Gary Thayer |
| District 7 | Kurt Vosburg |
| District 8 | Mark Kovar |

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|--------------------|-----------------|
| Copy Editor..... | Linda M. Wilson |
| Layout Editor..... | Diane German |

The information in this newsletter is contributed by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



From the Director

Building on Our Success...



Kyle Schneweis

Technology can be a great thing, and it helped bring us together in the first-ever department-wide webinar October 7. I know it took extra effort from BTSD and Communication employees and many in field offices to pull it off, but it was a good opportunity to share information and respond to your questions, in real time. Thank you for your work; I'm confident future webinars will be easier.

Just as technology has changed how we communicate, it is significantly changing many aspects of transportation, from GPS-enabled snowplows to driverless cars, in the not too distant future. It will require extra effort from all of us to take full advantage of today's and tomorrow's

technology, but it will pay big dividends in safety, lower costs and more durable infrastructure. I want us to be ready for changes that are on the horizon.

As I outlined during the webinar, I've been assessing NDOR performance, based on conversations with a multitude of employees, stakeholders, legislators and Governor Ricketts. I hope you see yourself or your thoughts reflected below because this is a collective assessment—it is not merely a reflection of my thoughts.

Great Foundation

First, NDOR has a great foundation to build upon. Our eight goals serve us well, and I'm confident we're delivering a high-quality highway system at a good value for Nebraskans' tax dollars. I've met hundreds of dedicated, hardworking employees. The Governor is pleased to build upon some of our strong business practices like expanding the 80/20 federal fund swap program. The public appreciates our well-maintained highway system—and who doesn't love a new groundbreaking project or ribbon cutting for a highway they've been waiting for?

Secondly, I'm also confident that we can achieve more with our talented workforce across the state by working together to:

- Modernize business practices to maximize transportation's value to Nebraska's economy by delivering projects and services as quickly and efficiently as possible.
- Increase transparency and stakeholder engagement so Nebraskans can more easily understand how their tax dollars are invested, and easily participate in decisions that affect their ability to travel and deliver goods and services.
- Empower employees to make decisions at the lowest practical level to increase efficiency and create a strong culture of pride and urgency.

And, lastly - we can achieve more by applying three guiding principles: (1) Be entrepreneurial, (2) Be engaging, and (3) Be empowering.

Our senior leadership team meets with me in early November. We'll work to better define these principles and how they best can be applied at NDOR. This, however, isn't going to be my plan—or their plan. The department will work together to develop a plan to achieve more, and be positioned for the future. I hope you will start thinking about these principles, and I encourage you to talk with your supervisor about your ideas for applying them. As I said repeatedly in the webinar—I'm not asking you to go this alone or take crazy risks. Talk with your supervisor. I will support—and will expect department leadership to support—your efforts to apply the guiding principles.

This is the beginning of the conversation. There will more webinars, written articles and meetings. But in the end, these need to be more than just words. We will build on our success. I know that together we can create a department with greater entrepreneurship, engagement and empowerment. It's like deploying technology. It will take some extra effort, and sometimes it doesn't work perfectly the first time; but the rewards of a more innovative, energizing workplace with better stakeholder relationships and support, are well worth it. ♦

Drew Wilson Dist. 7 Construction Engineer

Drew Wilson has been named the new District 7 Construction Engineer in McCook for the Nebraska Department of Roads.

District 7 includes Chase, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnace, Gosper, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Kearney, Perkins, Phelps, and Red Willow. Wilson, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Brice Goebel.

For 8 years, Wilson has worked full time at the Roads Department. He began as a temporary Highway Construction Technician during the summer of 2006 performing preliminary surveys. He worked for three years as a Designer in Roadway Design while attending school at UNL. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from UNL in 2010, Wilson worked for six months in Planning & Project



Drew Wilson

Development before moving to District 7, where he worked as an Engineer II performing inspections for a year. In 2012, he began working as a Project Manager and remained in that position for the past 3 years.

Wilson said the most fulfilling aspect of his career has been getting

to work with the amazing people at NDOR, and he believes the work that they do is unbelievably valuable. "I have the same respect for them as I do EMT's, law enforcement and firefighters. When I am on the road with my family, it makes me feel good knowing that well-trained, hardworking, dedicated NDOR employees design, manage and maintain our highway system."

As far as goals, Wilson said he wants to build on past successes to help

make NDOR an even more desirable and enjoyable place to work. He wants to work on public and contractor relations, adding, "As part of that I want to try to use every dollar in my area as efficiently as possible."

In describing his philosophy towards management, Wilson noted, "I want to put people in opportunities to be successful. Sometimes being successful is learning from our failures. I want to educate our employees, allow them to make decisions - even if that means making a few mistakes - and give them the support they need. I want to encourage pride in our work."

Born and raised in McCook, Wilson graduated from McCook High School in May 2005. He and his wife Tausha, have four children, Asher, 6; Abel, 5; Annabelle, 3; and Aiden, 1. In his spare time, Wilson enjoys playing with his kids, hunting, fishing and spending time with God. ♦

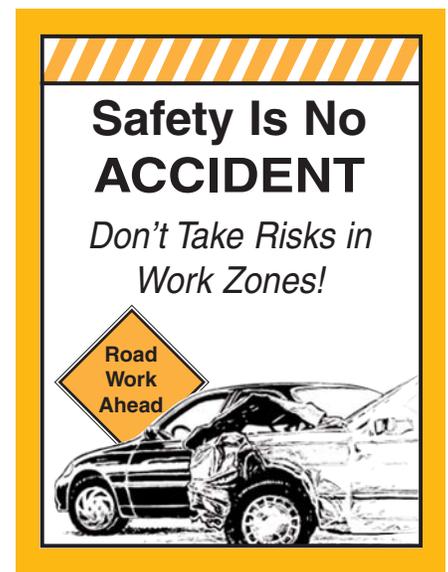
NDOR to Launch Innovation Task Force

Director Kyle Schneweis announced the formation of the Innovation Task Force for Transportation on October 14th. 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 also 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 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.

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.

A list of the task force members can be found at roads.nebraska.gov/media/3320/10-14-2015-innovation.pdf ♦



US-77 Wahoo Expressway Opens

The US-77 Wahoo Expressway in Saunders County was officially opened to traffic on August 25, according to Nebraska Department of Roads' District 1 Project Manager Robert Traudt.

A dedication ceremony was held with a ribbon cutting by dignitaries, including Governor Pete Ricketts, former Governor Dave Heineman, former Congressman Doug Bereuter, State Senator Jerry Johnson and NDOR Director Kyle Schneweis.

The 3.3-mile, four-lane expressway extends from the US-77/Nebraska 92 intersection on the southwest edge of town, crosses the dam that forms Lake Wahoo and reconnects with its former route near the town's airport. Constructors, Inc., of Lincoln, Nebraska, was the prime contractor for the \$13.1 million project.

Work began on November 4, 2013, with the installation of advanced warning signs and barricades. Work included constructing the four-lane expressway around the City of Wahoo on a new alignment and consisted of grading, concrete paving, new drainage structures, guardrail and electrical work. The project also included constructing a four-lane bridge over Dry Run Creek.

Unique Feature

According to Traudt, a unique feature of this project included a 12-foot by 10-foot by 158.5-foot concrete box culvert built for pedestrians at the Lake Wahoo Dam that will eventually become part of the trail system. Other unique aspects included approximately 456,303 cubic yards of excavation and 5,295 linear feet of 18-inch storm sewer and 106 curb inlets built on this project.

While the project will remain open to traffic, there is still minor work to be completed, including obliterating the existing eastbound N-92 on-ramp north of Wahoo and completing the permanent seeding



Photos by Dan Luedert

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts cuts the ribbon during the August 25th opening of the US-77 Wahoo Expressway, joined by other dignitaries, including former Governor Dave Heineman, left. NDOR officials present included District 1 Engineer Tom Goodbarn, far left; and NDOR Director Kyle Schneweis, far right.

along the shoulders and banks on either side of the expressway.

Traudt noted some unforeseen weather events that delayed the anticipated completion in early 2015. "There were multiple 100- and 50-year rain events throughout the course of this project that had a major impact on the opening and completion date. Recorded amounts of rain included approximately 35 inches in 2014 and more than 30 inches in 2015."

Anticipated Completion

In addition to the heavy spring rains, there was a cold snap that halted work for the winter. Despite these setbacks, work progressed well in August, making the long-anticipated completion a reality.

Several local officials were on hand to commemorate the official opening of the Wahoo Expressway, including Wahoo Mayor Loren Lindahl, Saunders County Supervisor Doris Karloff and Lower Platte North Natural Resources District General Manager John Miyoshi. Wahoo Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Director Doug Watts was also present during the ceremony.

According to Traudt, there were mixed perceptions of the project, with some believing the bypass would have an impact on local businesses, while others thought the decreased traffic through town would be good.

Mayor Lindahl acknowledged this in his comments during the program, adding, "The locals will still come if you have something to offer them... Wahoo is in an enviable position. Wahoo will grow, and the expressway

(see Expressway on next page)

US-77 Wahoo Expressway

Start Date: November 4, 2013

Opened to Traffic: August 25, 2015

Contract Amount: \$13.1 million

Construction Facts and Figures

Grading: 456,303 cu.yds. excavation

Concrete Pavement: 126,377 sq.yds.
10-inch doweled concrete pavement

Bridge: 4-lane 3-span raised median,
90.67-foot wide by 200-foot long,
concrete girder bridge on 40-degree
skew with horizontal and vertical
curvature

Storm Sewer: 5,295 linear feet of
18-inch storm sewer

Expressway (cont'd. from page 4)

will help that growth, bringing new jobs and revenue to the community."

Build Nebraska Act

The project was funded thanks to the Build Nebraska Act. The Build Nebraska Act dedicates one-quarter of a cent from the state's 5.5-cent portion of the sales tax for 20 years for road improvements and maintenance. A special sign was installed at the project location announcing that the project is "made possible by the Build Nebraska Act."

In addition to Constructors, Inc, the prime contractor, others involved with the project included subcontractors, materials suppliers, Planning & Project Development; Right-of-Way, Roadway Design and Construction divisions. Alfred Benesch & Company, Omaha, Nebraska, was the final design consulting engineering firm.

Subcontractors who performed work on this project included: grading - Petit, Inc., South Sioux City, Nebraska; concrete pavement - Constructors,

Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska; culverts - M.E. Collins Contracting co. Inc., Wahoo, Nebraska; seeding - John O'Dell & Co., Arlington, Nebraska; bridge - KEA Constructors, LLC, Milford, Nebraska; guardrail - Midwest Fence Co. and Guardrail Systems, Inc., Ralston, Nebraska; electrical - Mid Plains Power LLC, Grand Island, Nebraska; and general items - D.P. Sawyer, Inc, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Inspectors included Sharon Brandt, Barry Hergenrader, Jim Ebeling and Kevin Keller, Construction Tech III's, and Aaron Codr, Construction Tech I, all from the District 1 Superior Street headquarters in Lincoln, as well as former inspectors Gene Garza and Barb Gerbino-Bevins. The Right-of-Way and Construction staking was performed by the District 1 survey crews. Survey crew party chiefs included Craig Branch, Hwy. Project Manager; Mike Meyer, Tyler Burbridge and Seth Luse, Hwy. Construction Tech IV's from the District 1 Superior Street headquarters in Lincoln.



Special Thanks

Traudt gave special thanks to Byron Nordstrom, Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor, and Al Jansa, Hwy. Maintenance Crew Chief, as well as the entire Wahoo maintenance crew for their assistance during the course of and the opening of the Wahoo Expressway project.

"These individuals went the extra mile to ensure that everything was ready to go for the ribbon cutting and opening of the road." ♦



Construction workers put finishing touches on US-77 Wahoo Expressway.



NDOR Tire Amnesty Event in Lexington a Big Success

Tires, tires and more tires! The response was tremendous during the tire amnesty event held July 24-25 at the NDOR District 6 Maintenance Yard in Lexington, the first ever held by the Roads Department.

According to Carlos Campa, Highway Maintenance Superintendent at District 6 in Lexington, the NDOR-sponsored event was promoted through local radio stations, newspapers and social media to the public in cities, counties and villages in the Lexington area, as well as to other Roads Department yards, requesting them to haul in their extra stockpiles of tires.

The result was a huge pile of thousands of tires - over 420 tons - collected from NDOR and the general public during the event, along with an extension of more than 100 tons of tires allowed by the Nebraska Department

of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) after the event. After the tires were collected, they were hauled to Concordia, Kansas, by Champlin Tire Recycling, Inc., the company that had the bid. Champlin recycles the tires to make playground mulch, park benches and picnic tables.

The tire disposal event was offered free of charge to the public, made possible through the receipt of a grant from the NDEQ, which allows for the acceptance of up to 500 tons of tires. The grants are part of the agency's waste reduction and recycling program and are funded by a \$1 fee on new tires purchased in Nebraska.

Safety Measure

NDOR participated in the event to collect scraps and tires from public roadways as a safety measure, and as a means of preventing environmental pollution. The effort is significant, as Nebraskans generate more than 1.5 million scrap tires annually,

about one tire for every person.

Campa expressed appreciation to the many NDOR employees and others who helped make the event a success, including Tera Prucha, Highway Environmental Biologist, who coordinated the event. Others from NDOR's Environmental Section who helped during the two-day event included Ron Poe, Highway Environmental Program Manager; Nick Soper and Blayne Renner, Highway Environmental Biologists; and Mitch Belina, Student Work Study Employee.

District 6 employees who assisted included Randy Keith, Carrie Haynie, Terry Fuehrer, Wayne Reeves, Douglas Roehrs, Brett Araujo, Kelly Ryan, Mike Gomez, Lawrence Mueller, Ernie Rodriguez and Clyde McClellan. The State Patrol provided portable scales for the event, with Lt. Dan Reins and State Troopers Tyler Schmidt and Adam Strode offering assistance.

Due to the success of this year's event, Campa noted that he would like to see this become an annual event, perhaps moving it along the I-80 corridor to other maintenance yards on a rotating basis.

"We would like to have a similar event every year, maybe on a smaller scale, since the state yards along the Interstate pick up a good amount of tires every day or so. It is beneficial for everyone involved." ♦



Top - State troopers use portable scales to weigh tires during NDOR's tire amnesty event in Lexington.

Left - Tires were piled high during the tire amnesty event held July 24-25 at the NDOR District 6 Maintenance Yard in Lexington.

Photos by Carlos Campa, District 6

NDOR's "Hard Hats & Heels" Inspires Careers in Transportation

By Valerie Lefler

Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO

The Nebraska Department of Roads' first Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) was hosted July 6-16 at Central Community College - Grand Island. Fifteen students from central Nebraska spent two weeks learning about land, air, water and rail transportation careers.

The NSTI is a key component among the FHWA's educational initiatives. It is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) focused program for high school and junior high school students. Program objectives are to improve STEM skills, provide awareness to middle and high school students - particularly minority, female and disadvantaged youth - about transportation education pursuits. The length of the program is typically two to four consecutive weeks.

The Institute, named locally as "Hard Hats & Heels," was developed to emphasize job opportunities for women

Agencies Providing Support to "Hard Hats & Heels"

- American Association of State & Highway Transportation Officials
- Buffalo County Government
- City of Hastings
- City of Grand Island
- Central Community College - Hastings
- Central Community College - Gr. Island
- Grand Island Airport
- Hall County Government
- Kearney Concrete Co.
- Nebraska Concrete & Aggregates Association
- Nebraska Dept. of Roads, Office of Civil Rights
- Nebraska National Guard
- Nebraska Trucking Association
- Royal Plastics
- Toastmasters International
- Trego-Duncan Aviation
- Union Pacific - Operation Lifesaver
- UNK, Nebraska Safety Center
- UNL, Midwest Roadside Safety Facility
- UNL, Dept. of Civil Engineering
- US DOT, Federal Hwy. Administration
- Wilson Case Shipping Containers

in all levels of careers in building and maintaining Nebraska's infrastructure. Nationally, a [U.S. Department of Transportation study](#) recently reported that women currently make up only 15 percent of the transportation-related occupations.*

The Federal Department of Labor has identified that "lack of information" is one of the top five barriers for women choosing a career in these non-traditional occupations, thus the need for programs like "Hard Hats & Heels" is critical to increasing women's participation in this rewarding career field.

Successful Women

Several of the speakers were female engineers and transportation professionals from across the state, including NDOR ITS Engineer, Sarah Tracy; Materials & Research Engineer, Nicole Taylor; and District 4 Highway Maintenance Worker Sr., Nancy Ziegelbauer-Snyder. It was important for the students to see not only men, but also women enjoying and successfully pursuing a wide range of careers in transportation.

Throughout the program, students made numerous site visits and tours;

learned the magic of the math and science behind building and maintaining our infrastructure; as well as participated in professional development activities on public speaking, etiquette and dressing for success in the workplace. The program concluded with a celebration banquet featuring the student participants' friends and family members.

With nearly 70 people in attendance, each student gave a presentation about a particular aspect of the program they enjoyed and shared their future career interests. Choices the students discussed ranged from civil engineering to welding to truck driving and diesel mechanics.

In its inaugural year, "Hard Hats & Heels" provided a wonderful foundation to build upon for future programs and made a meaningful impact in the lives of each of the students.

To see more of the photos and to sign up for more information - please "Like" the Hard Hats & Heels Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CCC.NSTI>

We were fortunate to reach over 3,800 individuals from across Nebraska and the nation during the two weeks of the program and look forward to sharing information in 2016! ♦



Photo by Valerie Lefler, Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO
Participants in the National Summer Transportation Institute, informally known as "Hard Hats & Heels," learned about careers in transportation.

Nebraska Rodeo and Transit Driver Training Held in Kearney

By Kari Ruse
Rail & Public Transportation Division

The annual Nebraska Rodeo and Transit Driver Training were both held in Kearney at the Nebraska Safety Center on September 22 -23. The event is organized by the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers and sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Roads.

On September 22, more than 80 rural transit drivers and managers from across the state participated in workshops facilitated by trainers from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Workshops included "Distracted Driving," "Dealing with Difficult Passengers" and "Emergency Evacuation."

Twenty-six rural transit drivers competed on Wednesday in two divisions—Mini-Van and Small Bus. Drivers were judged on pre-trip inspections, wheelchair securement, obstacle course and a written test. Larry Vortherms, driver and manager of the Avera Hospital Transit System in Creighton, won the overall driver award, scoring 862 out of 1,000 possible points. First- and second-place winners will attend and compete in the 2016 annual Community Transportation EXPO and Rodeo in Portland, Oregon. Winners in each division:

Mini-van - 1st Larry Vortherms, Avera Creighton Hospital Transit
2nd Kily Gortmaker, Webster County Public Transportation

Small Bus - 1st Diane Schape, Seward County Public Transit
2nd Carol Graham, Blue Rivers AAA Transit.

Pictured, l to r: Tiffany Fougeron, NATP Executive Director, and Larry Vortherms, Best Overall Transit Driver.

Photos courtesy of the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers



A rural transit driver maneuvers through a rainy obstacle course in Kearney.



Knott Receives AASHTO Award

Director Kyle Schneweis (left) and Deputy Directors Moe Jamshidi (second from right) and Kahlil Jaber (far right) present Jim Knott (second from left) with an award from the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials for outstanding achievements in the field of highway and transportation design in Region 4 on October 5.

Photo by Dan Luedert

NDOR Employees Exceed Charitable Giving Challenge

NDOR employees accepted the challenge issued by Director Kyle Schneweis and exceeded last year's pledges and contributions in their giving to the 2015 Charitable Giving Campaign.

A total of \$74,455.70 was pledged to over 400 organizations of choice, exceeding last year's total by \$288.70.

A devoted Kansas Jayhawk, Director Kyle announced during the August 3rd campaign kick-off that he would wear his Husker shirt every football Friday this fall if pledges and contributions exceeded last year's. It was also announced that at each incremental increase in giving, a family member would switch from their Jayhawk blue shirt to Husker red. Through a series of photos sent via email, NDOR employees watched the gradual transformation of the Schneweis family from Jayhawk blue to Husker red—first Kyle's wife Laurel, then baby Karver, followed by older brother Mazlo. Finally, after last year's giving total was officially surpassed, Kyle joined his family as they all wore Husker red.

In addition to the Director's challenge, other events were held to generate increased giving. During the week of August 17, Jim Pester, Communication Division, displayed his antique bike collection in the NDOR Central Headquarters entry area. In conjunction with the display, Pester was joined by Karen Griffin, president of the Great Plains Trails Network, as they presented information about the cycling trails available in the area and upcoming events. Donations were accepted after the presentation.

Tour de Roads

The first annual "Tour de Roads," a bike ride around NDOR's Central Complex, was held on August 26, with 12 NDOR bicycle riders circling around the designated route for a



NDOR Director Kyle Schneweis and his family wear Husker red after NDOR employees surpassed last year's giving total.

half hour to raise funds as part of the "Cycle of Giving" for the Charitable Giving Campaign. The event was organized by Pester. Participants included: Tim Foss, Adam Kornfield, and Pat Sterns - Operations; Shirley Danahy, Barb Gerbino-Bevins, Kevin Krolikowski, and Thad Smoyer - Roadway Design; Randy ElDorado and Brad Zumwalt - Planning & Project Development; Delfs Linder, Ed Kelley and Scott Grossenbacher - Materials & Research.

Each participant had gathered pledges from their sponsors, either an amount per lap or a single amount for participating in the race, which could be directed to a designated charity. Fellow NDOR employees were on hand to encourage participants to the finish. The event was a success, with 74 sponsors contributing \$1,846, which was directed to 10 designated charities.

The return of pledge cards by NDOR employees was 94.4 percent and the number of districts/divisions

that achieved a 100 percent rate of returned cards was excellent. Campaign contributions were made by 27.6 percent of employees. Fourteen out of 23 divisions/districts met or exceeded their giving in 2015. District 2 topped all districts for dollars pledged, with a total of \$6,225. Divisions were led by Roadway Design, with \$10,136 pledged.

Awards to NDOR

Governor Pete Ricketts announced a "Challenge to Agency Directors," with agencies divided into five teams. NDOR, Corrections and Health & Human Services each had their own teams, with all other agencies making up the remaining teams. Categories in the Governor's Challenge included: Champion of Dollars (total dollars contributed/pledged), Champion of Givers (total number of employees contributing/pledging), Champion of New Participants (total number of new employees contributing/pledging),

(see Giving on next page)

Giving (cont'd. from page 9)

Champion of New Dollars and
Champion of Creativity.

At the Nebraska State Employee Charitable Giving Recognition Picnic on September 28, NDOR received the traveling trophy as the 2015 Champion of Givers, for having the highest percentage of employees pledge/donate to the campaign - 27.6 percent. NDOR also received the Champion of Creativity Runner-Up award for the Tour de Roads event and the Schneweis Family Challenge promotion. Jacki Schrotberger and Jim Pester received MVP awards for the Department of Roads Team, and all of the division/district coordinators were recognized for playing a critical part in this year's campaign success.

In summing up this year's Charitable Giving Campaign effort, Director Kyle Schneweis stated, "Our campaign coordinators did an outstanding job and our employees accepted my challenge to make this campaign a success. It was a great team effort." ♦



Photo by Dan Luedert

"Tour de Roads" participants raised funds for the 2015 Charitable Giving Campaign.



Photo by Administrative Services State Personnel

Bev Kellison, NDOR Charitable Giving Campaign Coordinator, accepted, on behalf of Team 3 – the Department of Roads – the Champion of Givers award and the Champion of Creativity Runner-Up award from Governor Pete Ricketts, recognizing their efforts during the campaign.

**2015
Charitable Giving
Campaign Coordinators**

- Overall co-coordinators:*
Beverly Kellison & Blane Osterman
Director's Office: Verneda Kelly
Bridge: Janelle Carnahan
Business Tech. Support: Trish Sanchez
Communication: Shirley Mitchell
Construction: Heather Silver & Jaime Kamarad
Controller: Linda Soulliere
Human Resources: Geri Waechter & Rachele Van Cleave
Materials & Research: Jane Brubaker
Operations: Denise Wallman
Planning & Project Development:
Sandra Knippelmeyer & Linda Langdale
Program Management: Drew Parks
Rail & Public Transportation:
Charles Bowlby
Right-of-Way: Jacki Schrotberger
Roadway Design: Carl Humphrey
Traffic Engineering: Bobbi Olson
District 1: Laura Pierce
District 2: Natalie Clark
District 3: Sheila Puls
District 4: Lauren Swiatoviak
District 5: Cindy Vergil
District 6: Karen Swedberg
District 7: Jan Collins
District 8: Erin Allen

NDOR Receives “Culture of Wellness” Award

The Nebraska Department of Roads was a recipient of the 2015 Culture of Wellness Award, presented during the Wellness Award Luncheon held on September 11 at Chez Hay in Lincoln.

NDOR joined two other state agencies – the Department of Education and the Nebraska State Treasurer’s Office – in receiving the award. The award recipients were congratulated by Governor Pete Ricketts for “embracing wellness, encouraging participation, achieving positive results, leading by example, educating one another and creating a culture of wellness.” Recognition was also given to 2015 Wellness Champions and Advocates, as well as the 2015 Wellness Wall of Fame recipients.

Notable among NDOR’s achievements: Through some focused recruiting efforts, the department has added eight Wellness Champions over the past several months, bringing their total to 10. These champions currently represent seven of eight districts as well as the Central Complex in Lincoln. Recognizing challenges in communication, job environment, and the geographic diversity of their workforce, these champions have focused efforts on awareness campaigns and mini-challenges aimed at small behavior changes. While the team may be spread across the state, they are working together to generate new ideas and promote wellness in ways best fitting their fellow employees.

NDOR 2015 Wellness Wall of Fame recipients recognized for making “significant lifestyle changes and taking action to invest in their health and well-being, resulting in a better lifestyle,” included Nancy Claasen, Planning & Project Development; Ethel Skinner, Right-of-Way; Anne White (retired) and Linda Wilson, Communication. Their stories are

posted, along with those of past recipients, on the [Wall of Fame website](#) to inspire, motivate and inform others on how to make a change for the better in their own lives.

Efforts Appreciated

During the award presentation, Governor Ricketts thanked everyone for their efforts, noting that these agencies are committed to employee health and well-being. He added that “worksites wellness programs positively affect the health and productivity of employees as well as the bottom line... Worksite wellness is an opportunity for Nebraskans to live healthy lives, improve quality of life and grow a healthier Nebraska for the next generation.”

Governor Ricketts was joined by other state officials in presenting the awards, including Administrative

Services Director Byron Diamond, on behalf of State Personnel Director Ruth Jones; Wellness and Benefits Administrator Crystal Meyer. Meyer thanked everyone for their efforts and for setting an example in their workplaces and communities. Meyer also thanked those who traveled longer distances, including from McCook and North Platte, to participate in the awards luncheon.

Keynote speaker Brady Beran shared an inspiring message of staying positive in tough times in his presentation, “How to Take a Hit.” He told his story of surviving a severe concussion after playing in a football game at Lincoln East High School in 2004, which included being in a coma for 5 weeks, a 3-month hospital stay, and not being able to speak, read, walk or even swallow, followed by a lengthy rehabilitation process to try to regain these skills. After 11 years, he regained much of his mobility and his speech. He went to college and earned a degree, got married in 2012 and is now living in Wisconsin, working full time for an insurance company. He attributed his overcoming the extremely low odds of survival to his positive outlook and

(see Wellness on next page)



Photo by Administrative Services State Personnel

Pictured l to r: Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts; Blane Osterman, Personnel Manager, and Sue Larson, Human Resources Administrator, accepting the 2015 Culture of Wellness Award on behalf of NDOR; Wellness and Benefits Administrator Crystal Meyer; and Administrative Services Director Byron Diamond.

Wellness (cont'd. from page 11)

to the four "F's" – Faith, Family, Friends and Football. He assured his audience that they can achieve greatness in their lives if they believe in themselves and never give up. He reminded us that "life isn't just good, okay, fine, it's great, super, fantastic."

After the awards were presented, Meyer introduced the state wellNEssoptions Program Coordinator, Barbara Munro, who shared brief comments about the importance of the program and thanked everyone for their efforts to build a culture of wellness in their workplaces. Munro also thanked Wellness Specialist Julie Yuhas for her valuable assistance in making the program a success. ♦

Who are NDOR Wellness Champions?

NDOR Wellness Champions serve as a resource to the State of Nebraska Wellness Program to build a culture of health in our agencies by communicating wellNEssoptions programs to our coworkers, expanding opportunities in our agencies throughout the state, and providing constructive feedback to the State Wellness Coordinator.

Often the first sources of information for fellow employees, Wellness Champions are trusted among their peers to provide guidance and support regarding program offerings and requirements and to set an example for others.

Central Complex

Wellness Champions:

Jacki Schrotberger, Right-of-Way
Blane Osterman, Human Resources
Linda Piening, Roadway Design
Stephanie Kessler, Traffic

District

Wellness Champions:

District 1: Open
District 2: Natalie Clark
District 3: Judy Schoenfeldt
District 4: Penny Beran
District 5: Open
District 6: Ronda Lewis
District 7: Sheila Hagemann
District 8: Erin Allen



NDOR's Dan Luedert Wins AASHTO Photo Competition

NDOR photographer Dan Luedert was recently selected as the "Innovators in Transportation" category winner in the 2015 Faces of Transportation photo/video competition sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO). He was recognized with a plaque and a cash prize.

Luedert's winning photograph shows a worker surveying the grade of a new bypass near Kearney, Nebraska, while a grader works behind him. In the essay he submitted describing how, when and why he took the photo, Luedert noted that the bypass is one of the major projects in the state and will be an asset to the businesses of Kearney as the area continues to grow.

According to Luedert, "While visiting the site, I was impressed by the state-of-the-art surveying and grading techniques utilizing GPS. With a higher level of accuracy, this technology saves time and money. The new technique eliminates the old string lines, labor hours, and offers a higher level of accuracy. By using the innovative survey

equipment, technicians are able to accurately place markers that the grader uses to adjust the surface level accordingly.

In describing how he took the photo, Luedert noted, "As the survey crew and grader maneuvered together, I was able to line up the two showing this relationship as they worked. With the surveyor measuring out the next marker and the grader working off the existing markers, the image displays the work moving forward. It is important for me to accurately capture the work that our crews do in an engaging and interesting way. This image does that, showing the crews in action as they continue to build the future roadways that drive the local, state and national economies."

Luedert was among 29 transportation department employees from 16 states and nine private citizens who submitted 103 photographs and 12 videos in the competition. The photographic entries were judged in three categories: People Building America, People Touring America, and Innovators in Transportation. ♦

All in the Family

Information for "All in the Family" should be sent to the Communication Division. Appropriate information will be included in future Roadrunners.

Please note: Birth announcements will be published as long as written permission is received by the Communication Division. This is necessary, as NDOR is required to adhere to privacy laws under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Births

Congratulations to Matt and Sheri Beran on the birth of their fourth son, Jonathan Reed, born August 5. Matt is Assistant Flexible Pavement Engineer in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Christine Trueblood on the birth of her first grandchild, Harlow Christine, born October 1. Christine is a Word Processing Specialist II in Communication.

Congratulations to Randy and Donna Sabata on the birth of twin grandchildren, Knox (boy) and Rowan (girl), born May 13. Randy is the Hwy. Maintenance Superintendent at District 4 in Hastings.

Congratulations to Dan and Marge Ziska on the birth of their granddaughter, Taya Madena, born September 16. Dan is a Project Manager at District 8 in O'Neill.

Weddings

Congratulations on the marriage of Cryssa Sittler and Evan Bartels on September 19. Cryssa is the daughter of Doug Sittler, Accounting Clerk I in Operations.

Congratulations to Garrett Hofstetter and Bethany Lintz, who were married September 26. Garrett is a Construction Tech III at District 4 in Hastings.

Congratulations to Ty Lunn and Tania Freeman on their September 12 marriage. Ty is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr. and Tania is a Staff Assistant I, both at District 6 in Ogallala.

Condolences

Condolences to family and coworkers on the passing of Jeffrey Smith, Hwy. Construction Tech III at District 3 in Norfolk.

Condolences to Carrie Haynie on the death of her grandfather. Carrie is a Staff Assistant I at District 6 in Lexington.

Condolences to Betsy Messenger on the loss of her mother. Betsy is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr. at District 8 in Burwell.

This 'n That

Congratulations to Larry Hoium on his retirement after 21 years of service. Larry was an IT Infrastructure Support Analyst/Lead in Business Technology Support.

Congratulations to Dean Dowding on his retirement after 32 years of service. Dean was a Hwy. Construction Tech III at the District 1 Superior Street office in Lincoln.

Congratulations to Delfs Linder on his retirement after 46 years of service. Delfs was a Hwy. Local Projects Coordinator in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Anne White on her retirement after 35 years of service. Anne was a Hwy. Communication Services Manager in Communication.

Congratulations to Pat Lyons on her retirement after 12 years of service. Pat was a Word Processing Specialist III in Communication.

Congratulations to Austin Yates, Engineer V in Operations, who fulfilled a lifelong dream by competing in the television game show, "Jeopardy!" Yates was joined by more than 50 family, friends and coworkers in his hometown of Bellevue to view the show when it aired in late September. While he answered the "Final Jeopardy" question correctly, he was just \$600 short of winning the game. Yates says he enjoyed the experience and learned some new trivia: "Alex Trebek is taller than you think."

Klaire Nuttelman, a Senior at Lincoln Lutheran, helped lead the girls golf team to the Class C Girls State Golf title at Lake Maloney Golf Course in North Platte, shooting the best team score in the state. Klaire shot individual scores of 83 and 89 for a 172 in the event and tied for 8th place in the tournament. She is the daughter of Kathy and Rudy Nuttelman. Kathy is Hwy. Operations Analyst II in the Rail & Public Transportation Division.

Congratulations to Gene Clift on his retirement after 12 years of service. Gene was an Auto/Diesel Mechanic at the District 4 in Geneva.

Congratulations to Marty Egbarts, on his retirement after 16 years of service. Marty was a Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr. at District 6 in Gothenburg.

Dan Schleichardt, Hwy. Construction Tech II at District 4 in Grand Island, spent most of his spare time last summer building a playground for his children, Noah and Simon. The playground includes a playhouse that is 11 feet off the ground, with a suspended cable bridge connected to a platform in the nearby tree. There is also a 150-foot zip line across the yard.

Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *October and November 2015*.

40 Years

Gregory Sattler, Controller

30 Years

Chris Dowding, M & R
Michael Fox, District 2
George Gallardo, Rail & Public Transp.
Ann Hamling, Construction
Ray Hurd, Plan. & Proj. Dev.
Rick Stanczyk, District 4

20 Years

Clark Camin, District 2
John Coonce, District 1
Jerald Isom, M & R
Raymond Kounovsky, Plan. & Proj. Dev.
Roy Leach, Construction
Dennis Osterman, District 4
Kern Porter, District 7

10 Years

Steve Anest, District 5
Dean Guenther, District 3
Alison Krohn, District 1
Brett Mainquist, District 3
Thomas Manning, ROW
Jeffery Martin, District 7
Rhett Meints, District 1
Jimmy Pearce, District 4
Matthew Ptacek, District 2
Brian Schoen, District 1
Jacqueline Schrotberger, ROW
Aleksandra Tsvid, District 2



NDOR Events Calendar

- 2 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
Meeting: 8:45 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Exam: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 5 - 9 Drive Safely Work Week**
www.trafficsafety.org/drivesafelyworkweek/
- 7 National Walk to School Day**
www.walkbiketoschool.org
- 6 - 8 Operations & Maintenance Conference**
Marina Inn & Conference Center, South Sioux City
- 8 Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 12 State Holiday – Columbus Day**
- 14 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580
- 14 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 19 - 23 National School Bus Safety Week**
www.napt.org
- 19 - 25 National Teen Driver Safety Week**
www.teendriversource.org
- 22 Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 23 Hwy. Commission Meeting/
District 2 Program Hearing**
8:30 a.m., Aksarben Suites Omaha
7270 Cedar Street, Omaha, NE
Contact Sarah Kugler @ 402-479-4871
- 28 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

— November —

- 3 New Employee Orientation Program**
NDOR Auditorium
Contact Denise Sears @ 402-479-3656
- 4 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

- 6 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 11 State Holiday – Veterans Day**
- 18 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 19 Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 20 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 23 - 29 Click it or Ticket Mobilization**
- 26 - 27 State Holiday – Thanksgiving**

— December —

National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month

- 2 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 9 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580
- 11 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
8:30 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Sarah Kugler @ 402-479-4871
- 1 2/12- 1/1 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over
National Crackdown**
- 16 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 17 Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 25 State Holiday – Christmas**

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail linda.wilson@nebraska.gov. Information for the *December/January Roadrunner* should be received by November 30, 2015.

We Get Mail...

The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.

October 15, 2015

I will be forever grateful for Jim, the man from the Nebraska Department of Roads, who stopped on the Interstate to help me change my blown tire while so many others drove by. I had everything out to change it myself and was just starting as he pulled up. Thankfully he did, because my jack was missing a piece and I wouldn't have been able to do it.

I'm also thankful for the Nebraska Motorist Assist Program and their volunteers who showed up and helped. I hadn't heard of them, but think it's a great cause and use of our tax money.

*Kindra O'Malley
Ceresco, Nebraska*

Editor's Note: The helpful gentleman was Jim Ebeling, Construction Tech III at the District 1 Superior St. office in Lincoln.