

November 20, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Hwy. 12 Alternative Permit to be Withdrawn by the Nebraska Department of Roads**

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) will withdraw the Highway 12, Section 404, permit application for Alternate A7 east and west of Niobrara, Nebraska.

At the November 9, 2015 public hearing, held to receive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and NDOR's Section 404 permit application, the public made it clear that an alternate solution should be sought. The public spoke about Alternative A7 and of hardships on landowners and current farm and ranch operations within the valley if it was pursued. The public also commented on the potential for shading, icing and snow removal challenges with any alternate located directly adjacent to the bluffs.

Alternative A7 would shift the existing highway south, within the Missouri River Valley, to a location along the earthen bluff. The project would reconstruct about 12 miles of existing Highway 12 east and west of Niobrara and raise the highway elevation to provide a permanent transportation solution and protect it against future flooding.

In a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Omaha District, Regulatory Division, the NDOR has requested that the permit application forwarded on September 11, 2015 be withdrawn. The NDOR proposed to work with the Corps to find an alternative solution along existing Highway 12; one that would result in a safe and reliable transportation system that would solve the problem of reoccurring flooding along the existing highway.

#NDOR#

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