

BUILD NEBRASKA ACT

THE NEXT 10 YEARS

Build Nebraska Act Regional Meeting Alliance, NE - January 12, 2016

In the first of four regional meetings, the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) met with Nebraska citizens on Tuesday, January 12, in Alliance to talk about how to best invest \$600 million in state highway capital improvement projects for the next cycle of the Build Nebraska Act (BNA).

Informational materials and conversations focused on expanding the capital improvement project prioritization process to better consider economic impacts and include more stakeholder input. NDOR also shared the list of candidate projects to be considered for the next round of BNA funding and asked participants if there are other projects that should be considered.

Participants expressed support for the concept of expanding the process, and additional projects were suggested for consideration. Specific topics included:

- **Support for updating the prioritization process** - Overall, attendees support the enhancement of economic and stakeholder input into NDOR's project prioritization process.
- **Influence of traffic counts on the prioritization process** - While attendees support the use of engineering data in the process, some are worried about how heavily traffic counts influence both engineering and economic performance.
- **Economic performance considerations** - Participants in the Alliance meeting would like the following issues to be considered as the economic performance evaluation process is developed:
 - When NDOR evaluates corridors, they should look for a way to incorporate how connections to other states play a role in the overall economic impact.
 - The economic impacts of access to housing developments, temporary residents (e.g., students) and tourism visitors should be considered.
 - Economic performance should be weighted as highly as possible without overshadowing safety, safety needs to remain a primary criteria.
 - Make sure the economic impact factors reflect the differences between urban and rural areas and that the economic model isn't biased toward either urban or rural areas.
 - Can independent economic analysis be incorporated into NDOR prioritization process?
- **Importance of geographic inclusion** - Make sure geographic inclusion is considered in the selection process.

Participants also suggested several projects be added to the candidate list.

Based on feedback from the meetings, NDOR staff will refine the expanded prioritization process and begin scoring projects. Additional meetings will be held in spring 2016 to discuss specific projects, and announcement of the next round of BNA projects is planned for summer 2016. Future meeting dates

and locations as well as all the information being presented at the meetings can be found at:
<http://www.roads.nebraska.gov/projects/bna/next10/>.

Don't forget to share your input – look for the comment card on the website.