

February 12, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NDOR's Innovation Task Force Focuses on Transportation Investment

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Innovation Task Force held its second meeting yesterday, continuing to focus on ways the public and private sectors can work together, explore innovative approaches and opportunities to advance transportation and further examine how transportation investments can help grow Nebraska.

Building on past input, Task Force members discussed far-ranging topics such as how transportation should change and adapt to serve Nebraskans and its economy today and into the future. Members also discussed more immediate topics, including LB960 (the Transportation Innovation Act), how to address the condition of county bridges in Nebraska, and the Build Nebraska Act project prioritization process.

According to NDOR Director, Kyle Schneweis, "These are exciting times for transportation in Nebraska. These targeted investments provide opportunities to optimize our transportation system that will in turn promote economic growth in our state."

Steve Riehle, Hall County Engineer and President of the Nebraska Association of County Engineers, County Highway Superintendents and County Surveyors (a section of the Nebraska Association of County Officials, NACO), provided a local perspective of county bridge concerns and the transportation and economic impacts of their current condition. NDOR State Bridge Engineer Mark Traynowicz offered information regarding approaches that surrounding states are beginning to use to address county bridges as they face similar challenges.

NDOR Engineer, Brandie Neemann, provided an update of the current Build Nebraska Act projects and summarized the project prioritization process for the next phase of the Build Nebraska Act. Neemann noted there's strong support for expanding the prioritization process for capital improvement projects based on feedback from the recent BNA regional public meetings held in Alliance, Lexington, Columbus and Ashland, along with feedback gathered from the website.

Task Force members applauded NDOR's most extensive efforts to date to engage the public and urged NDOR to continue that level of effort going forward. After thanking the Task Force members for their time and commitment, Director Schneweis noted, "We make better decisions when we hear lots of perspectives from stakeholders across the state."

#NDOR#

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