

## 2+2 Highways in Nebraska

### What is a 2+2 highway?

A 2+2 highway project involves using the existing 2-lanes of highway and adding two new lanes to make a 4-lane divided highway. The existing 2-lanes are resurfaced to give all 4-lanes a smooth ride.

### Why consider a 2+2 highway?

If the existing infrastructure is in good shape and has the geometrics to serve as a 4-lane, it's a way to get the benefit of a 4-lane divided highway at less cost. It also can reduce construction time, which is more convenient for travelers.

### Heartland Expressway Example

NDOR recently had success implementing the 2+2 project on part of the Heartland Expressway. This included an approximately 25-mile stretch on U.S. Highway 385 from just south of Angora north to Alliance. It would of cost \$87 million to build a brand new 4-lane on this stretch of road, which NDOR's revenues would not allow. However, NDOR staff determined that since the existing 2-lane roadway was still in good shape a 2+2 approach could be a possibility. By utilizing the existing 2-lane, the project would cost \$56 million or a savings of \$31 million. And it reduced construction time by two years. Thanks to practical design, this project, which will improve mobility and promote economic development across the state, was able to move forward.

Heartland Expressway Example	
2+2 Highway	All new 4-Lane Highway
25 miles of 4-lane highway	25 miles of 4-lane highway
\$56 million to build	\$87 million to build
4 years to build	6 years to build

### When is a 2+2 is not option:

Sometimes the infrastructure won't allow for this approach. Here are a few reasons why:

- The existing roadway pavement is deteriorated and needs to be replaced.
- There's development on one-side of the roadway that would make the area too narrow for a 2+2 highway.
- There's an intersection where a difference in elevation would create issues.

### What comes after 2+2?

A 2+2 approach can often be used as a transition phase to a 4-lane highway. When the pavement of the existing roadway eventually needs to be replaced, NDOR would then convert the 2+2 segment to a 4-lane highway.



Here's a look at a 2+2 highway in Nebraska.