

Super 2 Highways in Nebraska

What is a Super 2?

A Super 2 is a two-lane highway that has wider paved shoulders and passing lanes about every five miles, or as needed based on the specific conditions of the highway. Determining the length and spacing of the passing lanes requires considering many different features of the roadway, including the traffic volume, the number of trucks, the terrain, and the types of access points along the highway. The passing lanes generally alternate between the two directions of traffic.

Super 2s are most often found in more rural areas and have some level of access control, which means there are a limited number of driveways and roads directly connected to the highway.

Why consider a Super 2?

Improved traffic operations. Upgrading a two lane highway to a Super 2 provides more convenient passing opportunities that weren't there before. A Super 2 can be a major improvement for roadways where there are limited opportunities to pass or there is a lot of slower moving traffic.

Improved cost effectiveness. Super 2s provide an alternate solution to address the transportation challenge. In many cases, constructing a Super 2 can provide substantial improvements for a community or region at a reduced cost. When looking at the many needs across the state, building a Super 2 can maximize the transportation improvements that can be made across the state.

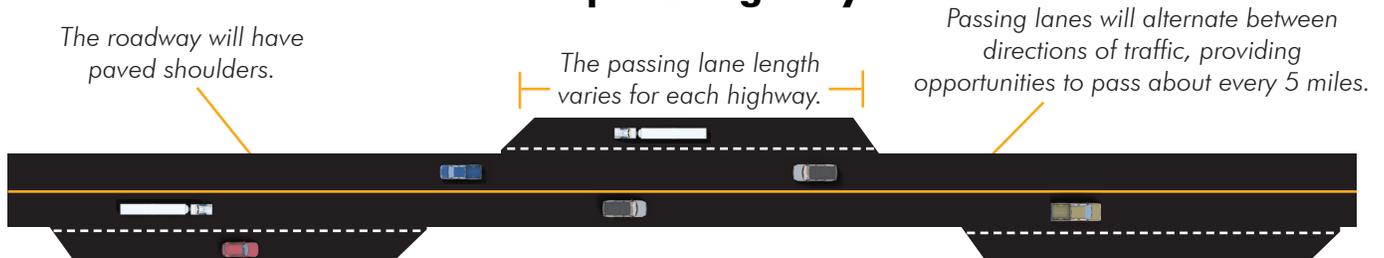
Highways At A Glance	
Super 2 Highway	4-Lane Highway
Passing lanes ≈ every 5 miles, or as needed	2 lanes of traffic in each direction
Variable width paved shoulders	Paved shoulders that are 3-8 feet wide
\$15M to build 10 miles	\$40M to build 10 miles

Over twice as many miles of highway can be constructed for the same investment.

For example, for about \$10 million:

- You can build approximately **2.5** miles of 4-lane highway.
- You can build approximately **6 to 7** miles of Super 2 highway.

A Super 2 Highway



For illustration purposes only. Each highway will be evaluated for its specific needs based on terrain, access points, and other site-specific conditions.

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 have 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 not an 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.