

PROJECT PROFILE:
US 385 from Alliance to Chadron



QUICK FACTS

Category: Design

Project: US 385 from Alliance to Chadron, Super 2

Estimated project cost: \$89M

Length of project: 59 miles

WHY IT WAS SELECTED

Regional and Local Support: This project is part of the US 385 corridor, popularly known as the Heartland Expressway. Stakeholders have long-stressed the importance of completing this corridor. Recognizing that funding limits NDOR's ability to construct improvements along the entire corridor, Nebraskans prioritized US 26 from Minatare to US 385 for construction at NDOR's recent stakeholder meetings. They also identified US 385 from Alliance to Chadron as an important next step. NDOR will begin design work for a Super 2 on this 59-mile stretch. A Super 2 is a two-lane roadway with paved shoulders and additional passing lanes. Passing lanes will improve safety where truck traffic exists and is growing.

While stakeholders would prefer a four-lane highway that connects to the expressway in South Dakota, they recognize that a Super 2 would be a significant improvement. There has been some support among stakeholders for the next step to be on US 385 from

Chadron to South Dakota, rather than this segment; however that would leave a gap in the system. For continuity of the corridor, it makes more sense to work on this project first.

Federally Designated High Priority Corridor: This portion of US 385 serves as the middle section of the Great Plains International Trade Corridor that extends from Mexico to Canada. Given its significance for trade and freight transport, it's one of four federally designated High Priority Corridors that comprise the Ports-to-Plains Alliance. The US 385 corridor (a portion of the Great Plains International Trade Corridor) extends 498 miles through multiple states — with about 200 of those miles located in Nebraska. According to some trade estimates, the 10 states that comprise the Great Plains International Trade Corridor generate \$280 billion in trade with Canada and Mexico — accounting for more than 25 percent of the total U.S. trade with these countries.

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Sarah Kugler, sarah.kugler@nebraska.gov, 402-479-4871