

NEBRASKA

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Jim Pillen, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blackstone Streetscape Improvement Project Moves Forward Following Letting

June 15, 2026 (Omaha, Neb.) – The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) announced that bids were opened on June 11 for the Blackstone Streetscape Improvement Project in Omaha. The project, funded through a \$2 million 2023 congressional earmark, will now move into the bid review process prior to awarding the contract.

The Blackstone Streetscape Improvement Project will improve safety and mobility in Omaha's Blackstone District. Improvements include reducing traffic lanes from three to two, expanding sidewalks, improving pedestrian crossings, enhancing lighting, and adding protected parking along the south side of Harney Street. These improvements are expected to enhance safety while supporting local businesses and economic activity. Construction on the project is expected to begin and be completed in 2027.

The project received \$2 million in funding through a 2023 congressional earmark secured by U.S. Representative Don Bacon and was one of four Nebraska transportation projects selected to receive congressional earmark funding that year. Funds were awarded to the Blackstone Business Improvement District, and the project is being managed by the City of Omaha.

Since 2022, Nebraska transportation projects have received approximately \$214.5 million in transportation-related congressional earmark funding, supporting critical infrastructure improvements across the state. NDOT appreciates the support of Nebraska's congressional delegation and Governor Jim Pillen in advancing transportation investments that improve safety, mobility, and economic opportunity for Nebraska communities.

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“We appreciate the efforts of U.S. Representative Don Bacon in securing the congressional earmark for the Blackstone Streetscape Improvement Project, along with the continued support of Nebraska’s congressional delegation and Governor Jim Pillen in advancing transportation investments across the state,” said NDOT Director Vicki Kramer. “Their leadership is helping Nebraska advance transportation projects that improve safety, strengthen communities, and deliver long-term benefits for Nebraskans.”

Additional federally funded transportation projects are also advancing across Nebraska. The City of Omaha’s 24th Streetscape Improvement Project, which received \$2 million in congressional earmark funding in 2023, is also progressing with a tentative fall 2026 letting. The project will improve safety, accessibility, and aesthetics of North 24th Street from Ohio to Sahler Street. Funds were awarded to the North 24th Street Business Improvement District, and the project is managed by the City of Omaha.

Project Access York, supported by a 2022 \$15.7 million Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant is also tentatively scheduled for a fall 2026 letting. The project will build pedestrian safety improvement for York, including a pedestrian overpass, pedestrian and bicycle trails, and safe crosswalks for schools.

NDOT’s Infrastructure Hub (IHUB) continues to assist local agencies in securing competitive federal funding opportunities. As of June 2026, the IHUB has allocated over \$916,000 in support services to assist 60 Local Agencies in 59 counties in securing discretionary funding.

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