

NOVEMBER 2024

WAYFINDER

A Message from the Director:

Preparing for Holiday Travel

With the holiday season approaching, many Nebraska drivers are planning trips to visit family and friends. This is one of the busiest travel times of the year, both on the road and in the air. NDOT is committed to supporting safe and smooth journeys, but keeping Nebraska's roads safe is a shared responsibility—one that extends beyond the roadways and into our conversations with friends, families, and communities.

As more travelers hit the road, it's important to continue spreading the message of safety. As an NDOT team member you're in a unique position to influence others. Encourage those around you to take precautions, check 511 and Plow Tracker, especially as winter weather adds complexity to driving conditions. From securing seatbelts to staying vigilant in work zones, these small actions can save lives.

NDOT's 'Buckle Up, Phone Down' initiative is a great example of how we can all inspire change. During the state volleyball tournament, NDOT's Communications and Highway Safety Office teams engaged with people from 87 counties across Nebraska, spreading awareness about safe driving habits. Now it's your turn. Share this message with your circle: before heading out, remind them to buckle up, put down their phones and focus on the road. Distractions, whether from devices or passengers, pose significant risks.

Another key point to emphasize is being mindful of other drivers, particularly first responders and stalled vehicles. Talk to your friends and family about moving over or slowing down when they see flashing lights or roadside hazards. It's not just about compliance with the law—it's about protecting lives, including those of emergency responders who work hard to keep everyone safe during busy travel times.

This holiday season, lead by example and encourage others to make smart choices, helping to ensure a safer journey for everyone.



NOVEMBER

28-29 Thanksgiving - NDOT Closed

11/28-12/1 Make it Click Event (NHTSA)

11/29-12/10 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' Enforcement

DECEMBER

12/2-12/6 Older Driver Safety Awareness Week

12/11-1/1/25 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' Enforcement

25 Christmas - NDOT Closed

IT UPDATE

Trying to manage spreadsheets of data? The Business Intelligence Solution Center can help with solutions. [Click here to create a ticket.](#)

HR UPDATE

Start Setting Goals for 2025 - Supervisors and their teams should begin setting goals for the 2025 performance year, starting in January. Reach out to your HR Business Partner if you need assistance with the process.

We'd like to hear from you. If you have an update to share, please send it to ndot.wayfinder@nebraska.gov for consideration.

Crash Responder Safety Week



TIM exercise working a livestock trailer crash held at Grand Island in Nov. 2023.

NDOT and the Nebraska State Patrol honored emergency responders on November 18th during Crash Responder Safety Week (November 18-22, 2024). This national initiative, sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, encourages drivers to "Protect Those Who Protect You" by following safety practices to keep emergency responders safe. Lt. Governor Joe Kelly, NDOT Director Vicki Kramer, and NSP Major Jeff Wilcynski gave brief remarks at the ceremony.



Governor Jim Pillen and NDOT joined transportation departments nationwide to celebrate Buckle Up Phone Down Day, with the Governor proclaiming October 30 as "**Buckle Up Phone Down Day**" in Nebraska. NDOT boosted awareness of this initiative through local news, social media, and community engagement, including a booth at NSAA sporting events.

US-275 Scribner to West Point Celebration

NDOT, along with Gov. Pillen hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, November 4th to mark the completion of the final segment of the U.S. Highway 275 Scribner to West Point corridor.

Expansion of this corridor began construction in the summer of 2021 near West Point. Koss Construction Company built approximately 13.5 miles of the corridor, while Graham Construction Inc. began construction of the final 5 miles in 2022.

Improving the US-275 corridor has far-reaching, positive impacts on the mostly rural region of northeast Nebraska, supporting the region's economic competitiveness and providing a more efficient and reliable connection to national freight networks.

Pictured (l to r) - Director Vicki Kramer; Bryan Fox, Director of Contract Management, Koss Construction; Gov. Jim Pillen; Dave Rexin, Vice President, Graham Construction.



Negotiations have Started

NDOT has started Appendix discussions with the Union and the Department of Administrative Services. So far, these discussions have been productive. Contract negotiations will continue until a tentative agreement is reached or the statutory deadline of December 31, 2024.

