

6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 28, 2024
State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes

On Thursday March 28, 2024, the Nebraska State Highway Commission convened at Norfolk City Council Chambers located at 309 N 5th Street in Norfolk, Nebraska. The agenda, a recording of meeting, attendance sheets, and handouts relevant to the business of this meeting are a part of the permanent minutes of record and are on file at NDOT Central Headquarters. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act (Statutes 84-1407 to 84-1414) was posted in the meeting room.

MEETING NOTICE

- Notice of the regularly scheduled meeting, including the time, location, and agenda, was advertised on the Department of Transportation and the State of Nebraska's websites no less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- The agenda was emailed or mailed to commission members, NDOT staff, and interested persons no less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- A media release was emailed to all statewide outlets on March 21, 2024.
- The meeting agenda was kept current and available to the public in the Communication Division of the Nebraska Department of Transportation, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, Nebraska. No changes were made to the agenda within 48 hours prior to commencement.
- Copies of the meeting agenda were posted and available to the public at the entrance to the meeting room.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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| • Commissioner Richard Meginnis | District 1 |
| • Commissioner Heath Mello | District 2 |
| • Commissioner David Copple | District 3 |
| • Commissioner James H. Kindig | District 4 |
| • Commissioner Doug Leafgreen | Virtual |
| • Commissioner Jim Hawks | District 6 |
| • Commissioner Greg Wolford | District 7 |
| • Commissioner Jerome Fagerland | District 8 |
| • Director, Vicki Kramer | Ex Officio |

Shannon Ankeny, NDOT Communications & Public Policy Director, was recording. A transcript of the meeting is available upon request. Nebraska State Highway Commission meetings are conducted in compliance with the statutes of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

CALL TO ORDER

- Commissioner Jim Hawks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- The chair requested an attendance roll call. A quorum was present.

MINUTES

- Approval of March 28, 2024 meeting minutes
 - Motion for approval made by Meginnis; Mello seconded.
 - Motion carried by rollcall vote, 8-0

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No introductions or announcements.

MEETING BUSINESS

- Commissioner Welcome
David Copple, District 3 Commissioner
- Director's Remarks
Vicki Kramer, NDOT Director
 - Thanked NDOT teammates-Rob Davis, Tim Koenig, Mick Syslo and Amy Starr attending meeting as well as members from FHWA.
 - Legislature Session
 - Severe Weather
 - Lettings
 - Tribal Transportation Conference
- District Presentation
Kevin Domogalla, District 3 Engineer
 - Discussed US-275 segments
 - Norfolk to Wisner
 - Wisner to West Point
 - Scribner to West Point
 - Severe Weather
 - Naming of Snow Plows
- Work Zone Safety Awareness Month
Shannon Ankeny
 - Friday Safety Message digital board
 - NDOT media
 - Slow Down Phone Down, week of April 15
 - Govern Pillen proclamation
 - April 17 country-wide wearing bright orange for awareness and safety in construction zones
- Commissioners Swearing In
Jim Hawks, District 6 Commissioner, swore in two new Commissioners, Heath Mello and Richard Meginnis. Three Commissioners have been reappointed, David Copple, James Kindig and Greg Wolford

PUBLIC INPUT

- Steven Rames, Public Works Director & City Engineer of Norfolk

- Major snow event, thanking NDOT for the endless work of clearing the roads
- Materials Research - Cement maybe one of the largest producer of CO2 in the world desire to change the way it is manufactured. Concern about the product we use it for concrete. As a community we look to NDOT for their research and do a fantastic job for the state. The second is aggregate, sand to course aggregate mix was upside down. Heavier course aggregate will help with the compression strength.
- Municipal partnership where there are state highways that bisect our communities it takes communication between local district director and cities within his region, that relationship with Kevin we are working hard to craft a long term vision for improving in maintaining those state highways in better condition than they have been historically.
- Vicki responding to Steve Rames - No questions, just want to comment on aggregate having a deputy director of operations with M & R background is important to the organization as we continue to see evolution of these different opportunities, we have with carbonless reduction cement. It is very much on our radar; we have some good practices that Mick is working now and for the future.
- Andy Colvin, Norfolk City Administrator
 - Thanked commission, on behalf of the city, the mayor and city council members for Norfolk and listening to Norfolk and region.
 - Echoed Steve Rames' comments in the importance of partnerships. Reinforce the value he thinks this city has taken on to prioritize street construction, street maintenance of our own roads here in Norfolk.
 - City council has allocated a lot of money toward improving Norfolk's streets in terms of maintenance, training their staff and doing a lot more with less which is the ultimate goal that we all want for the taxpayers.
 - Impressed with the progress of 275 from West Point on.
- Don Dubas with Stanton County Public Power District.
 - SPPD has power lines on 57, concerned with lead times to get materials
 - Makes it a challenge when trying to adhere to a project schedule
 - Kevin Domogalla responded that he's advocating for utilities via an upcoming meeting to coordinate.
- No letters were submitted for public record.
- Comment from Commissioner Kindig: District 4 had a lot of backed-up freight traffic due to the January snow storm. He wanted to find a way to say they appreciate truckers and their patience.
 - Vicki shared this sentiment; the Kearney bypass was the worse location for storm, ripple effect once interstate starts closing. Looking at truck parking actively and have been for years, commercial side, state side.
 - Coordination with our emergency management across the state is something that has helped, taken a more active role in at least District 6, North Platte and that area. Trying to find places to get the trucks a place to park near facilities too.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

- No remarks from the chair.

PUBLIC MEETINGS CALENDAR

- No pending public meetings.

- NDOT held two public meetings:
 - Lincoln West Beltway Project from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on April 17, 2024 at NDOT Central Complex in Lincoln, NE.
 - Pre-construction for N-370 Omaha, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on April 30 at Millard Social Hall, Omaha NE
- The next scheduled District 5 Program/Highway Commission meeting is May 17, 2024 at 8:30 a.m., located at 1050 M Street, Gering Civic Center.

ADJOURNMENT

- The chair adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.