

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

State Headquarters
 1500 Highway 2
 PO Box 94759
 Lincoln, NE 68509-4759
 Communication Office: 402-479-4512
 dot.nebraska.gov



Pete Ricketts, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nebraska Department of Transportation Launches Traffic Count Dashboard

April 22, 2020 (Lincoln, Neb.) — Today, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) launched a new Traffic Count Dashboard as an informational resource for Nebraskans. The NDOT has been reporting traffic data since March 1 to track the impact of COVID-19 on statewide traffic volumes. For the week of April 12 through April 18, statewide traffic volumes were down 35 percent compared to the 2016-2018 average.

The Traffic Count Dashboard will be updated weekly and can be viewed using the following link:
<https://gis.ne.gov/portal/apps/opstdashboard/index.html#/4473552a18f34645ad0dede3ae1105ce>

Percent Difference in Weekly Traffic Volume Compared to 2016-2018 average

	Rural Highways	I-80 West of Lincoln	Omaha Streets & Hwys	Lincoln Streets & Hwys	I-80 Lincoln to Iowa, I-180, I-680, I-480	Remaining Small Urban Streets & Highways	Statewide Total
March 1-7	4	-9	3	4	3	-1	2
March 8-14	-4	-4	-5	-3	-6	-5	-4
March 15-21	-17	-10	-26	-20	-25	-17	-19
March 22-28	-24	-36	-28	-32	-41	-22	-29
March 29-April 4	-22	-28	-33	-30	-40	-28	-28
April 5-11	-20	-32	-32	-31	-41	-29	-28
April 12-18	-29	-38	-39	-37	-44	-34	-35



“The traffic count dashboard is a tool to help the DOT understand and communicate how COVID-19 is impacting travel in Nebraska,” said NDOT Director Kyle Schneweis. “While we are seeing freight traffic stay at near normal levels, a 35 percent decrease in statewide traffic volume poses potential impacts to how the NDOT does business. It is too early to estimate the extent of impact but we’ll continue to analyze the data to understand scenarios.”

The data compares 2020’s traffic to the historical three year (2016-18) average daily traffic for each day of the week for that month and then averages the difference in traffic for each week by category. Data for 2019 was excluded due to the impacts of flooding on highways. For example, March 15-21 is calculated by finding the difference in March 15, 2020 vs. the historical average Sunday traffic for March, March 16 2020 vs. the historic average Monday in March, etc. Then each day is averaged together to get a weekly average change in traffic.

The column descriptions are as follows:

- Rural Highway are all non-interstate roads in areas under 5,000 population.
- Omaha Streets & Highways include all non-interstate roads in Douglas and Sarpy counties.
- Lincoln Streets & Highways include all non-interstate roads in Lancaster County.
- Remaining Small Urban Streets & Highways are all roads in cities with over 5,000 population outside of Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster counties. (This includes I-129).
- Statewide Total is a weighted average of all categories.

The NDOT maintains a system of 67 continuous traffic counters statewide. These are often called automatic traffic recorders (ATRs). These counters collect traffic volume and classification data 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Data is then relayed to NDOT twice per week.

For more information/data about ATRs and links to the Annual ATR and March 2020 reports:

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/3811/annual-traffic-count-data.pdf>

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/7569/autotrffrecorddata.pdf>

#NDOT#

Contact:

Vicki Kramer

vicki.kramer@nebraska.gov

NR14-zp

