

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Pete Ricketts, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory:

NDOT Announces October 22 Celebration of Opening of Hwy 281 Bridge over Niobrara River South of Spencer

October 22, 2020 (Lincoln, Neb.) – The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) announces an event today to celebrate the opening of the permanent bridge on Highway 281 over the Niobrara River south of Spencer. This replaces a temporary bridge that has been in place since July 30 after March 2019 flooding created a 127-mile detour.

This marks the completion of major flood repairs to the State Highway System as full mobility has been restored to Nebraska after flooding caused significant damage and washed out a segment of the highway just south of the bridge.

During the event, the collaborative efforts of the NDOT, industry partners and local stakeholders that resulted in the early opening of the permanent Hwy. 281 bridge will be recognized, as well as the completion of major flood repairs to the State Highway, restoring mobility to Nebraska. Director Kyle Schneweis will join Governor Pete Ricketts, partners and stakeholders to make remarks before taking questions. **This event is open to the public.**

What: NDOT Director Schneweis to join Governor Pete Ricketts, industry partners and local officials to recognize efforts resulting in the early opening of Hwy. 281 and full mobility restored.

When: **New Time 1:30 PM CDT** on Thursday, October 22, 2020

Where: Parking toward the south end of the bridge at the shoofly (temporary) entrance to the Highway 281 bridge south of Spencer (**see attached map**). Parking is very limited at the event.

Who: Speakers are, in order of appearance:

- Mark Kovar, NDOT District 8 Engineer
- Governor Pete Ricketts
- Derek Bentz, Spencer Chairman of the Board
- Chris Hawkins, COO Hawkins Construction
- Kyle Schneweis, NDOT Director

#NDOT#

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