FLOOD RECOVERY
After the historic flooding and widespread damage across the state, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) has identified several flood recovery projects in District 8 that must be completed to restore transportation assets and the mobility of the traveling public. Due to the emergency nature of these projects, their completion may be given precedence over the district’s previously scheduled projects.

OPEN HOUSE MEETING
Thursday, June 27, 2019
9:30 to 11:00 a.m. CST
Holt County Annex
128 N. 6th Street
O’Neill, NE 68763

HWY 11 SOUTH OF BUTTE;
ER-11-4(120), C.N. 81038
This proposed project would repair the bridge structure over the Niobrara River on Nebraska Highway 11 (N-11) south of Butte, NE. Approximately 1,500 feet of pavement on N-11 would also be replaced and reconstructed. Construction is tentatively scheduled to be completed in fall 2019. This section of N-11 would remain closed during construction, and traffic would continue to be detoured according to the posted signs.

HWY 281 SOUTH OF SPENCER;
ER-281-4(130), C.N. 81039
This proposed project would involve constructing a new bridge structure over the Niobrara River and repairing the existing bridge structure over the Niobrara River on U.S. Highway 281 (US-281) south of Spencer, NE. It would also include constructing a temporary bridge and roadway to restore traffic on US-281. The temporary bridge would be expected to open by August 2019, and the permanent bridge would be anticipated to open in summer 2020. Until the temporary roadway is in place, this section of US-281 would remain closed, and traffic would continue to be detoured per posted signs.
When will repairs be made?
NDOT intends to restore traveling routes as soon as possible. The time it takes to complete repairs will vary depending on the availability of resources. In some cases, a temporary repair will be made to restore traffic flow while the permanent repair is designed and constructed.

Why are these flood response projects taking so long?
The flood response projects are not simple repairs. Flooding caused serious changes to the stream banks and caused underwater damage to bridge structures leaving some unstable. Engineers have conducted assessments and are working with contractors to find the most efficient ways to make repairs. The process to design, contract and build these repairs has been iterative and takes time.

Where can I find information about scheduled repairs in my area?
Information about the Nebraska Department of Transportation’s (NDOT) flood recovery efforts will be made available and updated at https://dot.nebraska.gov/news-media/nebraska-flood-2019/. For information specific to your district, see contact information below.

Information regarding county or local street projects may be available through their respective websites or by contacting their offices directly.

How long will detours be in place?
The duration of detours will vary depending on the project. For more detailed information on the detours impacting your travel, please refer to Nebraska 511 Traveler Information.

Who is paying for the emergency repairs?
To date, the State of Nebraska and local agencies received $25 million in federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Federal Highway Administration’s Emergency Relief (ER) program. Additional federal funds may be available to lessen the financial burden on the State of Nebraska.

How long will it take to repair a damaged bridge?
Bridges that have been damaged by flooding will receive a level of repair that will restore traffic flow as much as possible. However, size or weight restrictions may be required, and a temporary detour route will be established for loads exceeding posted limits. These safe temporary repairs are not intended as a permanent solution and will remain in place while permanent bridges meeting even higher standards are designed and then constructed.

Will the flood impact other projects around the state?
NDOT is currently evaluating options for previously scheduled projects as much as resources will allow. NDOT will prioritize projects accordingly.

What is NDOT going to do with the roads used for temporary detours that were not designed to carry the current traffic loads?
NDOT will repair roads damaged by the additional detoured traffic loads. In addition, cities and counties can request additional funding for repairs and maintenance associated with the detoured flood traffic.

What does the term “shoofly” mean?
A shoofly is often used when practical to help motorists avoid lengthy detour routes. It’s a temporary road or structure placed at the project location to allow traffic to flow as construction is taking place.

For more information, contact:
Sarah Soula, NDOT Public Involvement | sarah.soula@nebraska.gov | 402-479-4871
Mark Kovar, NDOT District 8 Engineer | mark.kovar@nebraska.gov | 402-387-2471
The State of Nebraska experienced widespread, devastating damage during the historic flooding of March 2019, and NDOT staff immediately began working around the clock to restore roadways for safe travel.

To date, the State of Nebraska has received $25 million in federal assistance to make immediate emergency repairs.

- We have identified state and local projects throughout four of the state’s eight districts that will be eligible for funding under the Federal Highway Administration’s Emergency Relief (ER) program.

NDOT’s top priority at all times is to ensure the safe and efficient mobility of the traveling public, and NDOT is taking immediate action to address the catastrophic flooding while balancing the need to complete the existing non-flood related projects.

- Emergency repairs are currently being designed and implemented to restore traffic flow as much as possible.
- Projects previously planned to be completed during the 2019 construction season may be temporarily postponed to accommodate flood response projects.

The flooding resulted in an estimated $146 million in damages to the state highway system and $30 million to local roads.

Approximately 200 miles of pavement required rehabilitation, like this section of Nebraska Highway 12 (N-12) east of Niobrara.
After the historic flooding event and widespread damage across the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) has identified several flood recovery projects in District 8 that must be completed to restore transportation assets and the mobility of the traveling public.

The District 8 emergency projects (locations indicated on the map to the right) include the following:

- Hwy 11 South of Butte; ER-11-4(120), C.N. 81038
- Hwy 281 South of Spencer; ER-281-4(130), C.N. 81039

Due to the emergency nature of these projects, their completion may be given precedence over the district’s previously scheduled projects; NDOT is currently evaluating options and will honor their commitments to previously scheduled projects as much as resources will allow.

Restoring safe and efficient travel of Nebraska’s highways is NDOT’s top priority.
WHAT HAPPENED
High velocity flood waters and large amounts of ice damaged the bridge, bending the steel beams that support the concrete driving surface and moving the bridge downstream and off its supports.

PLANNED REPAIR
The bridge will be lifted and moved upstream back onto new supports. The entire concrete driving surface will be removed in order to replace portions of the severely damaged steel beams, and straighten other damaged steel beams and steel components. And then a new concrete driving surface will be installed.

SCHEDULE
- Construction began in June 2019
- The bridge is forecasted to be open fall 2019
WHAT HAPPENED
Flood waters coupled with rapid snow melt created an extraordinary flood surge that breached the Spencer Dam washing out approximately 1,000 feet of U.S. Highway 281 (US-281). In its place, a new river channel was created severing a critical connection between Hold and Boyd Counties.

PLANNED REPAIR
This project required design for temporary and permanent repairs. The permanent repairs include constructing a new 1,055-foot bridge and approach roadways on US-281. Temporary repairs to restore US-281 include constructing a temporary bridge and roadway.

SCHEDULE
• Temporary bridge to be open by August 2019
• Permanent bridge to be open fall 2020

The temporary bridge will be open for one lane of traffic while the permanent bridge is constructed. All legal loads will be allowed on the temporary bridge, but there will be a width restriction of 14'-0".
TEMPORARY BRIDGES

Bridges that have been damaged by flooding will receive a level of repair that will restore traffic flow as much as possible.

- Size or weight restrictions may be required, and a temporary detour route will be established for loads exceeding posted limits.

These safe temporary bridges are not intended to be a permanent solution and will remain in place while the permanent bridge is constructed.

Many other communities have used temporary bridges to safely accommodate traffic flow during a bridge replacement project.