

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Pete Ricketts, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nebraska Department of Transportation Releases 2018 Annual Report

October 17, 2019 (Lincoln, Neb.) — Today, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) released its 2018 Annual Report, which highlights the agency's efforts to provide Nebraskans the best possible transportation system.

The report focuses on the agency's eight strategic goals that represent the foundation of its values. Safety, Fiscal Responsibility, Environmental Stewardship, Project Delivery, Asset Management, Mobility, Work Force Development, and Communication, Coordination, Collaboration and Cooperation encompass the diverse priorities and strategies needed to drive an agency that impacts all Nebraskans and touches every corner of the state.

The report's Safety section focuses on the agency's dedication to developing and implementing effective strategies to reduce traffic-related crashes and fatalities on Nebraska's roadways. The state's crash rate of 1.7 per 100 million vehicle miles held steady for the fourth year and remained below the national average. The agency is committed to continuous evaluation of safety measures to improve safety and move Toward Zero Deaths. New in 2018, drivers involved in a crash began submitting the required Driver's Motor Vehicle Crash Report to NDOT electronically rather than on paper. With more than 50,000 reports submitted annually, the system leverages efficiencies and innovation in technology to improve customer service.

Increasing efficiency and effectiveness to improve project reliability were priorities of teams charged with the goals of Fiscal Responsibility and Project Delivery. The NDOT Planning Section implemented a first-of-its-kind Nebraska State Freight Plan in 2018. By utilizing the plan, NDOT and its partners can leverage resources to reduce the cost of doing business in Nebraska.

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The agency challenged itself to implement creative solutions to expedite project delivery. NDOT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Categorical Exclusion (CE), which means that NDOT will assume environmental-review responsibilities for federally-funded CE projects, which will create efficiencies that deliver benefits to the state more quickly and economically.

As NDOT continues to preserve, rehabilitate and replace major assets managed by the agency, they are exploring the use of drones as a means to provide high quality bridge inspections. Initial results have shown increased safety, time and cost savings and it is likely that NDOT will implement increased use of drones in the future.

Topics outlined in the Mobility section emphasized improvement through increased reliability, capacity and efficiency. NDOT met the acute need for truck parking by utilizing existing state property near Big Springs within the Interstate 80/US-138 interchange to create a parking lot that can accommodate 100 to 200 trucks. This innovation was included on a list of Best Practices by the FHWA's Office of Freight Management and Operations' National Coalition on Truck Parking.

Finally, customer service was touched upon through Communication, Coordination, Collaboration and Cooperation with the launch of a campaign in December 2018 called "Your Safe Travel Is Our Business." The campaign promoted safety and featured local NDOT snowplow drivers on billboards, along with safety messages, including "Respect the Plow," and "Respect the Snowfighters," which were placed at four locations, strategically located along high traffic corridors on I-80 and US-34.

An electronic copy of the 2018 NDOT Annual Report can be found at:

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/3493/annual-report.pdf>.

#NDOT#

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