

8:30 a.m., Friday, May 22nd, 2026
State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes

On Friday, May 22nd, 2026, the Nebraska State Highway Commission convened at the Gering Civic Center at 1050 M Street. The agenda, a recording of the 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 on Friday, May 15th, 2026.
- 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, Virtual |
| • Commissioner Heath Mello | District 2, Virtual |
| • Commissioner David Copple | District 3, Virtual |
| • Commissioner Jim Hawks | District 6 |
| • Commissioner Greg Wolford | District 7 |
| • Deputy Director, Kurt Vosburg | Ex Officio, Virtual |

Marissa Kuehn, Nebraska State Highway Commission Secretary, 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

- Due to weather, the Chair and Vice Chair could not attend in person. Chair duties were delegated to Commissioner Wolford.
- Commissioner Wolford called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Gering Civic Center in Gering, Nebraska.
- The chair requested an attendance roll call. Commissioner **Wolford** and Commissioner **Hawks** were present in person. Commissioners **Meginnis, Mello and Copple** attended virtually.
- A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted in the meeting room.

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

MEETING BUSINESS

Remarks from Deputy Director Vosburg

- Federal Highway Bill Update
 - The current federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expires September 30, 2026.
 - The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee released a proposed surface transportation reauthorization bill with approximately \$580 billion in highway investment funding.
 - Vosburg emphasized the importance of stable federal funding for long-term transportation planning.
- Traffic Management Center Update
 - NDOT consolidated statewide operations into a single Traffic Management Center in Omaha.
 - The center monitors highway cameras, roadway weather systems, message signs, and statewide incidents.
 - NDOT continues implementing proactive traffic management tools, including variable speed limits along Interstate 80.
 - Vosburg noted staffing challenges and said NDOT is exploring a hybrid staffing model with vendor support.

New Business

- District 5 Presentation – Doug Hoevet, District Engineer
 - District Overview
 - District 5 includes the 11 counties of the Nebraska Panhandle.
 - The district maintains approximately 100 miles of interstate, 100 miles of expressway, and nearly 2,000 miles of two-lane highways.
 - The district operates with approximately 145 employees across 11 maintenance yards.
 - Maintenance & Operations
 - Maintenance staff perform roadway, bridge, roadside, and sign maintenance throughout the year.
 - Crews assist with crash response, traffic control, and recent wildfire response efforts.
 - NDOT conducts annual roadway reviews to identify and prioritize system needs.
 - Completed Projects
 - Highway 2 corridor improvements in Sheridan County were completed across 2024 and 2025.
 - Highway 27 and Highway 250 improvements included pavement widening and drainage upgrades.

- Turn lane improvements near the Bridgeport ethanol plant were completed in October 2024.
- I-80 resurfacing from Sidney to Snowville included bridge repairs and truck parking improvements.
- Current & Future Projects
 - The Chadron, Bridgeport, and Mitchell-to-Scottsbluff projects include resurfacing, bridge work, turn lane improvements, and ADA upgrades.
 - The Minatare to US-385 expressway expansion project is scheduled to begin construction in June 2026.
 - Future projects include the Bridgeport West Viaduct replacement and additional US-385 corridor improvements beginning in 2027.
- Public Engagement & Service
 - NDOT highlighted the importance of community partnerships, traveler information systems, and safety outreach efforts
 - Officials thanked local communities and stakeholders for continued collaboration and participation.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Deb Cottier, Chair of the Heartland Expressway Association Board of Directors, thanked the commission and NDOT staff for their continued partnership and support of the Heartland Expressway corridor. Cottier discussed ongoing collaboration with the Ports-to-Plains Alliance and efforts to support future interstate and freight corridor development opportunities. She encouraged timely appointments to fill vacancies on the Highway Commission and offered assistance identifying potential candidates.
 - Commissioner **Wolford** thanked Cottier for her longtime advocacy and public involvement supporting transportation projects in western Nebraska.
- Annie Folck, City Engineer for Gering and Vice Chair of the Heartland Expressway Association, thanked District 5 staff for their responsiveness and partnership with local communities. Folck also praised NDOT's Infrastructure Hub program and encouraged the department to continue providing grant application support resources for local governments.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

- None

PUBLIC MEETINGS CALENDAR

- The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) has 5 public meetings and 1 public hearing scheduled between now and the next Highway Commission meeting.
 - A local public meeting for the Ames Avenue Safe Mobility Recovery Plan project will take place on Thursday, July 9th at The Venue at Highlander Accelerator at 2120 N 30th St in Omaha from 5:30-7pm.
 - NDOT will hold a public meeting for the Wahoo-Fremont South project on Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 from 4-6 p.m. at the Keene Memorial Library in Fremont, NE and another on Thursday, July 30th from 4-6 p.m. at the Mead Fire Department in Mead, NE.
- The next scheduled Highway Commission meeting is August 14th, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in Ashland, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:07 am.