

8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 17, 2024  
State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes

On Thursday, May 17, 2024, the Nebraska State Highway Commission convened at Gering Civic Center located at 1050 M Street in Gering, Nebraska. The agenda, a recording of 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 to all statewide outlets on May 10, 2024.
- 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

- |                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| • Commissioner Richard Meginnis | District 1 |
| • Commissioner Heath Mello      | District 2 |
| • Commissioner David Copple     | District 3 |
| • Commissioner James H. Kindig  | District 4 |
| • Commissioner Doug Leafgreen   | Absent     |
| • Commissioner Jim Hawks        | District 6 |
| • Commissioner Greg Wolford     | District 7 |
| • Commissioner Jerome Fagerland | District 8 |
| • Director, Vicki Kramer        | Ex Officio |

Shannon Ankeny, NDOT Communications & Public Policy Director, 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

- Commissioner Jim Hawks called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
- The chair requested an attendance roll call. A quorum was present.

#### MINUTES

- Approval of March 28 2024, meeting minutes.
  - Motion for approval made by Kindig; Meginnis seconded.
  - Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-1

#### INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Doug Hoevet
  - Senators Erdman and Hardin
  - Austin Kellogg, new D5 Construction Engineer

#### MEETING BUSINESS

- Commissioner Welcome  
Doug Hoevet, District 5 Engineer (Leafgreen absent)
- Director's Remarks  
Vicki Kramer, NDOT Director
  - Thanked Senators Erdman and Hardin for attending
  - Boarding for bonding
  - County Bridge Match – bridge investment programs
  - Local Assistance – transportation investment
  - Transit – resources and services, local business partners are champions
- District Presentation  
Doug Hoevet NDOT District 5 Engineer
  - NDOT taxpayer responsibility
    - Business mindset
    - Thoughtful allocation
    - Clear mission, resilient teams
  - Traveler safety
    - Maintenance safety
    - Construction
    - System improvements
    - AFAD: Automated Flagger Assistance Devices
  - Customer Communication
    - Transparent, consistent and timely
  - Our teams move our business forward
    - Staffing challenges
    - Cost challenges
    - Accomplishing our mission

- 2024 Construction Season
  - 2025 and beyond
  - 2023 Construction program
- Maintenance planning for D5
  - Annual maintenance
  - Emergency responses
- Notable Project Updates
  - Heartland Expressway
  - Minatare US-385

## PUBLIC INPUT

Rich Flores – Kimball County Commission, Chairman

- Trucking issues
- Military missile sites

Deb Cottier – Heartland Expressway, Chairman Board of Directors

- Read her letter she submitted in advance

Paul Whiting – Clean Harbors, Executive Vice President of Facilities Engineering

- Expansion of their facilities – slow moving trucks, impatient drivers
- Safety issues - passing lanes need to be added to N-71
- Adding jobs to Kimball community

Joe Kiely – Ports-to-Plains Alliance, Vice President Operations

- Condition of highway in Colorado that connects to Nebraska
- \$200M for Heartland Expressway from Colorado

State Senator Brian Hardin – Banner, Kimball and Scottsbluff County

- Job growth in this area
- Minuteman missile silos

John Morrison – Kimball Mayor

- Help on N-71 going south and US-30 going east
- Industries (Clean Harbor's rail spur) bring in lots of freight traffic

Senator Steve Erdman

- Project south of Kimball needs to be prioritized, L-62 needs financing
- Minatare to US-385
- Super 2 was discussed a few years ago, feels like discussion was dismissed
- Hearing vs. announcement on alignment
- Bridge needs
- Turn lane near ethanol plant in Bridgeport

Terry Jessen – Oshkosh Heifer – acknowledged letter from 2015

- 24/7 operation – 200 entrances/day plus 200 to 300 vehicles
- Needs turn lane for safety concerns
- Heifer operations are bigger than feedlot

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Commission appreciates the turnout and the information about area developments.

PUBLIC MEETINGS CALENDAR

The next scheduled meeting is August 23, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska at the NDOT Central Complex Headquarters, 1500 Nebraska Parkway.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:41 a.m.