

WAYFINDER

A Message from the Director: Importance of Community Engagement

NDOT has been actively engaging with communities to understand their needs and support statewide growth. Communication with rural areas is crucial for addressing their unique transportation requirements. Recent visits by NDOT members and Governor Jim Pillen emphasize the importance of these connections, allowing residents to voice their concerns directly to state officials and influence transportation planning and policies.

In May, NDOT members visited communities, including Chadron and Murray. In Chadron, Governor Pillen and I held a roundtable with local leaders to discuss the diverse transportation infrastructure needs in northwest Nebraska and explore funding opportunities for local projects. In Murray, NDOT members engaged with students and faculty at Conestoga Jr-Sr High School. This visit was to promote road safety and educate young drivers about the new Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT) intersection being installed near the school.

At NDOT, safety is our top priority. Whether on the roads, job sites, or in district yards, staying attentive and safe is central for everyone's well-being. Our commitment to safety protects lives, enhances infrastructure quality, and fosters public confidence in our transportation systems. Our community engagement is integral to this mission, as it allows us to address specific local needs, educate the public, and implement effective safety measures tailored to each community.▲



We'd like to hear from you. If you have an update to share, please send it to ndot.wayfinder@nebraska.gov for consideration.



JULY

- 1 Vehicle Theft Prevention Month
- 4 Independence Day Holiday
- 10-31 Speed Campaign (HSO)

SAFETY UPDATE

June is National Safety Month

At NDOT, safety comes first! Keep it quick and effective with 5-minute "Tailgate Talks" as recommended by the National Safety Council. These brief chats are ideal for discussing daily hazards, safety concerns, PPE, and more. Plus, remember to hold a "Tailgate Talk" after any incidents to keep everyone informed and safe.

IT UPDATE

Reporting Suspicious Email

Reporting suspicious email is vital for cybersecurity, preventing data breaches, phishing attacks, and other cyber threats that could harm NDOT's digital assets. Timely reporting allows for prompt investigation and mitigation, minimizing potential damage.

- To report a suspicious email:
- ▶ Click the "Report Message" button on the top right of your Outlook ribbon.
 - ▶ From the drop down, select the type of reporting that best matches the type of email you received.
 - **Junk** - Spam, unsolicited or unwanted email.
 - **Phishing** - Often used to disguise an email to look like someone else in an attempt to steal passwords and other sensitive information.



District Maintenance Training Plans Begin

This month, Human Resources Division launched the NDOT District Maintenance Training Plans to assist in onboarding and training new highway maintenance teammates. These plans include essential agency and HR resources, an onboarding checklist, position-specific on-the-job checklists, and detailed training plans. Also, they outline required courses, durations, and deadlines, and are automatically assigned to new maintenance teammates in Workday.

This initiative is the first step in a broader effort to structure training across NDOT, ensuring all new teammates receive the necessary training to be successful. We will be working with all districts and divisions to achieve this goal.

NDOT Educates Students on RCUTs

In mid-May, NDOT visited Conestoga Jr-Sr High School in Murray to educate students about a new Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT) intersection soon to be installed near the school. NDOT presented to 250 students from 7th to 11th grade and staff, explaining the design, benefits, and navigation of RCUTs, supported by drone footage of the North Bend RCUT on US-30. The session included a trivia segment and a Q&A, addressing topics like traffic queuing and safety, and concluded with reminders about safe driving practices like always buckling up and putting phones down while driving.

Gov. Pillen Proclaimed May as General Aviation Month

Governor Jim Pillen proclaimed May as General Aviation Month in Nebraska, celebrating the industry's significant contributions. Since its inception in 1939, General Aviation has grown substantially, with the U.S. now home to over 200,000 aircraft and 650,000 registered pilots, contributing \$247 billion to the economy and supporting 1.2 million jobs. Nebraska boasts 1,951 registered aircraft, 4,639 licensed pilots, 79 public-use airports, and 164 private-use airfields, generating \$8.6 billion in economic impact annually and supporting 90,000 jobs. This proclamation honors aviation's vital role in disaster relief, humanitarian aid, law enforcement, and agriculture.

NDOT Snow Rodeo Showcases Operator Skills & Safety Awareness

At the end of May, NDOT hosted the 2024 NDOT Snow Rodeo at the Nebraska Safety Center located at the University of Nebraska – Kearney. This event challenges snowplow drivers with a rigorous obstacle course designed to mimic real-world conditions, celebrating their expertise and highlighting their crucial role in keeping Nebraska's roadways safe during winter. This event emphasizes safety which is something NDOT aims to instill in all participants. This year's championship team are repeat winners Chad Shaul and Tyrel Yager from District 8's Valentine Yard. They will be headed to the national championship in Colorado in September. Runners-up are Darrell Doyle and Michael Webber from District 4 in Superior.



Snow Rodeo 1st Place - District 8 Team (l to r) District Engineer Mark Kovar, Chad Shaul, Tyrel Yager, Director Vicki Kramer, and Deputy Director-Operations Mick Syslo.