

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Jim Pillen, Governor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NDOT, NSP and LPD Held Press Event to Launch ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ Mobilization**

**Aug. 14, 2024 (Lincoln, Neb.)** — Today, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), Nebraska State Patrol (NSP), and the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) held a press event at the Nebraska State Patrol Headquarters in Lincoln to launch the ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ mobilization, taking place August 14 – September 2, 2024. Vicki Kramer, NDOT Director, was joined by Colonel John Bolduc of the NSP, MADD Advocate Toby Antonson, and Chief Michon Morrow of the LPD to discuss the goals and importance of this campaign.

This nationwide, high-visibility enforcement campaign aims to reduce the severe consequences of impaired driving and is supported by increased law enforcement presence. In Nebraska in 2022, 6,325 drivers were arrested for DUI, and there were 77 alcohol-related fatalities. Alarmingly, DUIs increased further by 3.6% in 2023.

Colonel Bolduc highlighted the ongoing efforts to combat impaired driving, saying, “So far this year, our troopers have made 821 arrests for driving under the influence. That’s a 23% increase over last year at this time. Great job to our Troopers, Officers, and Deputies for getting those impaired drivers off the road. Each one of those DUI arrests is a potential lifesaver.”

Addressing these concerning statistics, Director Kramer commented, “We’re seeing trends in the wrong direction. We’re seeing more fatalities – 153 people have lost their lives on our roadways this year. Beyond that, we have had three catastrophic incidents with state workers on our roadways. We have got to do better.” She further emphasized NDOT’s stake in the campaign, adding, “The Nebraska Safety Office apportioned \$277,000 of its annual funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety

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Administration to support Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, because we care not only about building safe roads, but keeping drivers safe on them.”

MADD Advocate Toby Antonson brought a personal perspective to the event, sharing the tragic impact of impaired driving. “My life was changed forever, almost 10 years ago, by a repeat drunk driver. He was looking at his fourth offense of drunk driving, and he took my mom’s life needlessly.” His testimony served as a powerful reminder of the human cost behind the statistics.

Chief Michon Morrow underscored the community's role during this critical period, stating, “This is the end of our summer season, school has started, football will begin in Lincoln, and we want to make sure we are committed to the enforcement of the safety of our roadways and that we provide education on a regular basis to our community members to help them make wise choices.”

Highlighting the local impact, she added, “In Lincoln, we have had 13 crashes that have killed 14 individuals from our community. Three of those involved drug and alcohol impairment. I need to reiterate that each one of these incidences, whether it be the 735 arrests we’ve made and those that involved a crash, whether it was injury or not, it was a choice. It is 100% preventable by making the right choice.”

The ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ mobilization is dedicated to keeping our roads safe and reducing the number of impaired driving crashes. By raising awareness and enhancing enforcement, the goal is to save lives and prevent the tragedies caused by impaired driving.

Video of the event can be viewed on [NDOT’s Facebook](#) page and photos can be viewed here: [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Mobilization Press Event](#).

#NDOT#

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