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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Working Toward Balanced, Safe, and Reliable Solution for Niobrara East and West Hwy. N-12

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) has been developing a new alternative adjacent to the existing highway to provide a long term transportation solution for Nebraska Highway 12 (N-12).

Following the November 9, 2015, public hearing, held to receive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and NDOR's Section 404 permit application, NDOR withdrew their application for the proposed A7 alternative. The public made it clear that an alternate solution should be sought as Alternative A7 would produce hardships on landowners and current farm and ranch operations within the valley, as well as increase potential for shading, icing and snow removal challenges due to the proposed alternative being located directly adjacent to the bluffs.

NDOR is developing a new alternative (A8) adjacent to the existing highway alignment. NDOR has hosted meetings with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the National Park Service (NPS) to evaluate the alternative and the environmental impacts in advance of a permit decision. The goal of these meetings is to identify solutions toward achieving an alternative that can be permitted by all agencies. A new highway at a higher elevation is needed to provide reliable transportation and avoid the problem of reoccurring flooding.

NDOR is planning a public meeting for fall 2016 to present the A8 alternative as it compares with the A7 alternative to the community of Niobrara and receive input. Information regarding the project is available on the NDOR website at <http://roads.nebraska.gov/projects/future-projects/> by clicking on the "Niobrara – Hwy 12 – East & West" link.

#NDOR#

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