

## Nebraska State Highway Commission Policy Highway 81 York to Columbus Resolution No. 2025-1

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (“NDOT”) requests The State Highway Commission recommend to the Governor approval of NDOT’s corridor location and design for the Highway 81 York to Columbus project on the state highway system. Additionally, NDOT is seeking the advice of the State Highway Commission and the consent of the Governor for the use of control of access on this project as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 39-1327.

The purpose of the project is to:

- Fulfill legislative intent to continue the development of the expressway system identified in the 1988 Nebraska Highway Needs Study.
- Improve regional connectivity for vehicles in east-central Nebraska, including commercial vehicles, by providing important expressway connections with U.S. Highway 34, Nebraska Highway 66, Nebraska Highway 92, Nebraska Highway 69 and Nebraska Highway 64, while maintaining convenient highway access for communities in the area.
- Improve the condition of the existing infrastructure.

The project is needed because there is a gap in the US-81 Expressway from the Kansas-Nebraska border to Norfolk, a lack of connectivity in east-central Nebraska and existing infrastructure deficiencies.

In addition to satisfying the above purposes, the goals of the project are to meet current NDOT arterial and expressway standards; apply a 2+2 construction methodology; maximize the use of existing transportation infrastructure; including connecting highways and existing right-of-way; update highway and county road intersection geometrics; minimize traffic disruption during construction; and maximize the cost-effectiveness of the project.

The Highway 81 York to Columbus project is located within York, Polk, and Butler Counties, beginning approximately 0.4 mile north of the US-81 intersection with US Highway 34 at the end of the existing 4-lane York Bypass, and extends north for approximately 41 miles to approximately 0.3 mile north of the intersection of US-81 with Nebraska Highway 64. The project will consist of widening US-81 from a two-lane highway to a 4-lane divided highway with a depressed median in rural segments using the 2+2 strategy of constructing new lanes on the left or right side and milling and resurfacing the existing lanes. Some portions of the existing pavement would be rehabilitated and/or replaced. Three (3) lane sections will be constructed in Osceola and Shelby; some rural and some urban.



**NDOT HEREBY REQUESTS THE NEBRASKA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION** provide its advice to the Governor of Nebraska in support of NDOT's proposal for the expansion of US-81 corridor from York to Columbus and for the use of control of access as a part of this project.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 39-1309(2) and 39-1327, the Nebraska State Highway Commission hereby advises and recommends the following to the Governor of the State of Nebraska:

1. Approval of the corridor location and design.
2. Approval of the use of access control on this project.

Moved and adopted by the Nebraska State Highway Commission this 9th day of May, 2025.

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Richard Meginnis

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Douglas C. Leafgreen

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Heath Mello

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Jim Hawks

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David E. Copple

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Greg A. Wolford

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James H. Kindig

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Vacant

In consideration of all applicable factors, including the request by NDOT and the advice of the Nebraska State Highway Commission, I hereby consent to the recommendation to approve both the corridor location and design and the use of access control on the Highway 81 York to Columbus project as described above.

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Jim Pillen  
Governor of Nebraska

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\_\_\_\_\_, 2025  
Date of Governor's Signature