NEBRASKA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION
Nebraska Department of Transportation
1500 Nebraska Parkway
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502
(402) 471-4567

8:30 a.m., Friday, October 23rd, 2026
State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes

On Friday, October 23rd, 2026, the Nebraska State Highway Commission convened at the Kearney Regional Engagement Center in the Gala Room at 2204 University Drive, Kearney, Nebraska, 68845. The agenda, a recording of the 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 on Friday, October 16th, 2026.
- 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, Virtual
• Commissioner David Copple	District 3
• Commissioner Matthew Meister	District 4
• Vacant	District 5
• Commissioner Jim Hawks	District 6
• Commissioner Greg Wolford	District 7
• Vacant	District 8
• Director, Vicki Kramer	Ex Officio

Marissa Kuehn, Nebraska State Highway Commission Secretary, 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 **Meginnis** called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Kearney Regional Engagement Center in Kearney, Nebraska.
- The chair requested an attendance roll call. A quorum was present.
- The August 14th, 2026 Meeting Minutes were called for approval.
    - Motion made by Commissioner **Wolford, Hawks** seconded.
    - Motion carried by unanimous rollcall vote.

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

MEETING BUSINESS

Remarks from Director Kramer

- Federal funding uncertainty due to a Continuing Resolution (CR) active through December 11th.
- Impacts of the CR on NDOT programs, including a temporary loss of $51 million in advanced appropriations.
- Ongoing communication with Nebraska's federal delegation.
- Worker safety concerns, citing a large number of work-zone incidents in 2026.
- Implementation of variable speed limits and upgraded State Operations Center functions.
- District staffing updates and program adjustments for the 2027 letting schedule.

Commissioner Welcome

- Commissioner **Matthew Meister** welcomed attendees to District 4 and the new Kearney Regional Engagement Center, highlighting the region's growth and community assets.

New Business

- District 4 Presentation – Eric Klein, District Engineer
    - 2026 Construction Program
        - US-30 four-lane expansion west of US-281 in Grand Island.
        - US-6 Hastings SE multimodal reconstruction, including a new roundabout on South Street.
        - Davenport East resurfacing project and railroad crossing upgrades.
        - US-281 brick surface replacement in Red Cloud to preserve historic character.
        - I-80 Odessa–Elm Creek eastbound resurfacing and bridge work.
    - 2027–2032 Construction & Planning
        - More than 18 construction projects planned for FY-2027 valued at $129.5 million.
        - Over 75 projects planned through 2032 representing $558.2 million in investment.
        - Major upcoming work includes:
            - Miller–Amherst–N-10 corridor improvements
            - Central City Viaduct realignment
            - Hastings East resurfacing
            - I-80 crack seal projects
            - Kansas Line–Hebron concrete rehabilitation with dowel bar retrofit

- Safety Program Overview – Matt Neemann, NDOT Traffic Engineer
    - History and purpose of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).
    - Nebraska's annual HSIP apportionment reaching $21.7 million in 2026.
    - Eligibility requirements: crash frequency/severity and benefit cost ratio ≥ 5.0.

  - Safety countermeasures such as roundabouts, turn lanes, rumble strips, cable median barriers, and RCUTs.
  - Results including:
    - 82% reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes at intersections converted to roundabouts.
    - Cable median barriers showing a 99% vehicle capture rate.
  - 69 HSIP projects currently programmed with total costs exceeding $617 million.

- Interstate Access Justification Report (IAJR) Programmatic Agreement – Brandie Neemann, NDOT Roadway Design Engineer
  - Nebraska's interstate system: 480 miles, 90 service interchanges.
  - The five step IAJR process and required safety/operations/engineering (SO\&E) evaluations.
  - Difference between delegated (service interchanges) and non delegated (system interchanges) changes.
  - Benefits of delegation:
    - Faster project delivery
    - Reduced administrative delays
    - Concurrent NEPA and SO\&E reviews
    - Better responsiveness to development pressures
  - Examples of recent IAJR activity, including:
    - I-80/192nd interchange
    - Developer driven modifications at I-80/N-31 (Gretna)
  - Commission Discussion
    - Question from Commissioner **Copple**: Asked about other states utilizing IAJR. Brandie Neemann confirmed other states are who have this program, one example being Texas.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Robert Haug, Survivor Outreach Services
  - Mr. Haug spoke on behalf of the family of Master Sergeant Noah Tejan, who was killed in service earlier in the year. He raised concerns about NDOT's memorial naming policy, noting:
    - `The family's request to name a local bridge in Tejan's honor was denied because it connects to Highway 70.
    - Several existing named bridges do not appear to meet the current policy criteria.
    - The family respectfully requests modernizing the policy to allow naming considerations for fallen service members.
  - Commissioners expressed appreciation for the testimony.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

- None

PUBLIC MEETINGS CALENDAR

- The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) has 1 public open house and 1 local public open house scheduled between now and the next Highway Commission meeting.

  - There will be a local public open house for the Westside Connecting Trail project in November. The open house will be held on Thursday, November 12th, 2026, from 5-7 p.m. at the South Sioux City City Hall at 1615 1st Avenue, South Sioux City, NE 68776.

- NDOT will hold a public open house for the US-77, In Beatrice project in November. The open house will be held on Thursday, November 19th, 2026 from 5-7 p.m. at the Beatrice Senior Center at 101 N 25th Street, Beatrice, NE 68310.

- The next scheduled Highway Commission meeting is Friday, December 11th, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska at the NDOT Auditorium.

ADJOURNMENT
The chair adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.