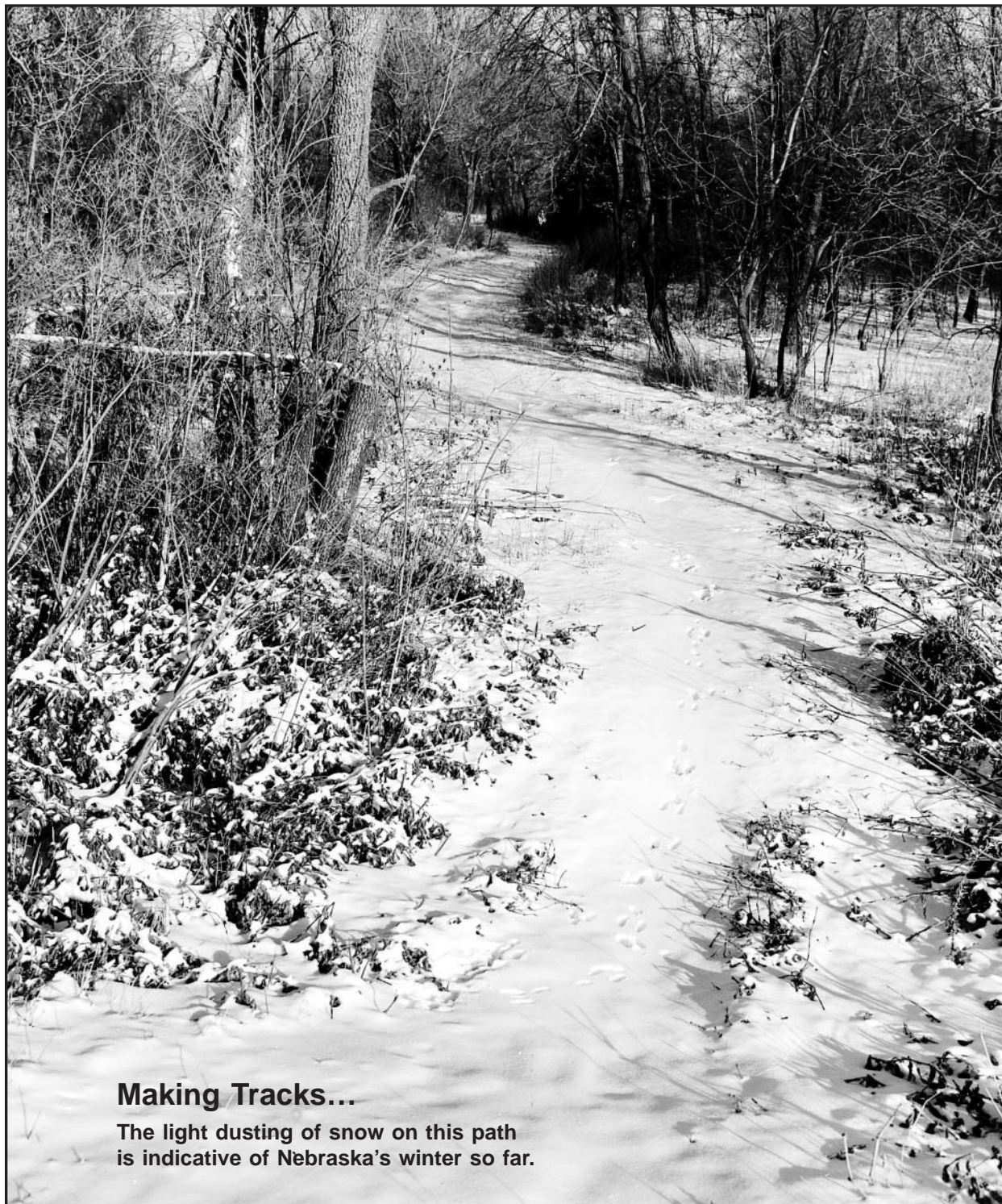


# 1 the Roadrunner

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

February/March 2003



## **Making Tracks...**

The light dusting of snow on this path is indicative of Nebraska's winter so far.

Photo by Jay Bailey

# Government Affairs Division Programs' Impacts are Far-Reaching

By Andrew Cunningham  
Government Affairs Division

Government Affairs, NDOR's smallest division, tackles a wide spectrum of issues, ranging from federal legislation to county road projects, and from trails to rules and regulations, just to name a few.

"It's all about making connections for Nebraska's transportation needs," says Division Manager Larry Shafer.

Government Affairs (formerly Local Liaison) is the connection that keeps federal aid flowing to county road and bridge projects, small town street projects, and off-road enhancement projects such as trails. It is the connection that keeps NDOR, county highway departments and municipal street programs abreast of minimum design standards and state planning and reporting requirements. It is also the connection that keeps the department's concerns in front of Nebraska's five-member Congressional delegation and the 49-member Unicameral Legislature.

### Three Sections

Within the division, three sections manage all this activity. Two sections—Secondary Roads and Transportation Enhancement—oversee local projects that qualify for federal

aid. The third section—Liaison Services—performs specialized support functions for the department and for two statutory boards. Shafer and Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Martens are mainstays of the operation.

### Enhancement Program

The Enhancement Program is the division's newest section. Last year, the department provided \$4,185,230 in Federal Enhancement Funds to 15 projects in communities all across Nebraska. According to Programs

Administrator Jim Pearson, the largest awards went to several trail projects statewide approaching the \$500,000 maximum. The smallest—\$33,600—went to the Nebraska State

Historical Society for repairing highway historical markers. Funded through a non-highway component of the Federal Transportation program, enhancement projects require a 20 percent minimum match. Pearson also coordinates the Nebraska Scenic Byways Program and NDOR's participation in the Nebraska Main Street Program, which provides small grants from the Lied Foundation for revitalization of historic downtown areas.

### Secondary Roads

Overseeing local road and bridge projects is the responsibility of the six-member Secondary Roads Section. Secondary Roads Engineer LeRoy Juengel, assisted by Assistant Secondary Roads Engineer Tim Steffen and Highway Liaison Technicians Tom Braun, Rich Niedermeyer, Arnold Henning and Judy Borer, manage the following programs:

- ▶ Surface Transportation Funds (STPE) Program - road projects for counties and municipalities under 5,000 - funded at 80 percent federal, 20 percent local;

- ▶ Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (BR & BRO) Program - county projects (and municipalities working through their county), includes State Aid Bridge funds - funded at 80 percent federal, 5 percent state, 15 percent local;
- ▶ Bridge Soft Match Program - county projects meeting federal standards but undertaken with local funds - provides a local match "credit" for future federal-aid bridge projects;
- ▶ Recreation Road Program - county, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and NDOR projects providing primary access to recreation sites;
- ▶ FHWA Public Lands Highway Program - county and NDOR projects serving federal recreation areas and other federally-designated lands;
- ▶ Forest Highway Program - assist the U.S. Forest Service in administering funds allocated to roads servicing National Forests in Nebraska;
- ▶ Emergency Relief Program (FEMA) - administer federal funding to counties to repair road and bridge damage due to catastrophic events.

According to Juengel, NDOR reviews projects submitted by (or through) counties, helps prepare the projects for letting by NDOR, then monitors the projects to ensure that design standards are met and proper procedures are followed.

"We had about \$35 million of project activity in 2002," Juengel noted.

### Liaison Services

The Liaison Services Section coordinates NDOR's legislative affairs, supports the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards and the Board of Examiners for County Highway and City Street Superintendents, administers the state Incentive Funds Program, and serves as custodian for the portion of the

(See Government Affairs on page 2)

*"It's all about making connections for Nebraska's transportation needs."*

- Gov't. Affairs Manager Larry Shafer

## the Roadrunner

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# Jacobsen Named New Deputy Director

John "Jake" Jacobsen was named the new Deputy Director at NDOR in January upon the retirement of Jack Pittman after 42 years of state service.

Born in Omaha, Jacobsen spent most of his high school years living in a northwest suburb of Chicago. He came back to Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. The day after his graduation from UNL, Jacobsen began his career at NDOR as an Engineer in the Concrete Research Section of the Materials and Tests Division.

In 1976, Jacobsen was named Maintenance Bridge Engineer in the Maintenance Division. From 1979 to 1986, he served as District Construction Engineer at District 6 in North Platte, and in 1986, he was promoted to District Engineer at District 7 in McCook. In 1992, Jacobsen transferred to District 2 in Omaha and served as District Engineer until he was appointed to his new post as Deputy Director.

Jacobsen said he wouldn't change anything about his 32 years at NDOR. He feels that working in various areas



John "Jake" Jacobsen

of the state in addition to central headquarters has benefited him by providing an enriching experience that allowed him to gain different perspectives.

Some goals for NDOR that Jacobsen would like to see accomplished include continued progress on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) applications.

Jacobsen noted, "I've been involved in ITS since 1993 and was involved on the team that developed the deployment plan for Omaha. We have focused on the metropolitan areas and are now branching out to rural areas, with emphasis on traveler information and communication between Districts with the ongoing development of District Operations Centers through use of new technologies."

Jacobsen would also like to see an even greater team effort as divisions and districts continue to work together. With *everyone* on the same department team working together, he believes efficiencies will be greatly increased. Also, by getting people to think more system-wide and globally, Jacobsen says much more can be accomplished in the long run on the state's transportation system.

Describing himself as results-driven, Jacobsen said ideally he likes to have

the confidence in others to know that once someone is asked to perform a task, they will take the initiative and the results are going to be there. He also is a firm believer in an open-door policy and is willing to visit with anyone at anytime to defend or help with a cause, as long as it is just.

Jacobsen said he abides by a quote from an old movie, "The Godfather," "It's not personal. It's just business."

"In dealings with others, I've come to realize that the person isn't really mad at you. He's mad at the system. I don't take things personal, hardly ever. Once you start getting defensive, you're probably going to lose in the long run. It's part of doing business, and you've just got to tell yourself that from time to time."

Jacobsen has been married to his wife, Diane, for 32 years and they have two children, Jim and Jackie. Jim works at NDOR in Omaha as a Construction Technician III. Jacobsen also has a two-year old granddaughter, Coryn.

Jacobsen is an avid hunter, fisherman and golfer. He has plans for a fishing trip to Alaska this summer with Claude Oie.

In summary, Jacobsen said, "I am looking forward to working with everyone in central headquarters and the districts as we meet new challenges and accomplish our goals together." ♦

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## Government Affairs *(continued from page 2)*

Nebraska Administrative Code assigned to NDOR—the Department's Rules and Regulations. Section Head Andy Cunningham and Assistant Highway Liaison Manager LeMoyne Schulz operate the section, assisted during the legislative season by Office Clerk Ted Wilcox.

The department has always worked closely with other state and federal agencies, the Governor's Office and the Legislature to articulate the State Highway System's needs and to ensure the integrity of the State Highway Trust Fund. According to

Shafer and Cunningham, a close working relationship was developed with the Congressional delegation and encouraged by Director John Craig. This includes sessions of the Federal Transportation Coalition, a group consisting of key department officials and staff of U.S. Senators Chuck Hagel and Ben Nelson and U.S. Representatives Doug Bereuter, Lee Terry and Tom Osborne, which meets in-person or by conference call three times a year. The Nebraska Department of Aeronautics also participates.

"Because of the small size or our delegation, and with annual federal appropriations and, now, the pending renewal of the Federal Highway Act (TEA-21), Director Craig saw the need to work as a team for the benefit of Nebraska transportation," Shafer said.

Shafer, Juengel and Cunningham emphasize that working with the state and U.S. capitals does not distract the division from the realities of county roads and small town streets.

"Our credibility depends on working closely with local officials and understanding their needs," Juengel said. ♦

# Lyman Freemon Honored by AGC

Lyman Freemon, Nebraska Department of Roads' Bridge Engineer, was presented the second annual David Coolidge Memorial Award during the Nebraska Chapter of Associated General Contractors' convention on January 23, at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Freemon was recognized for extraordinary commitment and exceptional contribution to the State Highway System and the promotion of industry cooperation and harmony. Dick Ludwig, President of the Nebraska Chapter of Associated General Contractors, made the presentation.

The award is presented annually to a person either employed by or retired from NDOR. This person shall reflect the high standards represented by David Coolidge's years of service to the department.

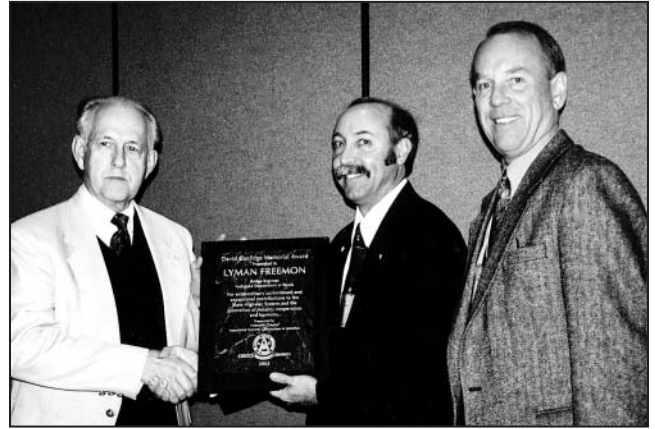
Freemon has served the State of Nebraska as an engineer at NDOR for 45 years.

He attended Hastings College and then UNL where he graduated with his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Upon graduating, he worked for HWS Engineering Consulting Firm for a couple of years.

He then went to work for NDOR in 1958 as a Bridge Designer. After taking a year to go back to graduate college, Freemon went back to work for NDOR, designing bridges and doing some computer programming. Several years later, he became the Systems Manager in the Computer Division. In 1970, he became head of Project Scheduling and in 1972, he became the head of the Computer Division as well. In 1979, Freemon was named NDOR's Roadway Design Division Engineer where he served until 1989 when he became the State Bridge Engineer.

Freemon and his wife, Fran, have two daughters and eight grandchildren. His son-in-law, Mark Otteman, is an engineer at NDOR.

David Coolidge, who passed away in March of 1999, was District Engineer in District 7 in McCook from 1948 to 1977. Governor Jim Exon appointed him State Engineer in 1977,



Lyman Freemon, NDOR Bridge Engineer (left) accepts the David Coolidge Memorial Award from Dick Ludwig, President of the Nebraska Chapter of Associated General Contractors. NDOR Deputy Director Monty Fredrickson, last year's award recipient, looks on.

and he served until retiring in 1983. He served on the Executive Board of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) from 1981-83. In 1983, he was honored with an award for his 53 years of service to the highway construction industry by the Nebraska AGC. In January 1983, he was recognized as the first person to receive the honorary title "Commissioner Emeritus," presented by the Nebraska Highway Commission. ♦

## Nebraska's First Amber Alert Successful

On December 11, 2002, NDOR activated eight electronic signs over Interstate 80 in west Omaha in response to Nebraska's first Amber Alert, a kidnapping alert system that became operational in October. A search for a 9-month-old girl triggered the alert, after a vehicle, with the girl in the back seat, was taken from a Council Bluffs gas station while her grandmother was paying for gas. The girl was found unharmed in Omaha within two hours of the first Amber Alert broadcasts.

The dynamic message signs displayed messages designed by the Nebraska State Patrol to utilize their

capacity. Pre-established standard operating procedures between NDOR and the State Patrol worked well, and within five minutes of notification, the Amber Alert message was posted on the NDOR signs.

NDOR cooperated with Council Bluffs, Iowa officials in activating the alert. At the time of the incident, Iowa didn't yet have a statewide Amber Alert system.

NDOR, in partnership with the Nebraska Broadcasters Association, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, Nebraska State Patrol, Attorney General's Office and the Department of Revenue, worked to bring about a successful resolution.

Nebraska's 143 radio and TV stations used the system, with either live broadcasts, a message scrolled on the bottom of the screen, or by conveying the information with their own reporters. The Nebraska State Lottery issued Amber Alerts through all of its more than 900 machines in the state.

Thanks to the cooperating agencies and ITS technology, the outcome of the first Amber Alert in Nebraska was successful.

The Amber Alerts began in Arlington, Texas, after the 1996 abduction and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman. ♦



Workers are operating a slip-form paver on Highway 20 in downtown Valentine.

# Early Completion of Hwy. 20 in Valentine Welcomed by Community

## Highway 20 in Valentine received a much-welcomed upgrade this year.

The existing 1.43-mile asphalt highway was replaced with a four-lane concrete roadway, according to Jay Gustafson, District 8 Project Manager. In addition, a traffic signal was installed at the intersection of Highways 20 and 83. The project consisted of grading, milling, culverts, storm sewers, paving and electrical work. The work began in May 2002 and was completed in September, six weeks ahead of schedule.

Construction was accomplished while maintaining traffic. Traffic could not be detoured. This meant work had to be completed in phases, allowing head-to-head traffic on half the roadway.

"We were proactive in our attempts to keep the traveling public and the local businesses informed," Gustafson noted.

Announcements were made on the radio and in the newspaper about starting dates, phasing changes, streets to avoid, and lane closures affecting access to Highway 20. There

were also scheduled information meetings so the public could better understand what was happening and have their questions answered.

According to Gustafson, this project was well received by the community. The new traffic signal has worked well and has drawn many positive comments.

"The construction project affected 60-plus businesses. Everyone involved in the construction process worked well together, and aided in the completion of the project ahead of schedule," Gustafson said.

Upper Plains Contracting, Inc., of Aberdeen SD, was the prime contractor and employed seven subcontractors. The project cost \$2.1 million. NDOR personnel on this project were Jay Gustafson, Project Manager; Darrell Lurz, Lead Inspector; Ted Ross, Jess Ravenscroft, and Niki Morgan, inspectors. Other inspectors on this project were Jason Adkisson, Mel Ohri and Pam Schmitz. Liz Wunderlich and Bill Eberspacher, of the Roadway Design Division in Lincoln, were the project designers. ♦



Recently completed section of Highway 20 in Valentine.



# Translators Attend Veterans Memorial Bridge Meeting

Two English and Spanish language translators and one Arabic translator were available at NDOR's public information meeting January 23 regarding the South Omaha Veterans Memorial Bridge over the Missouri River between Omaha and Council Bluffs, Iowa. This was the first time the translation service was provided at a Roads Department public meeting, and the initial response to the service was good, according to Kevin Dugan, NDOR Public Hearings Officer.

Dugan noted, "We provided this as a public service and in response to the growing number of residents and citizens with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)."

## Interpretation Services Available

Suppose you are on the phone trying to help an individual seeking assistance, but they are speaking in an unfamiliar language. Or someone walks into your office and language is a barrier to communicating. Or you walk into the home or business of a non-English speaking person. What can you do? The Language Line Service was developed with these types of scenarios in mind.

Available since 1992, the Language Line Service is offered through the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Communications. For a fee, charged to the division or district requesting the service, the Language Line Identification Service provides choices grouped by regions of the world with 140 languages available. The Language Identification Card lists 94 of the most commonly requested languages.

For additional information about the Language Line Service and to obtain Language Identification Cards, contact NDOR's Communication Division, 479-4512 or Don Robertson, Librarian at 479-4316. ♦

He said that over the last two years, there have been more federal guidelines for this service and the department has been prepared to address that need. He added that NDOR is meeting the challenge of accommodating LEP with common sense tailoring to a specific project.

Dugan said the first step in tailoring NDOR's public participation activities to each community is to approach LEP systematically and sensibly by measuring and documenting the need for language services. This can be accomplished through the census or simply by asking.

According to Dugan, it is important to recognize that the translation service is rarely needed, but when it is, it helps the department understand individuals' comments and concerns and to answer their questions.

Dugan noted that because there is a large percentage of Hispanic populations in some communities and because State Senators and other elected officials have requested them, NDOR has translated several documents used in public participation activities, including: *Right-of-Way Acquisition and Your Property*; *Relocation Assistance*; *Right-of-Way Process*; and *Concept to Construction*. There is also a Bilingual Citizens Comment Sheet (English Preference). He said these materials would be available at public information meetings.

By providing this service, Dugan said, it helps meet the need of a population with a lack of English proficiency as well as helping NDOR employees provide the best possible transportation service to all citizens of Nebraska.

About 75 people attended the meeting at the South High School Cafeteria, which addressed replacement alternatives for the aging South Omaha Bridge. Census records show almost half of the residents in the project area are of Spanish heritage. Spanish translators participated in the entire formal town hall meeting as well as during the informal question and answer session following the meeting. ♦

## TE Projects Selected

The Nebraska Department of Roads recently announced that a total of \$4,185,230 has been awarded through the Transportation Enhancement (TE) program to 13 community projects across the state and to two additional communities, pending available funding and eligibility.

The Transportation Enhancement program, part of the federal highway bill, provides funding to local, regional and state government entities for projects that encourage alternative transportation. The funds, administered through the Nebraska Department of Roads, are used for highway beautification, pedestrian and bicycle trails, and historic preservation. The Nebraska Transportation Enhancement Select Committee recommended the projects for funding.

Since 1991, the Nebraska Transportation Enhancement program has allocated more than \$55 million to over 150 communities across the state.

Following is a complete list of successful projects recommended for funding along with their locations:

Alma – Methodist Cove Trail  
Hastings – Pioneer Spirit Trail, Phase 2  
Johnson Lake Trail  
Kimball – Underpass Renovation  
Nebraska Lied Main Street, Phase 3  
Douglas Co. – Lincoln Hwy. Resurfacing  
Nebraska State Historical Society –  
Nebr. Hwy. Historical Markers, Phase 2  
Neligh – Visitors Center  
Nelson – Nelson Cemetery Walkway  
Omaha – Inner City Trail  
Ord Trail  
Plattsmouth – Main Street Turn Around,  
Phase 2  
Papio-Missouri River NRD –  
West Papio Trail, Papillion to Bellevue

For a complete description of each project, check NDOR's website, [www.nebraskatransportation.org](http://www.nebraskatransportation.org). ♦

# Service Awards

**Congratulations** to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *February* and *March*.

## 40 Years

Richard Ruby, District 1

## 30 Years

Craig Anderson, Project Scheduling  
Melvin Bacon, District 4  
Alan Childers, District 6  
John Graff, District 4  
Donald Hitzeman, District 1  
Rhonda Kalmburn, Communication  
Linda Masek, Materials & Research  
Karen McCord, Construction  
Larry Philbrick, District 4  
Elwin Roberds, District 5

## 20 Years

Bonnie Brouillette, District 2  
Dave Davison, District 1  
Glenn Hicks, Roadway Design  
Bob Schueth, Logistics  
Clarence Sekutera, District 4  
Bradley Spahn, Planning & Proj. Devel.  
Richard Springer, District 6  
John White, District 8  
Michael Wood, District 4  
Arlen Zaruba, District 4

## 10 Years

Robert Cahill, Right-of-Way  
Patrick Holley, Bridge  
Robert Jaeger, Materials & Research  
Jerold Lambert, District 7  
Charles Logan, Materials & Research  
Robert Wiedergreen, District 1

## A Rewarding Thought

*"Compensation is what you give people for doing the job they were hired to do. Recognition, on the other hand, celebrates an effort beyond the call of duty."*

- From "How to Profit from Merchandise Incentives"

**Brought to you by the Rewards & Recognition Agency Panel.**

Nomination forms can be found on the Intranet at <http://www.dor.state.ne.us> on the Human Resources page.

# Rewards & Recognition

October, November, December 2002  
Employees & Managers of the Quarter

## Employees

## Managers

### District 1

**Vic Miller**  
Auto Diesel Mechanic  
Lincoln

None

### District 2

**Donald Wood**  
Electronic Technician  
Omaha

**Karl Burns**  
Hwy. Project Manager  
Omaha

### District 3

**Jeff Frasch**  
Hwy. Maintenance Crew Chief  
Neligh

None

### District 4

**Richard McKenney**  
Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr.  
Ord

### District 5

**Martin Gillen**  
Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr.  
Scottsbluff

**Thomas Vogt**  
Hwy. Maintenance Supt.  
Sidney

### District 6

**Roy Leach**  
Hwy. Construction Tech III  
North Platte

**Carrie Klock**  
Administrative Assistant I  
North Platte

### District 7

**Edward Rinehart**  
Hwy. Maintenance Crew Chief  
District 7, McCook

**Kerry Scott**  
Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor  
Arapahoe

### District 8

**Denny Brockman**  
Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr.  
Burwell

**Jay Gustafson**  
Hwy. Project Manager  
Valentine

### Central Headquarters

**Maurice Bonne**  
Hwy. Materials & Tests Tech III  
Logistics

**Bud VanCleve**  
Buyer III  
Logistics

**Brent Greever**  
Hwy. ROW Designer III  
Right-of-Way

**Steve McBeth**  
Engineer V  
Planning & Project Development

*Awardees receive a certificate, pin and a monetary award of \$250 before taxes.*

# Extra Mile Awards Presented January 28

Seven NDOR employees received Extra Mile Awards at the quarterly Rewards and Recognition ceremony held recently at Central Headquarters in Lincoln.

Joyce Wells, Office Clerk III in the Highway Safety Section of Traffic Engineering Division, was recognized for assisting fellow Office Clerks Julie Slechta and Deb Thompson in managing a satellite operation to reduce the backlog of accident data which occurred after the workflow system was changed to adopt new technology. Joyce worked long hours training temporary employees, in addition to her regular duties of marking accident cases for her region. Joyce's upbeat attitude and willingness to answer any questions were appreciated.

Dan Rosenthal, Public Transportation Engineer, Beverly Vonasek, Railroad Liaison Manager, and Kathy Nuttelman, Transportation Planner, were recognized for their contributions to successful Rail and Freight Summits, held November 5-6 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. In addition to their regular duties, they took on Director John Craig's request for the Rail & Public Transportation Division to hold the summits involving department employees from across the state as well as industry leaders in those areas. They developed the agenda and program for each summit, involving leaders from the railroads and from various freight interests and groups. They also obtained donations for meals, breaks and a reception.

The efforts of Alice Karas, Training Specialist I, Cindy DeCoster, Staff Assistant I, and Carrie Williams, Training Specialist I were instrumental in a successful Project Managers Summit, held November 13-15 at the Riverside Inn in Grand Island. At the request of Director Craig, the Staff Development Section was asked to put together the summit, which was essentially two one-day summits back to back. The summit was designed with several panel discussions going on at the same time. In addition to their regular duties, Alice, Cindy and Carrie had to make physical arrangements, prepare material, and arrange for participants, facilitators and panelists. Alice and Cindy also traveled and provided support at the summit. ♦

## New Info on More Precise

Nebraska's existing 511 traveler information number has been enhanced by additional road condition "identifiers," according to the Nebraska Department of Roads. The new verbiage will enable NDOR and State Patrol personnel, who provide the observed road condition information to the 511 system, to give a more precise description of events that may affect the flow of traffic on Nebraska's highways.

The new identifiers are:

- Black Ice
- Wet Pavement
- Water Hazard - Road Closed
- Accident - Road Closed
- Accident - Traffic Maintained

Travelers who use 511 by phone will now hear descriptions corresponding to the new identifiers, in addition to the standard identifiers which have been in place for the past year.

Those who use 511 on the Web ([www.safetravelusa.com](http://www.safetravelusa.com)) will find the new identifiers will default to a

preselected color on the map of Nebraska. After zooming in on a specific area, the user should click on the colored road segments to view a text version of any detailed observed information that may be available.

As always, both web and phone 511 users will receive the same information from the system.

Users should remember that during inclement weather, conditions are updated as the NDOR and State Patrol personnel have time. In extreme conditions, several hours may elapse between updates. The first priority is clearing highways and monitoring traffic to ensure the safety of those already on the highways.

Travelers are reminded to drive cautiously at all times. During bad weather, check several sources for possible travel hazards and delays *before* beginning any trip. Don't dial and drive. Find a safe place to stop and use your cell phone responsibly. ♦

### Know Before You Go!

## Child Restraints Save Lives

Keeping children safe on the road means putting them in the right restraint at the right age. As part of Child Passenger Safety Week, February 9-15, 2003, parents and caregivers are reminded to follow every one of the "4 Steps for Kids":

- ▶ **Rear-facing infant seats** in the back seat from birth to at least one year old and at least 20 pounds.
- ▶ **Forward-facing toddler seats** in the back seat from age one to about age four and 20 to 40 pounds.
- ▶ **Booster seats** in the back seat from about age four and 40 pounds to at least age eight, unless 4'9".
- ▶ **Safety belts** at age eight or older or taller than 4'9". All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children age four to 14. They also report that less than 10 percent of children who should be in booster seats use one. ♦





# NDOR Safety Highlights for 2002

**By Tom Shepardson**  
Safety Coordinator  
Human Resources Division

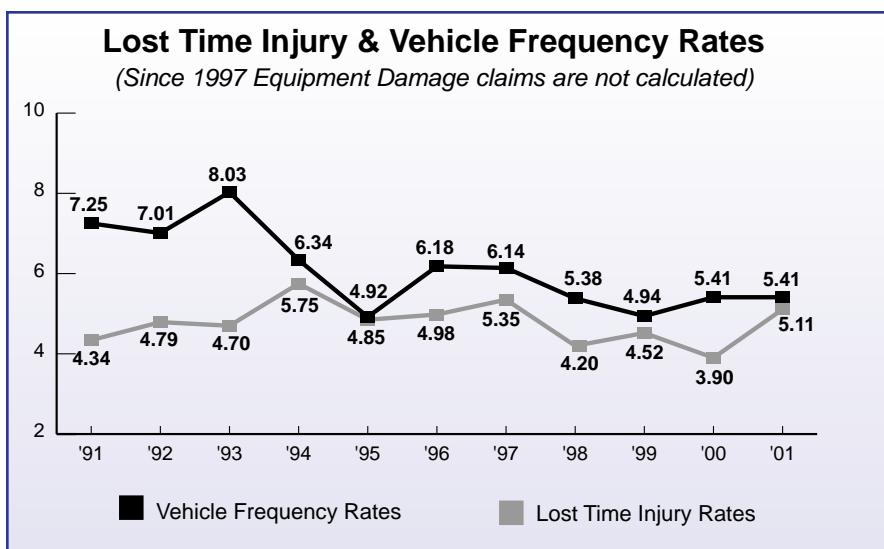
Each of us at NDOR has a great deal of interest in reducing the frequency and severity of incidents that are a result of maintaining and building the roads throughout Nebraska. Whatever your position, it is apparent that planning is needed to improve performance, safety and health. This includes an evaluation of past performance. For improvements or reductions in frequency to happen, we must eliminate any myths that this is an easy process. A look at NDOR's 10-year rates shows a steady course with some reductions in recent years that we are going to continue with everyone's help.

After reviewing the accident trends over the past years, some identifiable trends have come to the forefront. Back strains and sprains continue to be leading injury causes. During the period from 1992-1999, there were 371 back-related injuries. The average age of the employee was 44 years. Accidents occurred while performing such activities as shoveling hot mix, lifting silica sand bags, sorting H beams, tightening boomers on trailers, slipping on ice and jumping down from trucks.

The challenge for NDOR is to continue to evaluate operations that have exposures and identify opportunities to reduce or eliminate injury-causing factors. Ways to do this include better material handling and

improved awareness of employees in proper lifting, dismounting from trucks and handling of materials in an orderly process. Heavy materials moved frequently by hand should be stored between knee and shoulder height. Use of team lifting and mechanical aids should be employed when moving heavy loads or materials over 10 feet. Seasonal equipment changes present unique exposures to lifting as well as other types of injuries.

Many sections are taking steps to go beyond these improvements through training, scheduled inspections and safety meetings to keep hazard awareness a priority for all employees. ♦



#### Lost Time Injury Rate

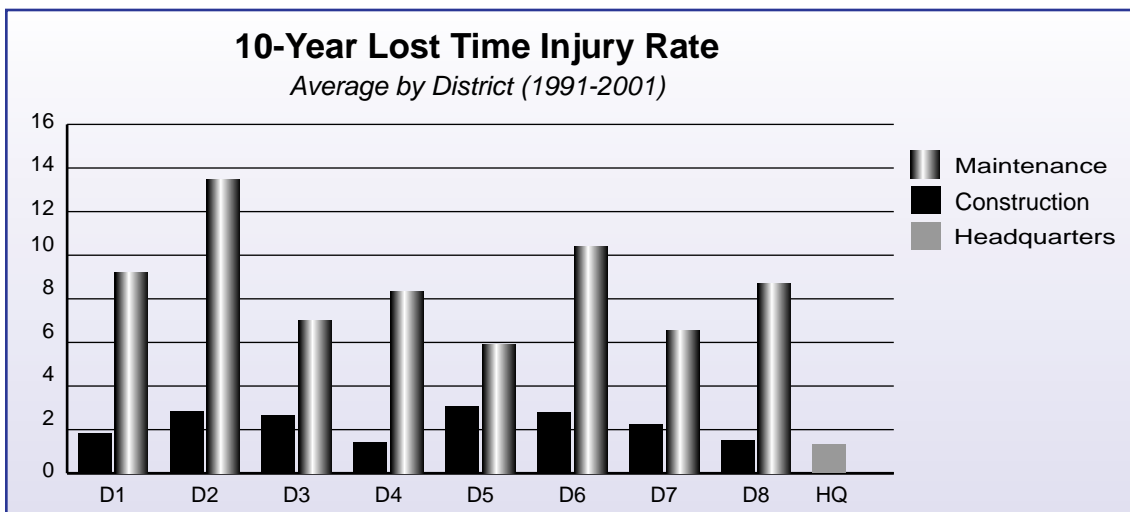
A nonfatal injury that causes disability for work beyond the day or shift it occurred.

Formula:  $\frac{\text{Lost Time Injuries times Hours Worked}}{\text{divided by } 200,000}$

#### Vehicle Frequency Rate

Preventable accidents (assessment by accident review panel).

Formula:  $\frac{\text{Number of preventable accidents times miles driven}}{\text{divided by } 1 \text{ million}}$



## “National Work Zone Awareness Week” April 7-11

The fourth annual National Work Zone Awareness Week, scheduled the second week of April, is a national effort that hopes to increase public awareness of work zone safety needs from the driver as well as the highway worker perspective.

Calendar year 2001 statistics reveal 1,079 men and women—both workers and motorists—were killed nationwide in work zones, compared to 1,026 in 2000 and 872 in 1999. Thirteen of those deaths were in Nebraska, compared to twelve deaths in 2000 and 22 deaths in 1999.

On average, there is a work zone for every 50 miles traveled on U.S. roads. While work zones are here to stay for years to come, efforts in each community to increase awareness of work zone safety among motorists and highway workers may help lower these numbers across the nation.

The awareness week is sponsored by the following groups: The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), American

Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and State Departments of Transportation (DOT's).

The goal is to bring to light the hazards and dangers that can be encountered and avoided when driving through a roadway construction zone. ♦

## Job Directory

NDOR Highway Improvement Projects Currently Under Contract as of 1/23/03

Location Work Description Prime Contractor NDOR Project Manager Contract Amount			
<b>District 1</b>			
In Lincoln Conc Pav Musselman & Hall Contrs., LLC Dodson, Paul (402)471-0850 \$58,238.90	Seward East Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit Hawkins Construction Co. England, Jim (402)471-0850 \$1,605,852.33	Wilber - Crete Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. & Affiliates Kuper, Melvin (402)729-3489 \$4,440,125.55	Wahoo South Gr, Culv, Seed, Br Hawkins Construction Co. Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850 \$10,598,858.45
Rock Creek Saline Bank Site Gr Negus-Sons, Inc. Dodson, Paul (402)471-0850 \$50,304.00	Tecumseh South Bridges Gr, Br, Gdrl, Bit Elk Horn Construction Co. Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131 \$1,275,346.76	Talmage Southeast Br L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc. Mueller, Gerald (402)335-4131 \$554,971.11	Ceresco - Wahoo Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. & Affiliates Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850 \$13,765,215.42
84th St., Lincoln - Iowa State Line Bit Iowa Erosion Control, Inc. Dodson, Paul (402)471-0850 \$3,103,287.43	In Dawson Gr, Culv, Elec, Bit U.S. Asphalt Co. Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131 \$1,279,164.34	Brock West Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl Elk Horn Construction Co. Mueller, Gerald (402)335-4131 \$374,446.97	Otoe West Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl Herbst Construction, Inc. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$506,418.96
Waco - Milford Bit U.S. Asphalt Co. England, Jim (402)471-0850 \$7,632,836.23	Auburn East Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit U.S. Asphalt Co. Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131 \$1,723,205.39	Roca Northwest Br MCC, L.L.C. Murillo, Ernest (402)471-0850 \$563,983.95	Syracuse East & West Landscaping D. F. Lanoha Landscape Nursery, Inc. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$138,495.00
Staplehurst South Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc. England, Jim (402)471-0850 \$406,932.53	Cornhusker Hwy. Interchange Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign Constructors, Inc. Holak, Hugh (402)471-0850 \$11,870,599.65	Hawthorne Ave. - Crete Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec Werner Construction, Inc. Niazi, Babrak (402)471-0850 \$2,418,062.09	Davey - Ceresco Landscaping D. F. Lanoha Landscape Nursery, Inc. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$68,524.00
Staplehurst Southeast Bridges L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc. England, Jim (402)471-0850 \$346,761.19	Princeton to N-33 Landscaping D.F. Lanoha Landscape Nursery, Inc. Holak, Hugh (402)471-0850 \$90,398.00	Milford - Lincoln Bit Werner Construction, Inc. Niazi, Babrak (402)471-0850 \$4,409,864.76	Greenwood East Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed Irving F. Jensen Co., Inc. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$2,188,707.29
US-77 West Conc Pav U.S. Asphalt Co. England, Jim (402)471-0850 \$1,313,886.73	Nebraska City South Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Elec Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. Knutson, Dewaine (402)471-0850 \$7,989,733.51	Friend - Milford Bit Werner Construction, Inc. Niazi, Babrak (402)471-0850 \$1,351,028.45	I-80 to Utica Bit Werner Construction, Inc. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$2,787,580.92
	Plymouth South Gr, Conc Pav, Br, Gdrl Elk Horn Construction Co. Kuper, Melvin (402)729-3489 \$490,101.70	Palmyra - Unadilla Landscaping D. F. Lanoha Landscape Nursery, Inc. Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850 \$107,400.00	In Rising City & East Bit Omni Engineering, Inc. & Subsidiaries Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$1,908,965.42



Staplehurst Spur  
Bit  
Omni Engineering, Inc.  
& Subsidiaries  
Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850  
\$336,460.25

N-66 North  
Bit  
Omni Engineering, Inc.  
& Subsidiaries  
Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850  
\$1,129,635.54

Jct US-34/L-80G  
Elec  
Watts Electric Co.  
Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850  
\$7,919.60

Roca Spur  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Christensen Bros., Inc.  
Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850  
\$1,478,120.53

Wymore North & South Bridges  
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Herbst Construction, Inc.  
Vandegrift, Allen (402)729-3489  
\$2,148,561.59

## District 2

West Dodge Bridge Over I-680  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br,  
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.  
Baehr, Dennis (402)595-2534  
\$15,694,829.63

198th St. - Skyline Dr., Omaha  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br,  
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Baratta, Joseph (402)595-2534  
\$18,371,814.38

US-75/Nebraska St., Blair  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec  
Tab Holding Co., Inc.  
DBA Tab Construction  
Brown, Darin G. (402)727-3292  
\$315,899.99

Blair - Kennard  
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Luxa Construction Co., Inc.  
Brown, Darin G (402)727-3292  
\$4,244,619.96

Various Locations In Omaha  
Elec  
Commonwealth Electric Co.  
of the Midwest  
Burns, Karl (402)595-2534  
\$949,726.31

In Gretna & South  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Farivari, Mo (402)595-2534  
\$7,341,896.09

BNSF/S. Papio Creek Bridge  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br,  
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534  
\$13,528,580.81

N-370 to N-50  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br,  
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534  
\$18,862,392.57

Fairview Bridge  
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534  
\$1,032,931.44

168th St. Bridge  
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Fox, Mike (402)595-2534  
\$955,735.90

US-275/Big Papio,  
Near Jct. N-85, Omaha  
Br  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Gjersvik, John (402)595-2534  
\$1,122,913.17

24th St. Bridge Over I-80, Omaha  
Elec  
MCC, L.L.C.  
Gjersvik, John (402)595-2534  
\$66,154.50

Ft. Calhoun South  
Gr, Culv, Gdrl, Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292  
\$1,129,155.72

Fremont Southeast  
Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292  
\$642,430.19

60th St. Interchange, Omaha  
Landscaping  
Mulhall's Nursery, Inc.  
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534  
\$113,249.00

13th St. Interchange, Omaha  
Landscaping  
Mulhall's Nursery, Inc.  
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534  
\$122,191.00

60th/"L" St., Omaha  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec  
Tab Holding Co., Inc.  
DBA Tab Construction  
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534  
\$192,934.68

Springfield North  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br, Gdrl  
MCC, L.L.C.  
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534  
\$899,718.76

172nd St. to US-6  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Elec  
Luxa Construction Co., Inc.  
Reasland, Harold (402)595-2534  
\$5,463,551.55

In Blair  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv,  
Seed, Fence, Elec  
Luxa Construction Co., Inc.  
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292  
\$6,183,447.41

Waterloo Northwest  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292  
\$5,077,869.74

Platte River to N-31 - Bridge  
Gr, Conc Pav, Br, Gdrl  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534  
\$1,070,464.27

In Gretna  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br, Gdrl  
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.  
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534  
\$764,280.93

72nd St. - Mo River Bridge  
Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Wilson, Bill (402)595-2534  
\$1,487,248.68

72nd St., Western Ave. -  
76th Dr., Omaha  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec  
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.  
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534  
\$7,069,253.11

Missouri River Bridge, Omaha  
Painting  
W. S. Bunch Co.  
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534  
\$750,165.70

Waterloo Northwest  
Conc Pav  
Iowa Erosion Control, Inc.  
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534  
\$323,343.02

## District 3

Schuyler Northwest  
Gr, Bridge  
Perrett Construction Ltd.  
Anderson, David (402)564-5751  
\$599,356.50

Schuyler East & West  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br,  
Gdrl, Elec, Sign  
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co.  
& Affiliates  
Anderson, David (402)564-5751  
\$19,184,951.80

Creighton to N-121  
Bit  
Brower Construction Co.  
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552  
\$1,208,437.16

Pender Southeast  
Gr, Br, Gdrl  
Christensen Bros., Inc.  
Brummond, Scott (402)375-7071  
\$566,762.96

Martinsburg - Ponca  
Br, Gdrl  
Herbst Construction, Inc.  
Brummond, Scott (402)375-7071  
\$171,037.25

Norfolk East  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Elec  
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co.  
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474  
\$18,274,985.53

Tilden North  
Gr, Conc Pav, Br, Gdrl  
Elk Horn Construction Co.  
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474  
\$1,415,853.78

Tilden Northeast  
Gr, Conc Pav, Br, Gdrl  
Christensen Bros., Inc.  
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474  
\$951,589.68

Clarkson Southeast  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl  
Dixon Construction Co.  
Domogalla, Kevin (402)370-3474  
\$339,272.89

In Decatur  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv,  
Gdrl, Fence, Elec  
M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.  
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071  
\$2,717,717.15

Niobrara State Park  
Gr, Culv, Gdrl, Bit  
Knight Asphalt, Inc.  
Hausman, Larry (402)254-6552  
\$1,212,890.38

Ponca State Park Recreation Rd.  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit  
Henningsen Const., Inc.  
Hausman, Larry (402)254-6552  
\$1,600,015.76

N-57 to West Jct N-15  
Bit  
Constructors, Inc.  
Mueiting, Curt (402)370-3474  
\$796,720.66

District 3 - Districtwide  
Conc Pav  
Musselman & Hall Contrs., LLC  
Mueiting, Curt (402)370-3474  
\$343,158.34

West Point North  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Mueiting, Curt (402)370-3474  
\$2,825,560.32

Pender South  
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Mueiting, Curt (402)370-3474  
\$1,723,825.71

Columbus Northwest  
Landscaping  
D. F. Lanoha Landscape  
Nursery, Inc.  
Trospen, Steven (402)564-5751  
\$86,325.00

Tarnov South  
Landscaping  
Gross Seed Co., Inc.  
Trospen, Steven (402)564-5751  
\$88,824.11

Columbus South  
Br  
Dixon Construction Co.  
Trospen, Steven (402)564-5751  
\$990,505.49

N-45 To US-81  
Bit  
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co.  
& Affiliates  
Trospen, Steven (402)564-5751  
\$2,059,726.96

Maskell - Newcastle  
Bit  
Brower Construction Co.  
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552  
\$1,534,978.45

Crofton North  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Constructors, Inc.  
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552  
\$4,203,935.00

## District 4

In Waco

Gr, Conc Pav, Culv  
Paulsen, Inc.

Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934  
\$857,029.49

Deshler East  
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Bit

L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.  
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934  
\$1,094,967.63

Henderson - Waco  
Bit

Werner Construction, Inc.  
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934  
\$6,790,024.71

Chester - Hebron  
Landscaping

Gross Seed Co., Inc.  
Cuda, Bill (402)362-5934  
\$99,926.60

Hebron - Belvidere  
Landscaping

Gross Seed Co., Inc.  
Cuda, Bill (402)362-5934  
\$62,666.00

Odessa Interchange Bridge  
Br

Wilke Contracting Corp.  
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434  
\$164,571.60

Elm Creek Viaduct

Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
United Contractors, Inc.  
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434  
\$4,282,819.97

In Shelton

Gr, Br, Gdrl  
Wilke Contracting Corp.  
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434  
\$344,437.37

Grand Island East

Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265  
\$2,455,189.41

I-80/US-34/281 Interchange  
Landscaping

Gross Seed Co., Inc.  
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265  
\$36,364.20

Fullerton Northeast

Br, Gdrl  
M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.  
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265  
\$180,342.60

Fullerton South

Gr, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
The Diamond Engineering Co.  
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265  
\$1,067,266.84

Alda - Grand Island

Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265  
\$36,910.73

Central City East

Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
The Diamond Engineering Co.  
Heermann, Dennis (308)385-6265  
\$1,847,783.03

In Dannebrog  
Bridge

L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.  
Heermann, Dennis (308)385-6265  
\$407,600.55

Geneva North & South

Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996  
\$16,859,071.23

Geneva North & South

Seeding  
Nebraska Hydro-Seeding Co.  
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996  
\$110,017.00

Shelton - Wood River

Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996  
\$2,564,644.02

US-81 - Reynolds

Gdrl, Bit  
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co.  
& Affiliates  
Kuper, Melvin (402)729-3489  
\$1,967,784.74

Junction US-30/N-92

Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411  
\$3,093,801.73

Arcadia East & West

Bit  
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co.  
& Affiliates  
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411  
\$733,444.97

Lawrence East

Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996  
\$5,644,665.62

Red Cloud West

Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996  
\$857,740.24

Strang North & South

Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Elec  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Ruxton, Bob (402)462-1996  
\$8,708,874.79

Chester North Shrp Section

Conc Pav  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Ruxton, Bob (402)462-1996  
\$1,208,724.06

Ong West

Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Ruxton, Bob (402)462-1996  
\$197,302.42

Platte River East of Grand Island

Conc Pav, Br, Gdrl  
Simon Contrs. & Subsidiaries  
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6265  
\$4,481,971.29

Grand Island South Viaduct  
Bridge

Wilke Contracting Corp.  
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6265  
\$212,144.75

Grand Island South

Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6265  
\$9,800,324.79

Prosser North

Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
The Diamond Engineering Co.  
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6265  
\$613,457.24

In Scotia

Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888  
\$1,832,596.16

Wolbach West

Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.  
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888  
\$2,308,111.47

Pleasanton North & South

Gr, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Wilke Contracting Corp.  
Zaruba, Arlen (308)728-5655  
\$2,350,966.50

## District 5

Scottsbluff/Sioux Co. Line North  
Bit

Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Applegate, Joe (308)632-7727  
\$2,007,202.24

Crawford South

Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144  
\$5,521,752.96

Niobrara River South of Rushville

Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Perrett Construction Ltd.  
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144  
\$2,690,897.68

In Chadron

Conc Pav  
Dana Fuller DBA Fuller Construction  
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144  
\$96,440.50

Ellsworth - Gordon

Gr, Culv, Bit  
Simon Contrs. & Subsidiaries  
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144  
\$2,300,897.21

In Bridgeport

Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Custer, Dennis (308)262-1920  
\$730,732.26

Minatare East

Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Fast, Dean (308)632-7727  
\$2,715,552.05

Scottsbluff - Minatare

Irrigation Structures  
Culv  
L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.  
Fast, Dean (308)632-7727  
\$334,843.30

Scottsbluff - Minatare

Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Elec  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Fast, Dean (308)632-7727  
\$8,552,774.73

Melbeta West

Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Gardner, Jerrold (308)632-1429  
\$2,692,228.41

Oshkosh - Lewellen

Bit  
Monarch Oil, Inc.  
Smith, Don (308)262-1920  
\$395,325.74

Chappell WB Rest Area

Bldg. Construction  
M. E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.  
Smith, Don (308)262-1920  
\$185,353.97

Chappell EB Rest Area

Bldg. Construction  
M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.  
Smith, Don (308)262-1920  
\$182,992.25

## District 6

Sutherland West

Gr, Conc Pav, Culv,  
Seed, Gdrl, Fence  
Cement Products, Inc.  
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033  
\$1,003,601.75

Maxwell - Brady

Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033  
\$3,389,572.84

Gothenburg South

Br  
Wilke Contracting Corp.  
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033  
\$401,809.95

Gothenburg East

Conc Pav, Br, Gdrl  
BRB Contractors, Inc.  
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033  
\$1,686,626.59

Sutherland - Hershey

Conc Pav  
Muselman & Hall Contrs., LLC  
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033  
\$412,668.92

Tryon Northwest

Bit  
Simon Contrs. & Subsidiaries  
Halstead, Kerri (308)535-8031  
\$438,034.10

Ringgold North

Bit  
Simon Contrs. & Subsidiaries  
Halstead, Kerri (308)535-8031  
\$800,867.33

Cozad Southeast

Culv, Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Halstead, Kerri (308)535-8031  
\$385,157.17

Sutherland Viaduct

Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Capital Contractors, Inc.  
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8031  
\$4,410,332.06



US-83, North Platte Interchange  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed,  
Gdrl, Fence, Sign  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8031  
\$3,289,838.98

Newberry Interchange, No. Platte  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Gdrl, Elec  
Cement Products, Inc.  
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8031  
\$719,586.85

Brule Link West Jct.  
Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033  
\$1,186,269.28

Brule - Ogallala  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033  
\$2,017,141.00

North Platte Truck Scales  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Fence,  
Bldg, Elec, Sign  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$5,930,442.78

Sutherland W. B. Rest Area  
Bldg. Construction  
Simon Contrs. & Subsidiaries  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$687,900.00

Sutherland E. B. Rest Area  
Bldg. Construction  
Simon Contrs. & Subsidiaries  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$684,300.00

Brady East  
Conc Pav  
Diamond Surface, Inc.  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$1,889,966.54

Cozad - Darr  
Conc Pav  
Diamond Surface, Inc.  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$1,903,226.79

Wellfleet North  
Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$1,099,884.36

Hershey - North Platte  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv  
Cement Products, Inc.  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$370,058.98

Halsey West  
Gr, Culv, Elec, Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
White, Dennis (308)872-6735  
\$2,153,014.47

Anselmo - Merna  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Constructors, Inc.  
White, Dennis (308)872-6735  
\$3,986,213.77

Ansley Northeast  
Br  
County of Custer  
White, Dennis (308)872-6735  
\$210,537.93

District 6 - Districtwide  
Br, Gdrl  
Cement Products, Inc.  
White, Dennis (308)872-6735  
\$178,314.60

Stockville Southwest  
Br  
Simon Contrs. & Subsidiaries  
Doyle, Kelly (308)995-5397  
\$507,202.99

**District 7**  
W 4 St - E 7 St, McCook  
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Doyle, Kelly (308)995-5397  
\$3,189,394.06

Franklin South  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Quinn, Jerry (308)995-5397  
\$3,774,917.37

Holdrege Construction Office  
Holdrege Constr. Office Addition  
Westland Building Co., Inc.  
Quinn, Jerry (308)995-5397  
\$97,911.00

Orleans East  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Sell, Tim (308)995-5397  
\$4,813,919.34

Trenton East & West  
Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490  
\$2,663,105.43

**District 8**  
Stuart North  
Br  
Christensen Bros., Inc.  
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051  
\$686,849.40

Crookston - Valentine  
Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1350  
\$1,467,869.66

**Key:**  
Bituminous - Bit  
Bridge - Br  
Building - Bldg  
Concrete Pavement - Conc Pav  
Culverts - Culv  
Electrical - Elec  
Grading - Gr  
Guardrail - Gdrl  
Seeding - Seeding

## Health & Safety

By LoyAnn Rossel, RN,COHN-S

# Decreasing Gossip at Work



In prehistoric times, people lived in small groups. Communication was necessary for survival. The one who was more knowledgeable about what others were up to had a higher social standing. Families and communities that were social and connected through communication seemed to thrive.

Today communication is still very important, especially in the workplace. It is a necessary way to relay important information. But there is a form of communication that is a malicious and hurtful act towards someone. It is called gossip.

Gossip can travel faster than the speed of light. It can bring down morale and decrease productivity. It increases job stress and anxiety. It is a destructive habit that can divide employees. Gossip can make it a very uncomfortable and hostile place to work. It can hurt careers.

Gossip doesn't just hurt the victim, but it also hurts the one who is gossiping. Try this experiment: Pay attention to conversations around you. Recognize the times that you want to inform someone of something. Is it in the form of gossip? If it is, then don't say it. See how you feel afterward. I think you will notice a difference.

What can we do to decrease gossip at work?

- ▶ First of all—and this is very hard for most of us—don't listen to gossip. Make your area a "gossip-free zone." You may notice a decrease in stress around you.
- ▶ Managers should keep everyone informed by taking extra effort to keep staff up to date. Start or maintain an open-door policy. This should squelch rumors before they run rampant.
- ▶ Develop an outlet for those who need to gab by joining or organizing a Toastmasters group or book club at work. The employees could meet during lunch. This is a healthy way to express oneself and to learn more about each other.

In the book "The Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz, it states, "The word is the most powerful tool you have as a human: it is the tool of magic. But like a sword with two edges, your word can create the most beautiful dream, or your word can destroy everything around you."♦

# TURF & GARDEN

By Dick Gray  
Agronomist



## Prepare Early for Turf Stress

**Turf** - Use any of the nice days to water your lawn before the 2003 water restrictions are announced. Unless we receive ample moisture in February and March and the flow in the Platte River increases, you can expect water restrictions. They will probably start very early in the season. Aerify your lawn to relieve compaction and to let your lawn "breathe" better. The roots need oxygen for respiration and give off carbon dioxide as a waste product. If the soil is so compacted that sufficient oxygen cannot get to the roots, and the carbon dioxide builds up, the grass just does not respond very well to all the loving care you give it. The holes left from the aerification process allow the gasses to exchange and for water to soak in rather than run off.

Do not be in any hurry to start your spring lawn work, but you can get some bids on aerification. You can expect some turf damage this spring from the dry winter. Reseeding will cure that.

**Trees** - Your trees need water on the nice days, too. Give the evergreens a good soak, they need it. Typical damage to evergreens occurs in the very top of the trees. The leader often dies from dehydration. Help your trees through the tough times. Use wood chip mulch and apply it 3 to 4 inches deep and at least in a 5-foot diameter circle around the smaller trees and a larger circle on the bigger trees. The mulch circle will also keep the mowers at a respectable distance from the trees.

**Garden** - Think leaky hoses. Think weed control fabric. Think mulch on top of the weed control fabric. Now your garden is off to a good start, and you are ready for a dry summer. Watch the hype when you are ordering your garden seeds. Some claims are truly unbelievable.

**General** - Watch your ash trees for a new insect this year. The insect is called the Emerald Ash Borer. It has green metallic wing covers. It is a gift from Asia. If you see one of these, catch it and take it to your extension office immediately. This is a really bad bug! Currently the "bug" has only been found in Michigan, but with our mobile population it can be here almost overnight.

**Good News** - Is vinegar the answer for annual weeds? It just might be. As reported in the July 2002 issue of "Grounds Maintenance," USDA researchers found that a 5 and 10 percent concentration killed the weeds that were 2 weeks old or younger. Older plants required a higher concentration of vinegar to kill them. Vinegar is a contact product and only kills the top growth of perennials. A bottle of household vinegar is about a 5 percent concentration." Vinegar is an inexpensive and environmentally safe product to use. ♦

## We Get Letters ...

January 2003

Dear State Road Crews:

Thought I would drop you a note to let you know what a great job you do with snow removal and general road maintenance. I live near Martell and without your work I probably would miss work on some days in the winter.

Keep up the good work. I'm counting on you.

Thanks,

R. Brad Harman  
Martell, Nebraska

**The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.**

## Our Top Twenty

NDOR employees with the most *total state service* as of December 2002.

Name	Office	Service Date
1. Andreasen, Merritt A.	Elkhorn (D-2)	05-28-51
2. Hausman, Larry J.	Hartington (D-3)	08-15-51
3. Wenzl, Louis P.	Lincoln (HQ)	05-01-53
4. Bumanis, Osvalds O.	Lincoln (HQ)	12-04-53
5. Voss, Ernest W.	Lincoln (HQ)	03-22-54
6. Regelean, Irene G.	Lincoln (HQ)	05-28-54
7. Henning, Arnold H.	Lincoln (HQ)	08-04-54
8. Norris, Barbara K.	Lincoln (HQ)	09-12-55
9. Schaefer, E. L.	Norfolk (D-3)	04-12-56
10. Swett, Marvel L.	Ainsworth (D-8)	10-01-56
11. Henning, Loren E.	Lincoln (HQ)	10-08-56
12. Henning, Ronald R.	Lincoln (HQ)	12-17-56
13. Engel, Barbara K.	Lincoln (HQ)	03-28-57
14. Eglite, Andrejs	Lincoln (HQ)	06-07-57
15. Sharp, Daniel J.	Lincoln (HQ)	06-10-57
16. Shafer, Larry G.	Lincoln (HQ)	09-07-57
17. Pavel, Leland D.	Lincoln (HQ)	09-09-57
18. Yonkey, Arthur B.	Lincoln (HQ)	12-01-57
19. Freemon, Lyman D.	Lincoln (HQ)	01-20-58
20. Smets, William N.	Lexington (D-6)	04-01-58



# NDOR Events Calendar

## — February —

- 6 Letting** 1:30 p.m. NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 11 New Employee Orientation Program**  
NDOR Central Headquarters  
Contact Steve Olson @ 479-3601
- 9-15 National Child Passenger Safety Week**
- 14 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**  
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569
- 16-22 National Engineers Week**
- 17 State Holiday – President’s Day**
- 21 Hwy. Commission Meeting**  
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530

## — March —

- 7 Project Scheduling Meeting**  
8:30-11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 11 New Employee Orientation Program**  
NDOR Central Headquarters  
Contact Steve Olson @ 479-3601
- 13 Letting**  
1:30 p.m. NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 21 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**  
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569

- 21 Hwy. Commission Meeting**  
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530

## — April —

- 7-11 National Work Zone Awareness Week**
- 8 New Employee Orientation Program**  
NDOR Central Headquarters  
Contact Steve Olson @ 479-3601
- 11 Project Scheduling Meeting**  
8:30-11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 17 Letting**  
1:30 p.m. NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 18 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**  
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569
- 18 Hwy. Commission Meeting**  
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 22 Earth Day**
- 25 State Holiday – Arbor Day**

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail lwilson@dor.state.ne.us. Information for the April/May Roadrunner should be received by March 17.