

March 23, 2020

Contractors; Subcontractors; DBE's; Consultants

NDDOT COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) RESPONSE

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is working with the Governor's Office and North Dakota Department of Health (NDDOH) to slow the spread of COVID-19. In order to slow the spread of COVID-19 we are implementing the following strategies:

1. **Work Hours:** Effective March 23 until further notice, NDDOT is adjusting services to provide online or mail-in services only and working remotely to continue business operations. However, we will make every effort to minimize the impacts to public services. Please note that many services can be completed online at <https://www.dot.nd.gov/>.
2. **Cleaning:** The NDDOT has increased its cleaning efforts in our public facilities, offices, and employee workspaces.
3. **Self-Quarantines:** The NDDOT has implemented Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations to self-quarantine staff who have traveled internationally or to/from any areas of community transmission/spread within the United States. Staff are also required to stay home if they feel sick.
4. **Travel:** All non-essential employee business travel is suspended until April 30. This includes travel within the state of North Dakota.
5. **Meetings:** NDDOT staff will be limiting face-to-face meetings and conducting as much business as possible through telecommunicating and/or online resources.

The NDDOT intends to move forward with all projects scheduled for letting and construction in 2020. Further project letting dates will be reviewed and may be adjusted as conditions warrant. Prior to beginning any project work in 2020 there should be discussion between the contractor and DOT's project engineer on steps that will be taken in response to COVID-19. Things to consider are:

- ways to eliminate face to face meetings
- regular cleaning of common work areas, such as field labs
- other social distances practices to implement on the project

Communication and adherence to the agreed upon strategies will be critical.

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Knowing this has a global impact and is continually changing, it is very difficult to predict all situations and potential impacts to projects. Section 108.06 B.4.d in the Standard Specification allows for the non-compensable extension of contract time for delays due to epidemics or quarantines. If delays are experienced related to documented COVID-19 impacts, timely communication to the Department and documentation will be key to approval of a time extension.

As the start of construction season is upon us, it will be critical that contractors and the Department work closely to assure project schedules can be maintained while being socially responsible to limit further spread of the virus.

The NDDOT will continue to monitor the CDC recommendations and coordinate with the NDDOH. Our primary goal is to keep both the contractor's and Department's employees healthy and safe in our efforts to be socially responsible to slow the spread of the virus. For updates to this changing situation, please go to <https://www.dot.nd.gov/> and click on the COVID-19 banner at the top of the page.



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