

2016 Road Construction Season Off To Good Start

The North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) construction program is well underway with approximately \$680 million in projects being bid this year. The bidding process for construction projects is going well as competition is good and bids are coming in lower than expected. To date, we have seen a savings of approximately 18% as some of the bids for the current construction season have come in under the engineer's original estimates.

This year, the NDDOT along with the North Dakota Highway Patrol and the Associated General Contractors of North Dakota (AGC of ND) are working together to inform motorists the importance of slowing down and paying attention in work zones.

What projects are taking place? Find out what's happening on state, county and urban roads by going to our interactive construction map at:

http://gis.dot.nd.gov/external/ge_html/?viewer=constmap



Construction on ND Highway 23 east of New Town.

State Rail Plan Gathering Public Input Through Meetings & Survey

Work on the North Dakota State Rail Plan is underway to update the current rail plan from 2007 and enhance statewide rail safety to meet growing transportation needs in the state. The NDDOT recently held a number of public input meetings across the state concerning the plan. The meetings were designed to obtain input to the plan in a variety of areas, including safety and community impacts, the movement of freight by rail, and passenger rail service in the state as part of the process for updating the state's rail plan. The overall goal of the state rail plan is to provide an assessment of the rail system offering recommendations for policies, programs, processes and projects that will improve rail-related safety and service.

The NDDOT is working in partnership with North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC), North Dakota Department of Commerce (NDDOC), the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES), the North Dakota Pipeline Authority, and the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI) to gather input to use as a basis in updating the State Rail Plan. More information about the state rail plan along with a survey can be found on the NDDOT's website at www.railplan.dot.nd.gov.

Public Meetings Set for US Highway 85 Project in July

The North Dakota Department of Transportation will be holding public meetings in July concerning a project on US Highway 85, from the I-94 Interchange to the Watford City Bypass (McKenzie County Road 30). Meeting dates are Monday, July 25 - Belfield 5:00-7:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) and Tuesday, July 26 - Watford City 5:00- 7:30 p.m. (Central Time)

The proposed project is approximately 62 miles long and will also take into consideration the rehabilitation or replacement of the historic Long X Bridge over the Little Missouri River. Environmental studies, preliminary engineering, and surveying for the project is also underway. Field studies are also being conducted in the project area and letters have been sent to landowners notifying them of the work. More information about the project can be found at: <http://www.nddotwilliston.com/85-project-watford-city-i94/>.

Highway Revenue Collections Close to Revised Projections

When preparing the NDDOT budget for this biennium, revenue numbers were projected based on several factors, including the amount of traffic in North Dakota. Due to changes in traffic and economy throughout the state, the Department saw a decrease in transportation user fee revenues of approximately 13% below the enrolled budget revenue projections. Due to this reduction, the Department revised revenue projections based on current trends and made budget adjustments to address the \$69.2 million transportation user revenue shortfall.

Revised Projections On Target

Over the past few months, from December 2015 to May 2016, the collection of highway revenue from transportation user fees have been coming in close to NDDOT's revised budget forecasts. The chart shown here on the right illustrates collections of transportation user fees compared with budget forecast projections.

State Transportation User Revenues				
Total Fees and Taxes Distributed			Revenue Projection	
FY 2015	FY 2016	Month	FY 2015	FY 2016 *
\$17,225,812.77	\$16,085,223.18	JULY	\$16,808,702.74	\$16,085,223.18
14,129,925.65	9,881,392.19	AUG	12,903,111.49	9,881,392.19
15,274,750.88	14,627,521.12	SEPT	14,839,250.40	14,627,521.12
17,055,533.27	15,221,279.85	OCT	16,218,188.76	15,221,279.85
15,899,284.89	13,546,365.22	NOV	14,432,112.49	13,546,365.22
18,957,471.03	17,414,106.15	DEC	17,639,209.58	15,119,418.60
23,200,387.69	19,646,765.86	JAN	21,030,522.18	17,516,892.96
15,805,590.15	13,058,284.72	FEB	15,151,427.16	13,061,545.86
14,269,923.95	11,312,820.13	MAR	12,034,969.34	10,692,352.36
15,931,143.61	13,657,450.14	APR	16,710,886.76	14,935,801.68
14,803,061.78	12,296,479.66	MAY	14,420,014.92	12,649,986.14
13,340,500.23	10,388,190.63	JUNE	14,749,251.08	11,976,392.53
\$195,893,385.90	\$167,135,878.85	TOTAL	\$186,937,646.90	\$165,314,171.67
			* FY2016 Revenue Projections revised 1-2-2016	

Computer System Update Completed

The Motor Vehicle computer software system conversion process to replace NDDOT's Vehicle Registration and Titling System (VRTS) has been successfully completed. The new STARS computer system went live on June 13, 2016. Business operations are running normally and as of June 17th, over 9,000 transactions have been processed, 2,500 vehicles have been renewed online and almost 6,000 vehicles have been renewed by mail.

New Motor Vehicle Division Director Named

Lindi Michlitsch has been named Motor Vehicle Division Director.



Lindi Michlitsch

She will begin her new duties on July 1st, replacing Deputy Director Mark Nelson who was also serving as Interim Division Director. Michlitsch began working at NDDOT's Motor Vehicle Division in 2008 as a System Administrator and then became the Support Operations Manager in 2010.

Traffic Fatalities Show a Decrease

As of June 27, 2016, there have been 42 motor vehicle fatalities, a decrease from last year's 54 fatalities at this same time. Of those fatalities, 22 were alcohol related and 21 were not wearing a seat belt.

ND Traffic Crashes	2016 YTD	2015 YTD
Fatalities	42	54
Alcohol related	22	20
Seat belts not worn	21	28