

NDDOT works on one of the largest construction seasons in state history

The North Dakota Department of Transportation’s (NDDOT) construction program is now underway and this season is one of the largest in state history with more than \$800 million in projects being bid out this year. Ground breaking events took place in April and May as the Governor, local and state officials recognized the start of construction on the Alexander Truck Bypass, Williston Truck Reliever Route, New Town Truck Reliever Route and Watford City Southeast Truck Bypass. Construction work is taking place on over 285 projects across the state.



A construction map showing work on state highways and county roads this year can be found on our website [click here](#) to take a look.

Construction work progressing on Watford City Southwest Truck Bypass.

Final segment on US 85 from Watford City to Williston moves forward

The NDDOT opened bids on July 15 for the final phase of the US Highway 85 four-lane project from Williston to Watford City. This phase of the project is located south of Williston and also includes the replacement of the Lewis and Clark Bridge near Williston. Construction will begin this year.

The highway portion of the project involves constructing a four-lane roadway on 12 miles of US Highway 85 from US Highway 2 in Williston to McKenzie County Road 16 south of Williston. The highway project will be completed in 2015 with bridge completion being slated for 2016.

The bid opening is the first step in the construction project. Prior to awarding the contract, NDDOT will conduct a general review that includes analyzing project cost numbers, and checking bond capabilities. Pending a successful outcome, the contract is awarded and executed within a two-to-three week period.

The first phase of the US Highway 85 four-lane construction project from Watford City to County Road 16 began July 2013 and is scheduled for completion this fall. Approximately \$300 million will be invested in the both phases of the four lane project on US 85 from Watford City to Williston.

North Dakota driver’s license features new look and security enhancements

The NDDOT began issuing a driver’s license with a new look and enhanced security features in May. The license has a new color in the background with updated fraud security features to protect against identity theft. These added features include machine-readable technology, improved printing, image overlap, and enhanced laminate.

The features greatly reduce the possibility of a third party counterfeiting. The licenses are being issued in Bismarck as part of the regular renewal process. Other driver’s license sites throughout the state will begin issuing the new licenses later this year. Residents will not need to renew current licenses until the expiration date on current driver’s license. No additional renewal costs will be applied.



NDDOT receives a penalty sanction for new DUI law

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the new DUI law resulted in North Dakota becoming non-compliant with 23 USC 164 – the federal repeat intoxicated driver requirements. This determination will result in a penalty transfer sanction of 2.5% of 2014 federal-aid highway funds to safety programs specifically for use in alcohol-impaired driving programs or Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)-eligible activities. North Dakota has opted to spend the funding on HSIP-eligible activities identified through the Local Road Safety Program. The sanction amount is approximately \$5 million.

Nelson named Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicle Services



Mark Nelson

Governor Jack Dalrymple has named Mark Nelson to serve as NDDOT Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicle Services. He was previously named Interim Deputy Director in September 2013 when Linda Butts retired. Nelson oversees the Drivers License, Motor Vehicle, and Safety Divisions, as well as public safety education and striving to provide a high level of customer service at the Department. Nelson joined NDDOT in December 2009. Prior to joining the Department, he worked for the ND Highway Patrol for more than 28 years during which he was named Superintendent of the agency in 2007. He retired from the Highway Patrol in 2009.