Transportation Update

May 2018

2018 Road Construction Season Underway

The North Dakota Department of Transportation’s (NDDOT) construction program will be in full swing soon with approximately $370 million in projects being bid this year. Some of the larger projects across the state include:

- I-94 Sheyenne Street Interchange and Sheyenne Street in West Fargo
- New Town North West Truck Reliever Route
- ND Highway 1804 between New Town and Williston
- Intersection reconstruction on US Highway 2 at 42nd St SE in Minot
- Reconstruction and widening on US Highway 281 from west of Fort Totten to south of Minnewaukan.
- Concrete pavement repair on I-29 northbound from north of Grand Forks to Oslo
- Paving and bridge work on ND Highway 8 from Richford to south of Halliday
- Paving and bridge work on I-94 eastbound from west of Crystal Springs to east of Cleveland.

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 about the importance of slowing down and paying attention in work zones.

REAL ID’s issued in Bismarck

NDDOT started issuing REAL ID compliant credentials on May 1st. Currently, the REAL ID compliant credentials can only be obtained at the Bismarck driver’s license location with the remainder of the driver’s license offices issuing them by June 1st. The current rollout schedule is: May 21 – Minot and Fargo, May 22 – Williston and Dickinson, May 23 – Grand Forks, May 24 – Jamestown and Devils Lake.

How do you get a REAL ID compliant credential?

Getting a REAL ID compliant credential is just like applying for a new driver’s license or identification card. You must present documents that establish your identity and date of birth, Social Security number, residency and residential address, any name changes and that prove that you are lawfully in the United States. A list of those required documents can be found on our website: https://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/driverslicense/real-id-information.htm#requireddocinfo

How long is a REAL ID valid?

You will only need to bring in your documents one time to receive a REAL ID compliant credential. Once the initial process is completed your REAL ID credential will follow the regular renewal cycle, depending on what type of credential it is, a commercial license, non-commercial license, or identification card. Remember, your unexpired, standard North Dakota driver’s license or identification card is a valid form of identification for boarding domestic flights or to enter federal facilities until October 2020.

Special Event set for May 11 for Legislators

NDDOT Director Tom Sorel invites you to join us for a special event for Legislators, state and local leaders to see a demonstration about self-driving or autonomous bus technology and to ride on an autonomous bus on Friday, May 11 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. near the Bismarck Event Center on Bowen Avenue. For more information about the event, please contact Linda Sitz by email at ldsitz@nd.gov or phone at 328-1986.
Motor Vehicle Kiosk Program expanding across the state

After a successful year long pilot program in Bismarck, NDDOT will continue to implement Motor Vehicle Kiosks or Self Service Terminals (SST) in new locations across the state this summer. More than 27,000 vehicles have been renewed at NDDOT kiosks since December 2016.

The two newest locations which are being launched in May are in Fargo located at the Stamart Travel Center I-29/Exit 66 West and Grand Forks located at the Stamart Travel Center I-29/Highway 2 Exit 141. Three more will be added later this summer at other locations in Minot, Dickinson and Williston.

The terminals are a fully automated motor vehicle registration renewal station that will dispense license plate renewal registration cards and motor vehicle tabs on the spot. A vehicle owner can navigate through the easy touch screen (voice assistance available) and will need an invoice number from your mailed invoice OR title number and plate number. Once the payment has been submitted and the transaction is complete, the vehicle’s renewed registration card and tabs are dispensed directly from the machine. The terminals will be available during regular business hours at the participating locations.

The kiosk allows vehicle owners the opportunity to register their vehicle(s) up to 60 days prior to their expiration. Acceptable forms of payment are restricted to credit cards. Convenience fees will be applied to Kiosk transactions. “We hope citizens find the availability of Self Service Terminals a tool allowing them to renew and print their vehicle renewals whenever they can,” said Mark Nelson, NDDOT Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicle Services. “Residents can still utilize any of our branch offices, renew online or by mail.”

NDDOT launches Track-A-Plow pilot program

A new pilot program called “Track-A-Plow” was launched this past winter to utilize technology to track the location of designated state snowplows and provides the information to the public online. “We are excited to launch the Track-A-Plow program in North Dakota. The driving element behind technology that we implement is to help motorists travel safe,” said NDDOT Director Tom Sorel. “This is one more piece of information that travelers can use to see what is happening on the highways and make more informed decisions when making travel plans.”

Forty-seven NDDOT snowplow trucks at select locations are now equipped with Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) systems which use in-truck technology to log and share data in real time for that truck. The AVL unit in each snowplow truck sends a cellular signal through the system showing where a truck is located, which direction the snowplow is traveling, average speed and when the information was updated. Data is fed automatically to the map online. The information reported is based on cellular coverage so there may be some areas in the state where the snowplow icon won’t show up on the map temporarily.

To find out where the snowplows in the pilot program are working in the state, you can go to NDDOT’s website at dot.nd.gov, click on the Travel Information Map and go to the website link located under the weather radar section called “Track-A-Plow (Pilot Project)”. Once you are on the map, snowplow icons will show you the current location of each truck working to keep your roads safe. The NDDOT has 350 snowplows and will analyze the results of the pilot project on 47 snowplows for a year with plans to expand the technology to more trucks in the future.

ND Symposium on Transportation Funding looks at state needs

NDDOT and Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute held a ND Symposium on Transportation Funding in March. The event was a collaborative forum which provided transportation funding information through national and state expert presentations and enabled legislators, stakeholders and partners to provide input and share ideas. Speakers included representatives from the national organization - American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO) and South Dakota Transportation Commission. More than 100 people attended the event to discuss regional and local transportation needs and transportation funding today and into the future. All presentations and handouts can be found on the NDDOT website at http://www.dot.nd.gov/public/fundingsymposium.htm