

May 30, 2013

NDDOT unveils largest construction program in state history and asks drivers to slow down in work zones

Today, the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) unveiled the 2013 construction program for the state. This year's program is estimated at approximately \$878 million in infrastructure improvements across the state, making this the largest construction program in state history.

"With the \$2.3 billion investment for the 2013-2015 biennium that the Governor and the state legislators designated for roadway improvements, the state will have the largest roadway construction in its history," says Grant Levi, NDDOT Director. "This investment will help us address the growing transportation demands as a result of the significant increase in traffic because of the state's strong economic growth."

Motorists will encounter roadway projects this summer and it is essential to follow a few basic tips:

- Don't speed- Obey posted speed limits at all times, even when workers aren't present. Pavement conditions may exist that require reduced speeds.
- Be patient- Work zones aren't present to inconvenience drivers, they're an important part in maintaining and rebuilding our state's infrastructure.
- Minimize distractions- Don't talk on your cell phone, change the radio stations, or do anything that takes your eyes off the road.
- Stay alert- Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.

"Following these tips, especially in work zones, is critical as workers' lives are at stake," Sergeant Tom Iverson, North Dakota Highway Patrol says. "Last year there were 257 crashes in work zones resulting in two fatalities. Motorists must slow down and be patient."

As motorists travel through the state some major projects that you may encounter include:

- I-29 work near Grafton, Grand Forks, Fargo and Hankinson
- US 2 west of Williston
- ND 23 Parshall to US Hwy 83
- US 2 work near Rugby, Devils Lake and Grand Forks
- ND 22 north to Killdeer
- ND 8 south to Bowbells
- US 85 near Belfield
- US 85 four lane project between Watford City and Williston
- US 52 work near Harvey and Pingree

To complete the work on these projects, contractors from all over the state and country will be present at work zones. Russ Hanson, Executive Vice President with the Associated General Contractors of North Dakota, asks drivers to respect the crews working on the roads by slowing down. "Construction crews are out working in all kinds of conditions to make the roads better for all motorists. Respect the signs and flaggers and slow down to create a safe environment for all."

Motorists can keep updated on construction projects several ways:

- Travel Information map at www.dot.nd.gov
- Calling 511
- Subscribing to work zone email notifications at <http://www.dot.nd.gov/govdelivery/landing.htm>
- Downloading the ND Roads smartphone app