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## **NDDOT reminds motorists to know before you go with new technology**

New technology can help motorists check road conditions through a new app for smartphones and tablets called NDRoads. The app was recently launched by the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and keeps users up to date on road condition information on state highways across North Dakota. The NDDOT presented the app at a press conference today with the North Dakota Highway Patrol, National Weather Service and the Department of Emergency Services as part of Winter Weather Awareness Week.

“With more and more people having the capabilities of accessing information in different ways, we felt it was beneficial to provide this additional service to the public,” says Brandon Beise, NDDOT Maintenance Division Engineer. “The app provides users with a quick link to important information that will help them to stay safe while driving this winter.”

NDRoads is available in the iTunes store and Google Play store for free and enables users to access road condition information on state highways across North Dakota. Users can see road conditions just as they would on the desktop Travel Information Map but in a custom-designed way for smartphones. The app allows users to add and remove map layers such as weather radar and wind speeds, view actual conditions from cameras located throughout the state and save frequently traveled routes.

This new service is simply an addition to the tools that already exist for motorists including the desktop Travel Information Map at [www.dot.nd.gov](http://www.dot.nd.gov) and the 511 call system.

Motorists should also be prepared to share the road with snowplows and other snow fighting equipment. The NDDOT continues to add to its fleet of equipment including the addition of more Tow Plows across the state. The Tow Plow is a trailer mounted plow operated by a regular snowplow. The Tow Plow can do the work of two regular plow trucks by clearing a path approximately 24 feet wide. The trailer is equipped with steering axels which will swing the trailer into the adjacent lane. Motorists should be extremely cautious when passing a snowplow and know where the plow is on the roadway as it can be in either lane or on the shoulder.

Knowing the conditions before traveling is important, but motorists also need to be ready when they encounter winter driving conditions. To arrive at your destination safely, motorists should follow some basic safety tips while behind the wheel:

- Slow down and drive according to the conditions.
- Never use cruise control on wet or icy roadways.
- Keep a safe distance from snowplows and other vehicles.
- Turn on your head lights. Remove snow from your vehicle that could cover your tail lights.

To learn more about winter driving safety or NDRoads, please visit [www.dot.nd.gov](http://www.dot.nd.gov).