

December 29, 2014

North Dakota DOT and Highway Patrol increase law enforcement and review safety on US Highway 85

Current traffic crash statistics show that 13 fatalities occurred along the entire US 85 corridor in 2013 and 12 fatalities have occurred in 2014. Some of the major causes of crashes and fatalities include alcohol use, not wearing seat belts, speeding, aggressive and distracted driving.

As a result, road safety reviews and increased law enforcement patrols led by the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and North Dakota Highway Patrol are taking place on US Highway 85 this year and into 2015. The NDDOT started initial review in early December and will continue to review the US 85 corridor in January and February.

“The recently constructed portions of US 85 corridor were designed to meet all federal safety requirements,” said NDDOT Director Grant Levi. “Unfortunately crashes and fatalities continue to occur and even one fatality on roadways is one too many,” stated Levi. “The department will continue to work with the Highway Patrol to make appropriate roadway enhancements and to assist them in enforcement campaigns.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol has increased law enforcement efforts on US 85 this year and will conduct additional law enforcement saturations over the next few weeks. “The Highway Patrol remains committed to traffic safety,” said Colonel Gerhart. “Our agency works hard to influence and educate motorists to drive safely,” stated Gerhart. “Our greatest partner in traffic safety is the motoring public, and together we can make a positive difference.”

Some of the state safety procedures currently taking place on US 85 include:

- Conducting a proactive comprehensive review to evaluate the new US 85 corridor between Williston and Watford City for traffic movement and safety enhancements. A multi-disciplinary team consisting of local law enforcement, local road officials, NDDOT and Federal Highway Administration representatives are completing the review.
- Completing additional law enforcement saturation patrols in the area.
- Installing interim roadway lights at the several US 85 and ND 23 intersections in the Watford City area.