NDDOT provides information to Interim Legislative Committees

North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) staff testified and provided information to three Interim Legislative Committees (Government Finance, Energy Development and Economic Impact) the last week in July. During the testimony, we presented information about western North Dakota highway energy corridors. The map to the right illustrates a proposed network of state highway energy corridors that will provide the essential services to the energy industries. We also provided an update on the funding and construction progress for the US Highway 85 project, which includes the Lewis and Clark bridge south of Williston.

Construction underway on US 85 Project and Dickinson Bypass

In July construction work got underway on the first segment of the US Highway 85 Watford City to Williston four lane project. Construction crews are working in the right of way area west of Watford City and speeds have been reduced to 25 mph in immediate construction work zones. The NDDOT continues to work on attaining environmental clearance for other phases of the highway construction project. Construction of the new Lewis and Clark bridge south of Williston will require an in-depth biological assessment before the project moves forward. The biological assessment is necessary because of the presence of the pallid sturgeon which is an endangered species. The highway also separates two wildlife management areas so the NDDOT has worked with North Dakota Game and Fish Department and federal agencies to design a wildlife crossing in the area, which is estimated to cost approximately $5 million. This work will be included in the construction project.

Construction on the Dickinson Interim Build Bypass is underway.

Phase one of the five mile project begins in the area of I-94 & 113th Avenue SW, just north of the west Dickinson interchange (Exit 59) and will progress north approximately three miles to 33rd Street SW. The route will then continue east along 33rd Street SW for approximately two miles where it will tie into ND Highway 22. This project will improve traffic flow by providing a wider, higher capacity roadway in the Dickinson area.

Construction projects making progress

With the recent warm dry weather, many projects under construction are starting to make progress. Approximately 27% of the work has been completed as of August 19th. For more information about construction projects in your area go to our website: www.dot.nd.gov

Williston Bypass project to be rebid in November

Due to unforeseen circumstances which include a lengthy environmental and right of way process, as well as a short 2013 construction season, NDDOT will rebid the first phase of the Williston Bypass project in November. This phase of the bypass project was first bid out on July 31, but it was rejected due to bidding coming in at 95% more than the engineers estimate for the project. Whenever there is a large difference in cost during the construction project bidding process, NDDOT will conduct a bid analysis. Once the review was completed, the Department determined that the short construction season may have affected bidding on the bypass project. Once the project is rebid, work could start in the spring of 2014 with a majority of the construction work completed in the summer. This enables NDDOT to move forward on the bypass project in a cost efficient manner with only a minor delay in getting the project completed.