

New license plates issued across the state this week

Today, November 12th, the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) began issuing the new flat plate called the Sunrise License Plate. The new flat plate replaces the current embossed Buffalo plate which has been in circulation for 23 years and Lewis and Clark plate.

“After 23 years some vehicles have deteriorated plates that are losing their reflectivity. In 2013 the state legislature recognized the need and provided the resources to replace the general issue plate. They also indicated it should be a flat plate design,” said NDDOT Director Grant Levi.

The NDDOT worked with Tourism, Highway Patrol and Roughrider Industry to design the new plate, while taking the history and tradition of North Dakota into consideration. In 2014, the North Dakota Legislative and Budget Committee approved a design which features: Actual photographs of the beautiful sunrise in the North Dakota skyline with a buffalo. The ND tourism slogan *Legendary*, along with the official nickname *Peace Garden State*, and North Dakota’s number one crop - wheat. The new flat plate will be distributed to vehicle owners through the regular license plate renewal process. Once a motorist pays their motor vehicle registration fees they will receive the new flat plate in the mail.



“This is a momentous event as we begin the process of replacing the North Dakota license plate with a newly designed plate,” stated Mark Nelson, NDDOT Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicles Services. “We issue over one million motor vehicle registrations a year, it will take time to replace plates on nearly *Continued on next page....*

Federal funding deadline extended

The federal highway program deadline was recently extended from October 29, 2015 to November 20, 2015. All of the federal funds we budgeted for in 2015 have been received. On July 30th the US Senate passed the DRIVE Act, a six year transportation bill which would replace the current transportation bill Map-21. The House recently passed their own bill the STRRA Act, which is also a six year transportation bill to replace Map-21. A summary of the funding levels in each bill is shown below:

Senate Funding Apportionment through their Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy (DRIVE) Act. Proposed Funding Chart below:

Funding	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
North Dakota	\$257.25 M	\$262.59 M	\$268.33 M	\$274.50 M	\$281.44 M	\$288.54 M

House Funding Apportionment through their Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act (STRRA). Proposed Funding Chart below:

Funding	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
North Dakota	\$243.25 M	\$247.93 M	\$253.09 M	\$258.40 M	\$263.84 M	\$269.29 M

Many construction projects worked on this year

In North Dakota the 2013-2015 construction seasons represent the largest construction programs in state history for roadway projects. This year's road construction season is progressing well and several projects have been completed, while we also continue to work on some projects that are two year projects. As of October 31st, approximately 71% of this year's construction work has been completed and paid out, compared to 58% completed at the same time last year.

NDDOT crews prepared for winter

Department crews at District offices throughout the state have prepared for the winter season by getting equipment ready and stocking up on materials needed for snow and ice control. Materials include granular materials such



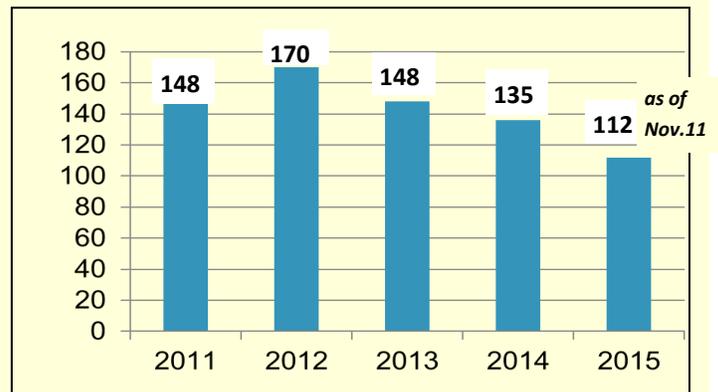
as of Salt, Salt / Sand Mix; liquids such as Salt Brine, Geomelt and Potassium Acetate. Equipment includes Snow Plow Trucks, Self-Propelled Rotary Snow Blowers, Motor Graders, Pay Loaders, Tractor Front End Loaders, and Tow Plows.

Technology plays a big part of an effective snow and ice control program. Tools such as MDSS, AVL, traffic cameras, and RWIS are used to monitor road and weather conditions to provide the right treatment at the right time or no treatment at all thus making the best use of resources. The Department continues to enhance this network.

Traffic fatality numbers for 2015

The number of traffic fatalities so far in 2015 is at 112 as of November 11th, which is higher compared to last year at this time when the number was 109.

The number of traffic related fatalities in the state in 2014 was 135, compared to 148 in 2013. Primary contributing factors to fatal crashes: alcohol, not using seatbelts and speed.



New License Plates continued...

every vehicle across the state and we ask everyone to be patient as we work through this new process.” The new plates are being mailed to residents who recently renewed online and have also been distributed to all motor vehicle branch offices statewide. The distribution of the new plate will occur in phases: In this first phase the standard 6 X 12 plate that is used on most vehicles and standard trailers will be replaced. During the second phase, which takes place in 2016, the smaller 4 X 7 plate that is on motorcycles and small trailers will be replaced. “As required in state statute, all of the new flat plates will be distributed by June 30, 2017,” said Nelson.

Over the past two years Roughrider Industries of the state penitentiary procured the necessary equipment and trained staff on manufacturing the new flat plates. “Roughrider has worked hard to ensure there is a sufficient inventory of plates ready for distribution,” said Rick Gardner, Director of Rough Rider Industries.

There is no additional charge for the new plates, but normal registration fees will apply as residents renew their vehicle registrations. Motorists can renew their vehicle registration through the mail, online at dot.nd.gov, through the smartphone app NDRenewals or at any Motor Vehicle Branch Office throughout the state.

Vehicle owners are encouraged to recycle old plates at their local recycling facility or they can bring the old plates to their nearest motor vehicle office and deposit in the recycling bins. It is recommended that they bend or cut the plate in half before recycling. For more information visit NDDOT's New Plate Frequently Asked Questions web page on our website: dot.nd.gov or call our toll free number: 1-844-NDPLATE (1-844-637-5283).