

May 23, 2014

Drive safely as NDDOT embarks on record construction program

Today, the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) together with the North Dakota Highway Patrol and the Associated General Contractors of North Dakota joined together to kick-off the start of one of the busiest construction programs in state history.

“The state has made a significant investment in roadway infrastructure with over \$800 million of construction work occurring this year,” said NDDOT Director Grant Levi. “The Department is working hard to address the needs in every part of the state and motorists will play a key role in the safety of these projects. In addition to construction, motorists will see other work on the roadways including maintenance and utility work. When traveling through these work zones, we are asking motorists to slow down and pay close attention.”

Staying safe in work zones is the ultimate goal for workers and motorists alike. ND Highway Patrol stressed the importance of obeying the posted speed limit and being patient while traveling. “While seemingly harmless, speeding through a construction zone poses many dangers to both highway workers and motorists,” said Colonel Jim Prochniak. “Troopers take construction zone violations seriously to help create a safe environment in work zones.”

To ensure the safety of everyone, motorists should follow a few basic tips while traveling through work zones:

- Don't speed: Obey posted speed limit 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.

“Construction takes place during the busiest travel season in the state,” said Levi. “While we want you to enjoy your travels throughout the state, we also want you to be prepared and allow more time to reach your destination this summer.”

Work will be taking place all over the state. Major projects include:

- US 85 between Watford City and Williston
- US 2 between Berthold and Surrey

- Truck bypass/reliever routes around the oil impact communities of Williston, Watford City, Alexander, New Town and Dickinson
- Divide Ave. in Bismarck from Volk Dr. to Bismarck Expressway
- I-29 from Buxton to ND 15
- Washington Street in Grand Forks from 32nd Ave to 13th Ave. S.
- 25th Street in Fargo from 23rd Ave. S to 17th Ave. S

To take advantage of North Dakota's short construction season, work has already started on many projects.

"Contractors will be working hard this year to complete projects," said Russ Hanson, President of Associated General Contractors of North Dakota. "Ensuring proper work zone safety starts and ends with cautious drivers. Our contractors and their employees put their lives at risk every day to keep North Dakota moving ahead and improving our highway system."

Motorists can keep updated on state construction projects in several ways:

- Travel Information Map at www.dot.nd.gov
- Calling 511
- NDRoads app for iPhones and Android
- Subscribing to work zone email notifications at <http://www.dot.nd.gov/govdelivery/landing.htm>