

December 18, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Transportation Enhancement Projects Announced**

The Nebraska Department of Roads announced today that a total of \$2,611,034 has been awarded for 12 community and agency projects, statewide, through the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program.

Since 1991, the Nebraska Transportation Enhancement Program has allocated more than \$55 million to over 150 communities across the State. Roads Director John Craig is happy to award the current 12 projects recommended by the independent Transportation Enhancement Select Committee.

The TE Program, part of the federal highway bill, provides funding to local, regional, and State government entities for projects that encourage alternative transportation. The funds, administered through the Nebraska Department of Roads, are used for highway beautification, pedestrian and bicycle trails, and historic preservation.

Following is a list of brief descriptions of the 12 successful projects receiving funding:

### **Nebraska Forest Service / UNL Statewide Arboretum**

The Nebraska Forest Service and University of Nebraska-Lincoln was awarded \$350,000 in funding for continuation of the Nebraska Community Enhancement Program. This program provides funds to communities and other public entities in Nebraska for landscaping projects that improve transportation corridors.

### **Cowboy Trail Surfacing Program**

The Nebraska Game & Parks Commission was awarded \$338,000 in funding to surface 13 miles of the Cowboy Trail between Atkinson and O'Neill completing 102 continuous miles of trail. Established in 1999, this set-aside program allows the Department of Roads to annually approve funding up to 10 percent of local share enhancement funds for surfacing of the Cowboy Trail.

### **Nebraska Lied Main Street Program**

The Nebraska Lied Main Street Program was awarded \$100,000 to fund a competition among member communities for matching funds for the Main Street District Enhancement Program. The purpose of the funding is to improve the physical environment of the downtown areas of Nebraska's Lied Main Street communities who will apply for funding on a competitive basis. Communities selected for funding will provide matching funds.

### **NSHS Engineer Cantonment Site**

The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) was awarded \$31,776 for analysis of historic artifacts excavated from the historic "Engineer Cantonment" site. The NSHS recently discovered the winter quarters of the 1819-1820 Major Stephen Long Scientific Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains. The Long expedition consisted of a small group of engineers, artists, naturalists, and soldiers charged with exploring portions of the Missouri and Platte River valleys. The site is located along the Missouri River bluffs between Omaha and Blair. Funding will be used to analyze the recovered collections, disseminate results of the excavation to the public, and develop a management and interpretive plan. The NSHS will provide a cash match of \$21,184.

### **Dakota City Trail**

The City of Dakota City was awarded \$482,589 for preliminary engineering and construction of a 2.6 mile long, 8-foot wide concrete trail. This trail begins at the center of Dakota City and follows Dakota Avenue north providing alternative transportation to employment and commercial centers. The trail continues north under I-129 and connects with the existing trail system in South Sioux City. Dakota City is providing a local cash match of \$120,647.

### **Pawnee City Prairie Hills Connector Trail**

The City of Pawnee City was awarded \$267,497 for preliminary engineering and construction of a one mile long, 8-foot wide concrete and crushed rock trail located in the northeast portion of the community. The trail connects the downtown area of Pawnee City with residential neighborhoods and the Prairie Hills Sports Complex located northeast of town. Pawnee City is providing a local cash match of \$66,874.

### **Pierce County Meridian Highway Bridge Repair**

Pierce County was awarded \$20,142 for preliminary engineering and construction to repair two bridges on the historic route of the Meridian Highway in Pierce County. The Meridian Highway was one of the first north to south transcontinental highways stretching from Mexico City to Winnipeg, Canada. Pierce County will provide a local cash match of \$5,036.

### **Jamaica North Trail, Lancaster County**

Lancaster County was awarded \$500,000 to develop a portion of the former Union Pacific Railroad corridor recently acquired by the City of Lincoln. Transportation Enhancement funds will be used for design and construction of 6.25 miles of this corridor, beginning at 6<sup>th</sup> and Calvert Streets and ending one-half mile south of Saltillo Road. This segment is an integral portion of the planned 55-mile Homestead Trail stretching from Lincoln to Marysville, Kansas. Jamaica North also connects to the trail system within Wilderness Park and the Salt Creek Levee trail system, ultimately providing access to the Downtown area, Haymarket Ball Park, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. Lancaster County will provide a local cash match of \$100,00 with an additional \$277,000 provided through private donations.

### **Southeast Nebraska Old West Trails & Transportation Center, Odell**

The Village of Odell was awarded \$104,160 for renovation of a historic bank building for use as a transportation visitor center. The one-story limestone bank building was constructed in 1885 and is located on the north end of Main Street in downtown Odell. The purpose of the center is to provide travel and interpretive information on the region's transportation history. The Village of Odell will be providing a local cash match of \$26,040 through private donations.

### **Plattsmouth Main Street Project – Phase 2**

The City of Plattsmouth was awarded \$84,265 for construction of a turn-a-round at the east end of the City's historic Main Street. The turn-a-round will use existing pavers salvaged from the project site. The City of Plattsmouth will provide a local cash match of \$46,379.

### **Alliance 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Landscaping**

The City of Alliance was awarded \$40,654 to design and install landscape improvements within the right of way of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (Highway #2). The project begins at Highway #385 on the west and ends at Black Hills Avenue on the east. Improvements will also be included at the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Flack Avenue. The improvements include concrete and plant removal, and installation of drought and heat tolerant trees and shrubs. The City of Alliance will provide a local cash match of \$10,164.

### **Antelope Creek Trail – Phase 1**

The City of Lincoln was awarded \$291,951 for preliminary engineering and construction of a 1.9 mile trail in east Lincoln known as the Antelope Creek Trail. This trail begins at the end of the existing Billy Wolff Trail in the Holmes Park Dog Run near 70<sup>th</sup> Street and extends in a southeast direction to 86<sup>th</sup> and Old Cheney Road. This segment is the first phase of the City's two-phase plan to extend the Antelope Creek Trail from Holmes Park to Highway #2. The City of Lincoln is providing a cash match of \$130,000.

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#### **For additional information contact:**

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