

December 9, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Transportation Enhancement Projects Awarded

The Nebraska Department of Roads announced today that a total of \$6,098,265 has been awarded for community and agency projects, statewide, through the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program.

According to Roads Director John Craig, "Many positive things have been accomplished and continue to benefit Nebraska as a result of the Transportation Enhancement Program. Since 1993, the Department of Roads has supported over 700 transportation enhancement projects across the state. These projects are making a significant contribution to the quality of life in Nebraska communities – from the smallest village to the largest city." Transportation Enhancement dollars have been spent in 1 of every 3 Nebraska communities.

The Transportation Enhancement Program, part of the federal highway bill, provides funding to local, state, and regional governmental entities to construct and restore transportation infrastructure that are not eligible to be funded through other programs. Examples of transportation infrastructure projects that are eligible under this program include non-motorized facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, development of scenic byways, restoration of historic transportation facilities, and other projects directly related to the historic, current, or future transportation infrastructure.

**The 21 projects recommended by the Transportation Enhancement Selection Committee total \$6,098,265. Following is a list briefly describing the 21 successful projects receiving funding:**

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**NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE/UNL STATEWIDE ARBORETUM**

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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.

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**COWBOY TRAIL SURFACING PROGRAM**

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The Nebraska Game & Parks Commission was awarded \$630,000 in funding to surface 21 miles of the Cowboy Trail from Arabia Ranch Road to Johnstown. With this funding, surfacing will be completed on 185 of the 195 miles of trail between Norfolk and Valentine. Established in 1999, this set-aside program allows the Department of Roads to annually approve funding up to 10 percent of Transportation Enhancement funds for surfacing of the Cowboy Trail.

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**NEBRASKA LIED MAIN STREET PROGRAM**

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The Nebraska Lied Main Street Program was awarded \$100,000 for the Main Street Enhancement Program. The purpose of the funding is to improve the physical environment of downtown areas in Lied Main Street communities. All communities participating in the Nebraska Lied Main Street Program are eligible to apply for funding on a competitive basis. Communities selected for funding will provide a minimum of 20% matching funds.

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**ORLEANS FLAG CREEK BRIDGE RESTORATION**

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The Village of Orleans was awarded \$5,823 for structural and aesthetic repairs on the historic Flag Creek Bridge. Constructed in 1924, the Flag Creek Bridge is located on the route of the former "Golden Rod Highway" – promoted in the 1920's and 30's as a direct route from Nebraska City to Denver. The bridge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Transportation Enhancement funds will be used to repair four concrete lampposts, install new globes and repair spalled concrete on the north parapet wall. The Village of Orleans is providing a local cash match of \$647.

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**MO PAC TRAIL BRIDGE – 27TH STREET**

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The City of Lincoln was awarded \$500,000 for engineering and construction of a pedestrian bridge located at approximately 27<sup>th</sup> and "X" Street within the MoPac Trail corridor. Currently, the MoPac Trail extends east from Peter Pan Park at 33<sup>rd</sup> and Y Street through the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County. The MoPac Trail ends near the Village of Wabash in Cass County. The City of Lincoln is providing a local cash match of \$990,343.

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**HUMBOLDT BRICK & HISTORIC LIGHTING**

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The City of Humboldt was awarded \$500,000 for aesthetic and infrastructure improvements within the historic town square. The square was listed on the National register of Historic Places in 2005 and these funds will complement the historic character of the city square.

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Improvements will consist of restoring the historic brick around the town square and installing 47 historic replica light poles matching lights of the 1920's era. All existing overhead lights will be removed from the town square. A second component of this project includes relighting the historic concrete entry arches in the square. The City of Humboldt is providing a local cash match of \$56,000.

### **LEXINGTON TRAIL – PHASE 1**

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The City of Lexington was awarded \$462,861 for engineering and construction of a 2.4-mile bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting residential neighborhoods to the Tyson packing plant. The concrete trail will begin at the Madison Street Pedestrian Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad and extend south to the Highway 283 right-of-way directly across from the Tyson facility. An 800-foot spur will extend north to connect with retail stores and motels. From the Tyson facility, the trail will extend south along Highway 283 right-of-way for approximately 1.5 miles, connecting additional residential neighborhoods and commercial areas. The trail will terminate at the new Wal-Mart store recently constructed in south Lexington. This is the first Transportation Enhancement bicycle/pedestrian trail funded in the City of Lexington. The City of Lexington is providing a local cash match of \$115,715.

### **NEBRASKA HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER REPAIRS – PHASE 3**

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The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) received \$24,364 in Transportation Enhancement funds for repairs to the official state historical markers located on highways throughout Nebraska. This is the third-phase of funding awarded for the ongoing statewide project. The first two phases established an inventory and assessment of all 442 markers in the state and repaired 35 markers that were severely deteriorated. The phase 3 funding will be used to repair an additional 37 markers. The NSHS is providing a cash match of \$6,091.

### **PLEASANTON DEPOT RESTORATION**

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The Village of Pleasanton was awarded \$173,705 for preservation of the historic 1890 Pleasanton Union Pacific (U.P.) Depot. The depot is situated on its original location in what is now Pleasanton Park. The depot originally served the 22-mile U.P. branch rail line between Boelus and Pleasanton. This rail line was abandoned in 1948 and the Village subsequently acquired the Depot. Efforts to save the historic depot were championed by the Pleasanton High School chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). When public debate on what to do with the deteriorated building surfaced in the Spring of 2005, the FBLA students took the initiative to preserve the structure. Working with the Pleasanton Village Board, the students developed a plan to renovate the depot for community use and educational activities. Restoration of the building will include a new foundation, windows, roof, gutters, and siding repair and paint. Interior work will include new insulation, repair of floors, walls and trim, new electrical service and restrooms, plus a handicap accessible entry. The Village of Pleasanton is providing a local cash match of \$43,426.

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**BANCROFT NEIhardt TRAIL**

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The Village of Bancroft was awarded \$148,111 for engineering and construction of a one-half mile bicycle/pedestrian trail. The trail begins at the City Arboretum, travels north along the public school playground, and proceeds west through school property, connecting to the existing athletic fields and the Village Park. From the park, the trail travels north through residential areas and ends at the John G. Neihardt Historical Center. The Village of Bancroft is providing a local cash match of \$37,028.

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**MCCOOK KELLEY PARK TRAIL**

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The City of McCook was awarded \$140,886 for engineering and construction of a one-half mile bicycle/pedestrian trail. The trail is the first phase of the City's 13.2-mile Trail System Master Plan. This first phase begins near McCook Community College and the Public Swimming Pool and ends near the McCook Community Hospital. The trail follows Kelley Creek, traveling near residential areas, the Broken Tee Golf Course, and the Republican River Valley Events Center. The City of McCook is providing a local cash match of \$35,222.

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**DAKOTA CITY DEPOT RENOVATION**

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The City of Dakota City was awarded \$129,952 for exterior renovation of the former Dakota City Chicago and Northwestern (C&NW) Railroad Depot. Constructed in 1922, this one-story brick depot building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Known as a "Class B Depot", this facility was a key link in the Omaha to Minneapolis rail corridor from 1922 until 1957 when it was abandoned. Passengers would travel to Norfolk where they could connect for travel west or to Omaha for service east. The rails and ties are still located immediately north of the building. The depot is located one block from the Dakota City Public School and 125 feet from the end of the Dakota City Trail (construction Spring, 2006). As a result of its close proximity to these features, the City has developed a two-phase plan to convert the depot into a trailhead facility for use by the community. Phase 1 funds would be used to renovate the exterior of the building and provide trailhead site improvements. Phase 2 would follow in 2006-07 and would renovate the interior of the depot with restrooms and interpretive railroad equipment displays. The City of Dakota City is providing a local cash match of \$32,488.

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**WAYNE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC RENOVATION**

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The City of Wayne was awarded \$180,196 for aesthetic improvements in downtown Wayne. The project is part of the NDOR repaving of Highway 15 [Project # STPD -15-4 (115)] scheduled for 2006. The project area includes four and one-half blocks of Main Street from Clark Street to Fourth Street. Transportation Enhancement funds will be used to install historic replica light fixtures, landscaping and renovation of a pedestrian alley that connects the Main Street district to the historic 1936 WPA City Auditorium. The historic lighting would replace standard 40-foot

high roadway lighting and supports the community goal of historical renovation of this area along the highway. The City of Wayne is providing a local cash match of \$77,227.

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#### **RUSHVILLE PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE TRAIL**

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The City of Rushville was awarded \$496,510 for engineering and construction of a one and one-half mile concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail. The trail will begin near the Antlers Motel, travel west along Highway 20 for four blocks, and turn south towards the Rushville High School. From the school, the trail travels west through a residential area, then turns north to connect with the assisted living facility, medical clinic, city pool, park, and ball fields on the west side of town. The City of Rushville is providing a local cash match of \$55,168.

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#### **PLAINVIEW DOWNTOWN HISTORIC RENOVATION**

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The City of Plainview was awarded \$213,865 for installation of historic replica lighting and new landscaping. The project will consist of renovating Locust Avenue (Business District) from Kings Street to West Street. Historic replica light poles will be installed along with several landscaping planters to improve the aesthetic appearance of the downtown area. The lighting project will also extend along sections of Main Street and Maple Street. The light poles are replicas of the early 1900's downtown lighting in Plainview. The City of Plainview is providing a local cash match of \$53,466.

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#### **AURORA DOWNTOWN HISTORICAL LIGHTING**

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The City of Aurora was awarded \$331,157 for installation of 80 historic replica lights in a four-block area surrounding the historic Hamilton County Courthouse Square. Historic photographs of the courthouse square business district were used to select historically accurate replica poles and lights.

Twenty-one lights will be installed on the courthouse square and 59 will be located on the streets surrounding the square. Replica lights have already been installed adjacent the sidewalks approaching the courthouse entries. The Hamilton County Courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The City of Aurora is providing a local cash match of \$82,789.

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#### **CHAPPELL TRAIL**

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The City of Chappell was awarded \$247,941 for engineering and construction of a one-half mile concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail that will connect the city to Chappell Lake. The trail begins near City's downtown area, travels north, crossing the Union Pacific Railroad (U.P.R.R) line, and ends at the Chappell Lake Park. The project will also include a pedestrian bridge over Lodgepole Creek. The City of Chappell is providing a local cash match of \$61,985.

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**WINNEBAGO THUNDER WAY TRAIL**

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The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska was awarded \$324,550 for engineering and construction of an 8-foot wide concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail that will be approximately one mile in length. The trail will connect the Heritage Store area on the southern edge of the Village of Winnebago to the Thunder Way subdivision. The Winnebago Tribe is providing a local cash match of \$81,137.

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**NORTH LOUP POPCORN PATH**

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The Village of North Loup was awarded \$206,322 for engineering and construction of an 8-foot wide concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail that will be approximately 3,100 feet in length. The trail begins at the community swimming pool in Robbins Park in northwest North Loup. The trail follows "A" Street south through town, crossing Nebraska Highway 11, past Alumni Park, and on to the elementary school. South of the elementary school the trail follows the west side of the road to the community ball field. The Village of North Loup is providing a local cash match of \$22,925.

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**BLAIR DANA TRAIL**

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The City of Blair was awarded \$432,022 for engineering and construction of a 10-foot wide concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail that will be approximately 4,800 feet in length. The trail will connect the Blair Deerfield Lions Trail, constructed in 2005, to the Dana College softball and recreational fields. The City of Blair is providing a local cash match of \$108,005.

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**SIDNEY DEADWOOD TRAIL – INTERCHANGE PATH**

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The City of Sidney was awarded \$500,000 for engineering and construction of a 1.3-mile bicycle/pedestrian trail linking the existing Sidney Deadwood Trail system to the Interstate 80 interchange area. The trail will begin in the Deer Run Park soccer complex where it connects to the end of a trail constructed in 2001. It traverses in a southeasterly direction for a distance of 1.3 miles to Old Post Road adjacent the interchange developments. Interpretive educational areas are planned for the trail corridor. The City of Sidney is providing a local cash match of \$171,659.

***The following projects will be considered should additional funding become available:***

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**COWBOY TRAIL SURFACING PROGRAM**

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The Nebraska Game & Parks Commission was awarded \$315,000 in funding to surface 10.5 miles of the Cowboy Trail from Ainsworth to Johnstown. With this funding, surfacing will be completed on the entire 195 mile trail segment from Norfolk to Valentine. Established in 1999, this set-aside program allows the Department of Roads to annually approve Transportation Enhancement funds for surfacing of the Cowboy Trail.

### **FORT KEARNY TRAIL & BRIDGE REHABILITATION**

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The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NG&P) was awarded \$439,873 to rehabilitate two Fort Kearny Trail bridges located across the Platte River north of the Fort Kearny State Recreation Area. The trail bridges are former railroad structures constructed in the 1880's and were converted to pedestrian trail bridges in the mid-1970's. A second component of the project requests funds to convert 1.4-miles of existing limestone trail to a paved concrete surface. This would allow greater accessibility by wheelchair users. The two bridges are constructed with timber piers, timber stringers, and wood deck planking. The two bridges combined are approximately 1,280 feet long with 56 piers. Rehabilitation work on the bridges will include making all the necessary repairs to the bridges and piers while adding steel armoring to the piers to further protect the bridges. The NG&P is providing a cash match of \$109,968.

### **PAPILLION MIDLAND CREEK TRAIL**

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The City of Papillion was awarded \$171,191 for engineering and construction of the Midland Creek bicycle/pedestrian trail. This 3,150-foot concrete trail will connect to the Halleck Park Trail and West Papio Trail where 72<sup>nd</sup> Street crosses West Papio Creek. The trail will cross West Papio Creek utilizing the existing sidewalk on the 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge, and continue north to the Papillion YMCA at the intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> Streets. The Papillion portion of the West Papio Trail is 3.0 miles in length and travels from the end of the Halleck Park Trail at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street to 36<sup>th</sup> Street in Bellevue, where it connects to the 21-mile Keystone/Bellevue Loop Trails. The City of Papillion is providing a local cash match of \$42,798.

### **PLATTE COUNTY MONASTERY TRAIL**

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Platte County was awarded \$499,739 for engineering and construction of a 10-foot wide concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail that will be approximately 6,000 feet in length. The trail will connect two existing trails; the Wilderness Park Trail and the Bob White Trail. The trail will begin on the north side of the Lost Creek Flood Control Project at the Wilderness Park Trail and travel north along with west side of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Platte County right-of-way to Lake Babcock and the end of the Bob White Trail. Platte County is providing a local cash match of \$124,935.

### **BEATRICE YMCA TRAIL**

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The City of Beatrice was awarded \$233,716 for engineering and construction of a 10-foot wide, concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail that will be approximately one-mile in length. The trail begins at the YMCA and travels east along the south side of Scott Street, passing the Flowing Springs Senior Housing subdivision. The trail then crosses to the north side of Scott Street and continues east, ending at the Beatrice Public High School. The City of Beatrice is providing a local cash match of \$82,116.

**WAHOO TRAIL – MAPLE STREET NORTH**

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The City of Wahoo was awarded \$232,986 for engineering and construction of a 10-foot wide concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail that will be approximately 4,000 feet in length. The trail begins at the new Wahoo Public Library (currently under construction) at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and Maple Streets. The trail will follow along the abandoned Chicago and Northwestern Railroad right-of-way. The right-of-way is currently owned by the City and is included in the City's future plans for street improvements as Maple Street. The trail will travel north along the corridor, crossing Highway 77/Highway 92 at 12<sup>th</sup> Street, and continue to 15<sup>th</sup> Street. At 15<sup>th</sup> Street the trail turns east for one block to the entrance of Placek Park. At the entrance the trail turns north and ends at the Placek Park parking lot. The City of Wahoo is providing a local cash match of \$58,246.

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