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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Transportation Enhancement Projects Awarded

The Nebraska Department of Roads announced today that a total of \$5,855,166 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 19 projects recommended by the Transportation Enhancement Selection Committee total \$5,855,166. Following is a list briefly describing the 19 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 were 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 \$315,000 in funding to surface 10.5 miles of the Cowboy Trail from Ainsworth to Johnstown. This project will complete 195 miles of continuous trail between Norfolk and Valentine. This project marks the end of the annual set-aside program for the regional Cowboy Trail. The set aside was established by the Transportation Enhancement Select Committee in 1999.

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**NEBRASKA LIED MAIN STREET PROGRAM**

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The Nebraska Lied Main Street Program was awarded \$70,000 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 percent in matching funds.

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**BENKELMAN D.L.D. TRAIL**

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The City of Benkelman was awarded \$201,192 for a 1.2-mile trail that will connect the Detroit-Lincoln-Denver (DLD) Wayside Spring Park with the edge of downtown Benkelman at the library/municipal building. The trail will parallel sections of Old Highway 34 (original DLD Highway), which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The project includes restoration of the natural spring park area, which was built by the state after the 1935 Republican River Flood destroyed a 1920s structure at the site, known as the Apex Spring House. The site provided travelers easy access to water from the natural spring at this location. The City is providing a 10 percent local match of \$22,355.

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**JAMAICA NORTH PHASE 2**

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The City of Lincoln was awarded \$500,000 for the second and final phase of the Jamaica North Trail on abandoned railroad right-of-way. This concrete trail will connect with the nearly completed limestone aggregate surface of Phase 1 near Wilderness Park. It will travel 2.25 miles past two additional parks, a sports complex, and the West "A" Neighborhood to 4<sup>th</sup> and J, where an on-street route will lead to downtown and the Haymarket. Upon its completion, the Jamaica North Trail will be 10 miles long and provide a connection to the

regionally planned Homestead Trail to Beatrice and Marysville, Kansas. The City is providing a 35 percent local match of \$270,602.

#### **GENEVA WARNER FILLING STATION TOURISM CENTER**

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The City of Geneva was awarded \$163,601 to rehabilitate the historic Warner Filling Station which has been recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The rehabilitated filling station will serve as a visitors' center and an office for Revitalize Geneva, a Nebraska Lied Main Street organization. Some funding will also go to repair the roof of the adjacent residence, which will serve as a community center. The filling station is located near the historic Potash and Meridian Highways. The City is providing a 20 percent match of \$40,900.

#### **AXTELL MOSAIC RECREATIONAL AREA TRAIL**

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The Village of Axtell was awarded \$162,145 for an 8-foot-wide trail connecting the City Park and Axtell School at the edge of downtown with the Nature's Mosaic Recreation Area 3,000 feet north of town. The City Park includes a swimming pool, tennis courts, track and location of a proposed future elementary school. Nature's Mosaic features a 60-acre restored wetland, learning center, pond with fishing access, picnic shelters, trail and wildlife viewing area. The Village is providing a 20 percent local match of \$40,536.

#### **KEYSTONE TRAIL EAST CONNECTOR – PHASE 1**

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This City of Omaha was awarded \$500,000 for a 10-foot-wide, 2.4-mile-long concrete trail beginning at Karen Park, near 63rd and L Streets, and terminating at 45th and Dayton, where it will access a residential area. The trail provides an east-west connection from the existing Keystone Trail to various destinations within Omaha. Upon completion of the future phases of the connector project, trail access would be provided to the Midtown and Downtown residents and to the entire Omaha trail system. The City is providing a 46 percent local match of \$417,575.

#### **ORD DOWNTOWN HISTORIC LIGHTING**

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The City of Ord was awarded \$500,000 for a historic lighting project to replace overhead lighting in its central business district, which is located alongside a designated Nebraska Byway, Highway 11. The project includes replica lighting fixtures to be installed along L, M, 15th and 16th Streets, surrounding the Valley County Courthouse, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The installation will coincide with the City's comprehensive downtown revitalization project, which includes replacement of streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and utilities. The City is providing a 37 percent match of \$304,088.

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**CURTIS MEDICINE VALLEY TRAIL**

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The City of Curtis was awarded \$242,320 for 8-foot-wide trail, approximately one-half-mile long. The proposed trail begins at the intersection of Nebraska Highway 18 and Nebraska Highway 23 in the downtown area of Curtis. It will pass by the future Curtis community center and the Arrowhead Meadows Fishing Pond, and terminate at the Arrowhead Golf Course Club House. Future phases of the trail will connect to the University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, City Parks, and Medicine Valley School buildings. The City is providing a 10 percent local match of \$26,924.

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**MISSOURI RIVER TRAIL – PHASE 2**

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The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) was awarded \$500,000 for the final link of the 16-mile “Back to the River” Trail between downtown Omaha and the Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge in Washington County. Funding will be applied toward a 10-foot-wide concrete trail along 1.5 miles of North River Road. The NRD is providing an 82 percent local match of about \$2.3 million.

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**PLATTE COUNTY MONASTERY TRAIL**

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Platte County was awarded \$499,919 for a 10-foot-wide concrete trail, approximately one mile in length connecting the existing Wilderness Park Trail and the Robert “Bob” White Trail. It will begin on the north side of the Lost Creek Flood Control Project at the Wilderness Park Trail and travel north along 18th Avenue, terminating at the newly constructed Bob White Trail on the southern edge of Lake Babcock. The trail will provide connections to Lake Babcock Park, Central Community College, Lakeview High School, and several residential areas. The County is providing a 20 percent match of \$124,980.

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**SOUTH SIOUX CITY ALL-AMERICA TRAIL**

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South Sioux City was awarded \$313,253 for a 1.75-mile concrete trail to connect the existing Tri-State Trail with two city parks and the future joint campus of Northeast Community College and Wayne State College. The trail will begin at a connection to the Tri-State Trail and utilize the right-of-way under the Missouri River Veterans Bridge for a safe under crossing of U.S. Highway 77. The City is providing a 40 percent local match of \$208,836.

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**YUTAN TRAIL**

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The City of Yutan was awarded \$350,000 to partially fund a half-mile trail connection from the school to the city park. The connection includes an underpass crossing of active railroad tracks and a pedestrian bridge across Upper Clear Creek. The City will provide a 20 percent cash match of \$70,000.

### **LAVISTA LINK – KEYSTONE TRAIL**

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The City of La Vista was awarded \$246,347 for a 10-foot-wide concrete trail from the La Vista Sports Complex on South 66th Street to Seymour Smith Park, where it will connect with an existing segment of the Keystone Trail near Harrison Street. This 4,400-foot-long trail will also connect with a trail segment being constructed as a part of the 2008 Harrison Street improvement project. The City would provide a 30 percent match of \$105,577.

### **WISNER STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS**

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The City of Wisner was awarded \$348,356 for the design and installation of historic replica light fixtures to replace overhead lights downtown. The proposed lighting plan is part of a larger project in which the City is proposing to improve the business district along U.S. Highway 275. The City would provide a 20 percent local match of \$87,089.

### **WAHOO TRAIL – MAPLE STREET NORTH**

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The City of Wahoo was awarded \$287,125 for a 10-foot-wide concrete trail that would begin at the recently completed Wahoo Public Library, and travel 3,600 feet north along Maple Street and abandoned railroad right-of-way to the entrance of Placek Park. The project would provide Wahoo with a second pedestrian crossing of U.S. Highway 77/92 in town. The City would provide a 20 percent local match of \$71,781.

### **WOOD RIVER PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS**

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The City of Wood River was awarded \$248,976 to extend a pedestrian overpass that is currently planned to span 125 feet along East Street over active Union Pacific Railroad tracks, from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to south of U.S. Highway 30. If awarded, the Transportation Enhancement funds will pay for a 247-foot extension of the overpass, so that it will also extend over U.S. Highway 30 and touch down near 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The Nebraska Department of Roads is planning to build the structure in 2010, to coincide with roadway improvements and relocation of Nebraska Highway 11. The City would provide a 40 percent local match of \$165,984 for the overpass extension.

**McCOOK INNER LOOP TRAIL**

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The City of McCook was awarded \$56,312 to build an 8-foot-wide concrete trail to provide a safe connection along B Street (U.S. Highway 6/34) for 1,825 feet on the west side of town, where no sidewalks currently exist. It would begin at Wedgewood Drive, the location of a Wal-Mart and the Heritage Hills Golf Course/neighborhood, and continue east to connect to the central business district. The City would provide a 40 percent match of \$37,955.

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**For additional information contact:**

R. James Pearson, Enhancement Program Coordinator, (402) 479-4881.

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