



The Planning and Project Development Division reports directly to the Deputy Director - Engineering and is responsible for:

- Providing scoping documents and corridor studies on selected highway projects.
- Coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies to assist in the evaluation of engineering alternatives and environmental impacts associated with transportation projects.
- Obtaining environmental approvals, agency concurrences, 404 permits, and floodplain permits.
- Advancing communication between utility companies, consultants, and local government agencies.
- Preparing, negotiating, administering and approving payments for agreements with utilities, consultants, and local public agencies.
- Coordinating with the Federal Highway Administration, with respect to utilities, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), environmental permitting, agreements and planning studies.
- Representing the Department on various boards, committees and commissions.
- Administrating the Department's federally funded Statewide Planning Work Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION

The Environmental Section reports directly to the Planning and Project Development Engineer and is responsible for:

- Evaluating social, economic, and natural environmental impacts of highway projects to include the preparation of environmental studies and evaluation documents. Preparing, reviewing, and processing environmental documents in compliance with the NEPA, to include Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), Categorical Exclusions (CE), Programmatic Categorical Exclusions (PCE), Section 4(f) documents, and NEPA Reevaluation documents. Signing environmental documents for the Department. Obtaining project approvals from the Federal Highway Administration on projects with federal involvement. Coordinating with local government agencies, consultants, and the public on environmental issues.
- Preparing and reviewing noise and air studies to be included in environmental documents. Designing and reviewing noise abatement structures and conducts associated public hearings.
- Managing liaison resource positions at the University of Nebraska for Highway Paleontology coordination and the Nebraska State Historical Society for Highway Archeology Salvage Programs. These programs conduct project surveys for the recovery of resources in coordination between the Nebraska State Historical Preservation Office (NE-SHPO), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Nebraska Department of Roads regarding preservation of historic resources.

Coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and other agencies, for permits when highway projects involve waterways, wetlands and floodplains. Identifying regulated waters and development of wetland mitigation sites, including establishment of wetland mitigation banks.

Project reviews and consultations with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, regarding project effects on federal and state-listed threatened and endangered species. Development and implementation of species and habitat mitigation plans. Managing liaison positions within the USFWS, the USACE, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service for project review and assistance with project permitting and approvals.

Providing design support and oversight of erosion and sediment control activities, storm water permit acquisition and landscaping of roadsides.

PROJECT SCOPING & UTILITIES SECTION

The Project Scoping & Utilities Section reports directly to the Planning and Project Development Engineer and is responsible for:

- Receiving all project initiation requests from District Engineers and Project Scheduling Division for an initial scoping review and coordination.
- Receiving information from District Engineers, Bridge Division, Materials and Research Division, Traffic Engineering Division, Roadway Design Division, Operations, and Planning and Project Development Division concerning identified needs and mitigation strategies within the proposed highway project.
- Researching existing plans and standards and preparing an initial scoping report, estimate, project description and purpose and need for proposed projects.
- Documenting project-related correspondence at the scoping stage to pass on to project designers.
- Facilitating District project programming process, including project selection, estimating, resolving questions on deliverability, and risk identification.
- Calculating Department capital improvement project rankings, as outlined by the Funding Distribution Team and the AASHTO User and Non-User Benefit Analysis for Highways handbook.
- Reviewing highway project plans and programming documents and performing field inspections to determine utility ownerships and potential conflicts adjacent to proposed highway projects. Coordinating planned highway improvements with utility companies, including requesting, reviewing, and approving Utility company rehabilitation plans, specifications, and estimates.
- Preparing utility agreements and reviewing and coordinating billings and payments associated with utility rehabilitation work.

Miscellaneous Utility responsibilities including reviewing utility permit requests, and maintaining the NDOR Utility Accommodation Policy and Utilities chapter of the LPA Manual.

Issuing Status of Utilities Reports to the Construction Division for use in contract special provisions.

Performing reviews on proposed Department of Aeronautics improvement projects for conflict with state highway projects or policies.

Conducting public hearings to address noise and air impacts.

PLANNING AND LOCATION STUDIES SECTION

The Planning and Location Studies Section reports directly to the Planning and Project Development Engineer and is responsible for:

Performing and managing location studies and engineering reports for selected projects with highways on new alignment.

Reviewing external plans adjacent to state highways to determine their suitability and compatibility with adjacent state highways.

Providing assistance and preparing grant applications for selected transportation projects.

Providing collaborative planning services between the Department and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) for transportation improvement and management programs.

Managing the Comprehensive Plan Assistance Program for non-MPO cities.

Providing traffic modeling services to the Department and to local governmental agencies, including the forecasting of existing and future traffic on road networks.

Providing bicycle and pedestrian coordination services to the Department and to the public.

Managing and preparing the Statewide Planning Work Program.

Managing and preparing the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the Department.

Analyzing and managing external and internal survey results and other data in the preparation of performance measures for Department's Annual Report. Assisting in the preparation of the Department's Annual Report.

Collecting traffic data statewide through the use of manual, portable, and automated counters. The data collected includes counts, classifications, and weight-in-motion.

AGREEMENTS AND CONSULTANT SERVICES SECTION

The Agreements and Consultant Services Section reports directly to the Planning and Project Development Engineer and is responsible for:

Preparing, coordinating, reviewing, distributing and maintaining department agreements, including those for consultant services, for engineering services, for utility rehabilitation, for coordination with local government agencies, for state to state agreements, for highway relinquishments, and for miscellaneous operations services.

Managing the professional services selection and negotiation process and coordinating with engineering consultants performing services for the Department.

Facilitating the internal approval of consultant billings and providing the final review and approval required for services payments.

Coordinating with the Controller Division in pre-award and project closeout audits.

Monitoring consultant progress reports and contractual obligations.

Providing assistance to the Department and to local government agencies in the procurement of professional services and other contractual services.

Managing consultant evaluations.

Coordinating with American Consulting Engineering Council of Nebraska (ACEC) and representing the Department at their ACEC committee meetings.