

# Construction Division

## NDOT 2021 Strategic Communications Plan



*Mission:* Our mission is to improve the transportation system for Nebraskans by delivering quality and effectively managed transportation projects and by building strong relationships with our industry and agency partners.

### 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

One notable accomplishment in 2020 was Construction Division converting all of our processes to accommodate working remotely due to pandemic. All work processes moved to digital. We were intending to move in this direction, however the remote work mandated by the pandemic pushed us to accelerate the process improvement.

Other accomplishments include:

- Contract Lettings – All projects turned into PS&E and intended to be let in 2020, were delivered to letting.
- PM Conference – The PM Conference was held in South Sioux City in 2020. We worked to engage the DCEs in planning the conference and used the feedback from the previous year's conference to increase District involvement. Survey feedback indicates this conference was well-received. Due to the pandemic the 2021 conference was cancelled in favor of a virtual training event for the field staff. Construction Division is planning to hold the 2022 PM in person in Kearney, NE.
- Construction Division collaborated with the AGC to finalize and implement the QAQC specification for concrete pavement and implement the MTV specification for hot mixed asphalt.
- The Pavements Section created training for the districts on addressing unstable material, created VEP guidelines and process, assisted in preparation of the material site specifications for the US-275, Scribner to West Point projects for letting, and worked with Materials and Research Division to update the CLAM specifications.
- Construction Division worked with the Districts on a daily basis to resolve contract and construction issues.

### 2021 GOALS

#### Enhance division coordination and cooperation with district personnel

*Tactics:*

- Conduct quarterly DCE meetings.
- Visit four districts each year to conduct annual Construction Division updates.
- Bring continual improvement to the annual Project Manager Conference as measured by the after action survey.
- Visit projects to review in person those project with unique aspects, implementing new specifications, review those processes which have proven in the past to be challenging, and determine what Construction Division can do to further assist the district personnel.

#### Improve relationships with contractors

*Tactics:*

- Conduct monthly coordination meetings with AGC executive director.
- Improve the relationship by understanding the challenges faced by the contractors through Construction staff providing meaningful participation at the AGC committee meeting.
- Visit construction projects in each district.

#### Enhance NDOT's ability to contract and document for emergency projects

*Tactics:*

- Finalize the contracting guidance for emergency projects that includes up-to-date federal guidance and requirements. The guidelines are essentially complete, we are waiting on Controller Division to complete their work.

#### Use the results of the employee engagement survey to improve employee satisfaction

*Tactics:*

- Survey the Division to further identify challenges to be addressed
- Develop a response plan to improve employee satisfaction
- Implement relevant portions of the response plan
- Survey the Division to determine if the implementation was effective.

## 2021 PRIORITIES

The following is the approach the Construction Division is taking to increase employee safety, increase recruitment efforts, continue LSS process participation and implement an NDOT Workforce Development Strategic Training Plan.

Construction Division Priorities for 2021 include:

- Visit with Districts to discuss projects and goals. We will visit more construction projects this year to review in person those projects with unique aspects, implementing new specifications, review those processes which have proven in the past to be challenging, and determine what Construction Division can do to further assist the district personnel.
- PM Conference – The 2021 PM Conference was canceled this year and replaced with a virtual training event for the field staff. We worked with communications the Director's office and those divisions presenting in planning and used. Initial feedback indicates this event was very well-received. Construction Division is currently planning for the 2022 PM Conference to be conducted in person at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, NE in March of 2022.
- Continue to be involved with the AGC and the industry as a whole on various levels to improve relationships and processes.
- Complete the ER Contracting Guidelines.
- Perform the PS&E review and let all the projects that are intended to be let in 2021 in a reasonable time frame.

### KEY PROJECTS

Key Projects the Construction Division will be focusing on include:

- Standard Operating Procedure for Emergency Response contracting.
- Visiting construction projects in the Districts.
- Construction Manual update of Division 100.
- Below are some key construction projects that we will be focusing on over the next year:
  - Lincoln South Beltway - Construction
  - Fremont Southeast Beltway - Construction
  - I-80 replacement sections in Districts 5 & 6 - Letting and construction
  - US-275 Scribner to West Point - Letting and construction
  - US-75 Murray to Plattsmouth - Construction
  - L-62A North - Construction
  - US-30 North Bend to Fremont - Letting and construction

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNAL COLLABORATION

*This section includes internal opportunities for divisions and districts to collaborate and work together to accomplish their goals.*

**Divisions and Districts** – Continuous improvement of Construction Division processes.

**Districts** – Preparing projects for letting.

**Industry** – Improving relationships along with our improving letting and contracting practices.