

Roadway Design Division

NDOT 2021 Strategic Communications Plan



Mission: We provide the best possible statewide transportation system for the movement of people and goods.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2020, Roadway Design achieved several key communication and engagement goals. COVID-19 has caused us to pivot in how we conduct business as a division and across the Department. We adapted to a predominantly virtual workplace in a short stint of time, which has pushed us to take advantage of technology and transition into the digital world. While more meetings have been conducted virtually over the past year due to the pandemic, we are still seeking opportunities to use public engagement to benefit project delivery. Implementation of stakeholder meetings continues to provide improvement in acceptance of projects when expanding to larger scale public information meetings. Furthermore, early coordination with cities, schools and other agencies assists in streamlining of acceptance and understanding of projects. Depending on scope and impacts of each project, the strategy for public involvement will vary. Those projects with greater effects on right of way, detours, and access require more extensive outreach to make connections and gain acceptance.

As a division, Roadway Design delivered several capital improvement projects. We delivered the projects US-2 (Lincoln South Beltway), US-75 (Murray to Plattsmouth) and US-385 (L62A North).

We also began using post letting public meetings to highlight construction and contractor commitments to the public and increase project transparency.

Other accomplishments include:

- We held virtual project meetings between local agencies, consultants and internal staff including a virtual public involvement meeting in York for the York Intersection Safety Study.
- We conducted several virtual project meetings with communities including Louisville as part of planning for an N-66 highway connection through Louisville.

2021 GOALS

Save \$5,000,000 on Practical Design for 2020

Tactics:

- Verify practical design cost savings sheets are completed for key projects. Involve Project Development to include practical strategies at the planning level.
- Continue to adopt and select projects for conversion to Open Roads Designer (ORD). Involve BTSD and other divisions to make an efficient conversion and adoption.

Implement training program to improve skills and retain employees

Tactics:

- Provide adequate opportunities for staff training program.
- Conduct discussions with employees focused on teammate retention.
- Develop and implement an onboarding employee guide for division.

Reduce the time it takes to deliver projects and permits

Tactics:

- Participate in discussions with Contractors and NDOT Project Managers to better communicate plan details, quantities, and provisions.
- Engage other divisions, such as Bridge Hydraulics and EPU and hold coordination meetings throughout the year.
- Coordinate and track Status of Utilities for projects and increase the number of projects where utility rehabilitation is complete before project turn-in to PS&E.

Engage internal and external agencies, utility companies and the public

Tactics:

- Determine public engagement for projects and update engagement plan.
- Engage contractors on project deliverables, plans, staking reports and models.
- Establish a utility company engagement strategy to develop better relationships with utility companies. The strategy should include discussions on upcoming projects, conflict analysis, the agreement process and provide opportunities for feedback.

2020 PRIORITIES

Practical Design Program

- Communicate the Roadway Design Manual Chapter 17 update that incorporates the Practical Design program to our staff and others.
- Engage Board of Classifications and Standards in a new Practical Design program that concentrates funds on items that provide safety and performance benefit rather than making geometrics improvements to meet a standard.

Reduce the time it takes to deliver a project

- Continue to make decisions that speed project delivery by taking advantage of opportunity to be flexible and reducing impacts of items that add schedule risk and time to project delivery.

Increase training opportunities for the staff

- Continue to communicate the good work of others within our division and share those items that would benefit all staff.
- Provide a guide for onboarding to promote success in hiring and retaining employees.

Virtual Public Meetings

- Determine if changes are necessary based on comments and public feedback on previous virtual meetings and communicate to Roadway Design Section and Unit leaders the expectations for future virtual public meetings.

Determine Public Engagement for Projects and

Update Engagement Plan

- Evaluate upcoming project needs for public involvement, the plan, and the schedule.
- Continue communication with the public and the local agencies on construction developments with Lincoln South Beltway.
- Continue communication with Utility companies, the public and the local agencies on Murray to Plattsmouth.

Improve Utility Company Engagement

- Creation of a Contractor Working Group to unite the Department and members of Association of General Contractors (AGC) with utility companies.
- Use of Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) surveys to determine pre-construction conflicts on projects, and develop more robust Utility Plan sets for coordination and relocation.
- Develop methods to provide greater transparency and easier communication with utility companies and contractors with live updates of utility relocation status.
- Conduct annual district program meetings to discuss upcoming projects.

American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)

- Communication on updated template for Scope of Services to better fit today's practices and technology.

KEY PROJECTS

Key projects the Roadway Design Division will be focusing on for Public Involvement include:

C.N. 12080	US-34 N&S, Seward
C.N. 12578	Lincoln South Beltway (<i>post letting</i>)
C.N. 21209	Murray – Plattsmouth (<i>post letting</i>)
C.N. 22469	72nd and L St., Omaha
C.N. 22721	US-6/192nd St. Inter, Omaha
C.N. 32302	US-275 West Point to Scribner (<i>post letting</i>)
C.N. 32319	Norfolk to Wisner
C.N. 41086	Hastings SE
C.N. 42619	In Red Cloud
C.N. 51443	L62A North (<i>post letting</i>)
C.N. 51521	Minatare to US-385
C.N. 61598	Lake Maloney South
C.N. 70592	Naponee to Bloomington
C.N. 80865	In Valentine (<i>post letting</i>)

Other projects with PI needs:

C.N. 12704	Weeping Water Spur
C.N. 13103	N Jct US-75 - Brook
C.N. 13302	Jct US-6 and N-15 – Crete
C.N. 22780	Arlington East
C.N. 31983	Columbus South Bridges
C.N. 32292	Monroe E&W
C.N. 61635	Cozad Viaduct
C.N. 71232	Wellfleet South
C.N. 81037	West 4th St. In Valentine

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNAL COLLABORATION

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

District Engineers – Engage District Engineers on plans, policies, and items of interest to Roadway Design that might impact them.

Construction – Collaboration on models being provided to contractors and review of Special Provisions provided at Letting.

HR – Development of an onboarding manual to bolster and expand on the HR onboarding information.

Planning – Coordinating advancement in bikes and pedestrians as we strive to commit to all modes of transportation.

Bridge, M&R, Planning & Project Development – Open channels of communication across divisions to promote success in project delivery and the implementation of new technology such as CONNECT and AASHTOWare.