



Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Jim Pillen, Governor

April 4, 2025

NDOT Project: **NH-30-5(131) Columbus South Bridges; C.N. 31983**

Dear Stakeholder:

Enclosed is information regarding the upcoming construction of the *Columbus South Bridges* project on U.S. Highway 30 (US-30)/U.S. Highway 81 (US-81) in Platte County.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) has worked to develop this project to minimize inconvenience and hardships. We are committed to improving Nebraska's highway system and with your help we can achieve this goal.

This project will be constructed under traffic with lane closures controlled by appropriate traffic control devices and practices; however, a temporary detour will be needed for trail and vehicular traffic within Pawnee Park. Please see enclosed for additional information regarding detours. **Traffic on US-30/US-81 will not be detoured.**

Motorists are reminded to drive cautiously in and near work zones, to buckle up, and to put phones down.

Additional information regarding the project may be found on the NDOT website at **ndot.info/31983** or by contacting Tony Lange, NDOT Highway Project Manager, anthony.lange@nebraska.gov, (402) 992-3865.

Sincerely,

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Columbus South Bridges NH-30-5(131); C.N. 31983

PRE-CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
SPRING 2025

IMPROVEMENTS ► Improvements on this project will replace the southbound Columbus Loup River Bridge (S030 37773L), repair the deck of the northbound bridge (S030 37773R), and replace the southbound part of the Pawnee Park Drive underpass (S030 37787). The new southbound bridge will include a shared use path along the west side of the bridge, connecting to the Pawnee Park Trail on the north side of the river and a future trail to be built along U.S. Highway 30 (US-30)/ U.S. Highway 81 (US-81) south of the river. Roadway lighting will be replaced, portions of the existing roadway pavement and driveways will be replaced, and utilities close to the existing road will be relocated.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS ► This project will be constructed under traffic with lane closures controlled by appropriate traffic control devices and practices; however, a temporary detour will be needed for the portion of the Pawnee Park Trail that travels along the north bank of the river under the two bridges. The replacement of the Pawnee Park Drive underpass structure will be phased to allow for use of Pawnee Park Drive as a pedestrian trail detour while the portion of the trail along the levee is temporarily closed. Vehicular access between the west and east sections of Pawnee Park will be maintained with a local signed detour. Information on the planned construction phases and detour are provided on the reverse side of the fact sheet. **Traffic on US-30/US-81 will not be detoured.**

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT MITIGATION ► NDOT will work with the City of Columbus to design and install a re-creation of one of the trusses from the historic Columbus Loup River Bridge within Pawnee Park as mitigation under Section 106. The mitigation is not part of this planned construction but would be installed at a later date. The mitigation installation would be constructed with new materials, not parts of the old bridge. It would include an interpretive display incorporating photos, maps, and information on the history of the Columbus Loup River Bridge.



Project information is available on the NDOT website at ndot.info/31983



CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

SPRING 2025 – FALL 2027



ESTIMATED COST

\$22.1 Million

Hawkins Construction Company
was awarded the contract



PROJECT CONTACTS

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CONSTRUCTION PHASING AND SCHEDULE

LEGEND

- Phase 1 construction
- Phase 2 construction
- Phase 3 construction
- Pawnee Park Drive detour during all construction phases
- Pawnee Park Trail
- Trail detour during bridge construction
- Access to trail closed during bridge construction
- Public fishing and kayaking river access
- Pawnee Park

Traffic on US-30/US-81 will not be detoured.

Temporary detours of Pawnee Park Drive and Pawnee Park Trail will be used during construction to maintain public access. The public fishing and kayak access east of the northbound bridge will be maintained as well as use of the river through the crossing during construction.



CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE ▶ Work to begin Spring 2025 and anticipated to be complete in Fall 2027, weather permitting.

Phase 1: Spring – Summer 2025

Replace Southbound Pawnee Park Drive Underpass

US-30/US-81 Traffic: One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained on the northbound US-30/US-81 existing lanes.

Pawnee Park Vehicular Traffic: Pawnee Park Drive will be closed to traffic. Detour east on 8th Street to 26th Avenue then south on 26th Avenue to Pawnee Park Drive. **This detour will be maintained through all phases of construction.**

Pedestrian Access: Pawnee Park Trail to remain open to pedestrians. Access will be maintained on the existing sidewalk and northbound bridge walkway.

Phase 2: Summer 2025 – Summer 2027

Replace Southbound Columbus Loup River Bridge & Connect Shared Use Path to Pawnee Park Trail

US-30/US-81 Traffic: One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained on the northbound US-30/US-81 existing lanes.

Pawnee Park Vehicular Traffic: Pawnee Park Drive will be closed to traffic. Detour east on 8th Street to 26th Avenue then south on 26th Avenue to Pawnee Park Drive.

Pedestrian Access: Pawnee Park Trail will be closed along the north bank of the Loup River under the bridges. Pedestrian traffic will be detoured onto Pawnee Park Drive through the newly constructed underpass. **This detour will be maintained through phase 3 of construction.**

Phase 3: Summer – Fall 2027

Repair Northbound Bridge

US-30/US-81 Traffic: One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained on the newly constructed southbound lanes of US-30/US-81.

Pawnee Park Vehicular Traffic: Pawnee Park Drive will be closed to traffic. Detour east on 8th Street to 26th Avenue then south on 26th Avenue to Pawnee Park Drive.

Pedestrian Access: Pawnee Park Trail will remain closed along the north bank of the Loup River under the bridges. Pedestrian traffic will be detoured onto Pawnee Park Drive through the newly constructed underpass.

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