



Pete Ricketts
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ROADS
Kyle Schneweis, P.E., Director

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August 3, 2016

Patrick J. O'Donnell
Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

As you may know, the Legislature placed the following directive in the main appropriations bill for the 2015 – 2017 biennium, LB 657e, section 120.

“It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Roads shall, in July of each year, contact each county and municipality receiving funds distributed through the Highway Allocation Fund and request confirmation from such county or municipality that they plan to continue to accept their share of Highway Allocation Fund distributions in the current fiscal year. The request and confirmation may be in electronic form. All confirmations from the counties and municipalities shall be compiled and submitted electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature.”

This directive called on political subdivisions to confirm that their road and bridge construction/maintenance needs are of a magnitude to require the acceptance of their share of Highway Allocation Fund revenue. In FY2015, over \$263 million of Highway Allocation Fund revenue derived from fuel taxes, sales taxes and other sources was distributed to political subdivisions to assist with meeting their construction and maintenance needs.

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) emailed letters to each county and municipality in June to obtain their confirmation. This effort was coordinated with the League of Nebraska Municipalities and the Nebraska Association of County Officials in order to increase awareness of this new annual reporting requirement. To ensure delivery to each locality, NDOR researched current email addresses and sent letters by US Postal Services in those instances where an email proved undeliverable. We also sent follow-up emails to jurisdictions that did not report initially.

I am pleased to report that 87 counties (94%) and 454 municipalities (86%) responded and that every one of those responses was affirmative. Many reports went so far as to stress the county's or municipality's great appreciation for state Highway Allocation Funds and to request confirmation from NDOR that their timely and positive response had been received and recorded.

Sincerely,


Andrew F. Cunningham
Government Affairs Manager

AFC:GAO10-zf

cc: Senator Bob Krist, Executive Board of the Legislature
Senator Heath Mello, Appropriations Committee