

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1274

Introduced by Flood, 19; Brandt, 32; Friesen, 34; Gragert, 40; Kolterman,
24; Moser, 22.

Read first time January 20, 2022

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to roads; to require the Department of
- 2 Transportation to plan, design, and purchase rights-of-way for U.S.
- 3 Highway 81 and Nebraska Highway 20; and to declare legislative
- 4 intent to appropriate funds.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 (a) The Department of Roads first identified the need for an
3 expressway system for northeast Nebraska. The planned system included the
4 U.S. Highway 81 expansion which amounts to forty-three miles of U.S.
5 Highway 81 from York to seven miles south of Columbus;

6 (b) The purpose of the expressway system is to:

7 (i) Connect urban centers with a population of fifteen thousand
8 inhabitants or more to the National System of Interstate and Defense
9 Highways;

10 (ii) Add those routes which have an average daily traffic of five
11 hundred or more heavy commercial vehicles; and

12 (iii) Add additional segments to provide four-lane continuity;

13 (c) The planning, design, and purchase of rights-of-way for the
14 north-south meridian superhighway system located along U.S. Highway 81
15 and for Nebraska Highway 20 between U.S. Highway 81 and the Iowa border
16 are critically necessary to link northeast Nebraska to other parts of the
17 state and other regions in the United States; and

18 (d) The planning, design, and purchase of rights-of-way described in
19 this subsection will address the growth of global transportation,
20 agribusiness, tourism industries, and significant safety concerns for a
21 growing commuter population in northeast Nebraska.

22 (2) The Department of Transportation shall plan, design, and
23 purchase rights-of-way for the:

24 (a) North-south meridian four-lane divided highway system located
25 along U.S. Highway 81; and

26 (b) Nebraska Highway 20 between U.S. Highway 81 and the Iowa border.

27 (3)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds for
28 the planning, design, and purchase of rights-of-way for the following:

29 (i) U.S. Highway 81 between Norfolk and the South Dakota border into
30 a four-lane divided highway;

31 (ii) U.S. Highway 81 between Columbus and York into a four-lane

1 divided highway; and

2 (iii) Nebraska Highway 20 between U.S. Highway 81 and the Iowa
3 border into a four-lane divided highway.

4 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds for
5 signage and the development of a gateway entrance at U.S. Highway 81 and
6 Nebraska Highway 12 to alert travelers to the locations of Niobrara State
7 Park and Lewis and Clark Lake.