

By Carolyn Lee

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The “bump” signs on Highway 61 about four miles north of Imperial will be gone by now, if all goes well.

As of Monday, Kurt Vosberg of the Nebraska Department of Roads (DOR) office in McCook said his department had been waiting for a paving project to be completed north of Benkelman before the milled sections of the road north of Imperial could be filled with hot mix asphalt.

In the meantime, vehicles hit “bump” areas at the ends of two milled sections of Highway 61.

“I don’t have a permanent asphalt plant in my district,” he explained, so he has to wait for a plant to be opened by a company in the area for a large project before the DOR can repair small hot mix projects.

Vosberg said the areas in question should have been filled by Tuesday or Wednesday, when the Benkelman project was to be finished. The DOR will then paint the stripes on the highway and the project will be completed.

The highway originally was to have been “milled and filled” by Aug. 7. It began in mid-July.