

Testimony Prepared for the
House Appropriations Committee

Monday, February 2, 2021

By: Genny Dienstmann, NDACE Executive Director



RE: House Bill 1380

Chairman Delzer and members of the House Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1380 on behalf of the North Dakota Association of County Engineers.

County and state government have many challenges keeping up with the demands of improving and maintaining our statewide transportation system. County road levies across the state currently total about \$60 million annually, with a similar amount distributed from the State Highway Distribution Fund. In addition, counties receive federal funding from the DOT of approximately \$12 million per year. Counties have an estimated \$132 million per year to meet infrastructure needs. Compare that to county and township need totals from the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Study, the total is about \$466 million per year; this is a difference of \$334 million annually.

In prior legislative sessions, a portion of these needs were met with 'surge' funding. This one-time funding was an immense benefit in assisting counties with road projects. Counties were hopeful the Operation Prairie Dog funding would have provided a more consistent funding source, but in the short term, this is not likely.

As maintenance and construction costs continue to rise each year, your consideration of supporting funding options for transportation infrastructure now would be beneficial to local and state government. Transportation is what connects our citizens and economy to our neighborhoods and across the state. What better legacy than to provide funding that can sustain and rebuild our highway and bridge networks for future generations. Thank you again for the opportunity to support HB 1380.