

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**March 31, 2021, 2:30 PM**

**North Dakota Department of Transportation**

**Bill Panos, Director**

**HB 1431**

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Good afternoon Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Bill Panos, Director of the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I am here this afternoon in support of HB 1431 which provides an allocation to the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) cultural endowment fund.

We've partnered with the NDCA to provide transportation-related assistance in their *Arts on the Prairie* initiative. This program brings large-scale public artwork to North Dakota.

In addition to providing signage, our partnership with NDCA also involves the addition of pull-outs for visitors to safely visit the artwork. We believe this is the first partnership of its kind in the country.

Creativity is engrained in everything we do at the NDDOT – from engineering to design to the way we serve the public. We are happy to partner with NDCA to make art safely accessible to all North Dakotans.

Thank you and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.