

Greetings, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I'm Scott Zainhofsky, director of the Planning/Asset Management Division for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). This submitted testimony is in support of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute's (UGPTI) section of Senate Bill 2020.

The NDDOT utilizes the expertise of UGPTI to assist in conducting research and special studies in areas such as traffic modeling, preparing needs analyses, determining economic impacts, and providing analysis on various transportation related topics. Additionally, using actual NDDOT design projects, UGPTI trains future transportation engineers with real-world experience to the benefit of NDDOT, our local government partners, and the private sector, alike. UGPTI also assists with professional development training and outreach efforts for the whole transportation community. The services UGPTI provides are invaluable to the state's transportation system and its users. Therefore, NDDOT requests your continued support of UGPTI.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my testimony. Thank you.