

Greetings, Chair and members of the Committee. I'm Matt Linneman, Deputy Director for Engineering for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to introduce and provide supportive testimony regarding SB 2062.

SB 2062 seeks to amend section 24-02-19 of the North Dakota Century Code to enhance efficiency and reduce costs in the NDDOT's construction project bid advertisement process. Currently, the Century Code requires that any request for bids on construction work, state highway improvements, or structures exceeding the amount specified in section 24-02-17 must be published in the official newspaper of the county where the project is located.

While this approach has served its purpose in the past, it has become increasingly time-consuming, expensive and less effective in reaching stakeholders. Legal advertisements printed in local newspapers are no longer the most effective method to advertise large highway infrastructure projects, nor are they the best way to reach a statewide audience of contractors and stakeholders interested in bidding on the projects.

Instead, the NDDOT proposes a shift to more modern and impactful communications methods. By utilizing the NDDOT website, targeted email lists, subscription services, and other electronic platforms, the department can ensure timely and broader dissemination of bid opportunities. These tools enable direct engagement with contractors, industry stakeholders, and interested parties, increasing visibility while reducing costs and administrative burdens.

The NDDOT recommends a "do pass" on SB 2062. This concludes my testimony. Thank you.