



## **Advocating for North Dakota's Integrated Infrastructure Network**

**March 14, 2023**

### **Neutral Testimony of Senate Bill 2367**

Chairman Headland and Members of the Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Transportation Coalition and offer our thoughts on Senate Bill 2367, which defines the Legacy Fund earnings spending priorities.

The North Dakota Transportation Coalition consists of the largest twenty statewide and regional trade associations, agriculture groups, political subdivisions and business entities in the State – all of whom have a vested interest in moving goods, services and people as efficiently and safely as possible. Our purpose is to advance and enhance North Dakota's transportation infrastructure through advocacy and education efforts resulting in sustainable funding and sound public policy solutions.

One of those policy positions is to ensure local political subdivisions have the needed support to build, repair and maintain our local infrastructure network. We recognize that "Prairie Dog funding" is never a guarantee, our concerns are with the timing of the disbursements to the political subdivisions when available. While Senate Bill 2275 ultimately did not survive, we believe this bill can help. The NDTC would support any modification to SB 2367 by placing one half of the Prairie Dog disbursements in front of the SIIF bucket.

The State of North Dakota is in an enviable financial position in many respects. We should be looking to use this fortunate position to truly invest in our infrastructure now. The need only increases the longer we continue to take a band-aid approach. Prioritizing the political subdivision stream makes economic sense to address our infrastructure needs.

The NDTC respectfully requests such an amendment to SB 2367.

Thank you

# North Dakota Transportation Coalition Legislative Priorities



## Primary Priorities

### Funding:



Prioritize the political subdivision infrastructure fund (OPD) bucket over the Strategic Investment and Improvement Fund bucket in the oil and gas tax distribution formula, to ensure long-term and consistent funding from this revenue source.

Support utilizing a portion of the Legacy Fund earnings for transportation infrastructure in one-time projects.



Support the Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund.

Generally, support appropriating general fund dollars to match federal funds when needed.



Ensure NDDOT has the administrative capacity to apply for and manage federal funds, including discretionary funds contained within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

### Regulatory Environment:



Where appropriate, ease burdensome regulations to ensure fair and balanced oversight of overweight fees and permitting.

## Secondary Priorities



Continued support for UGPTI.

Support the utilization of Motor Vehicle Excise Tax revenues for transportation infrastructure projects.

