



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

**March 16, 2023**

### **Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2113**

Chairman Ruby and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Transportation Coalition and offer our support for Senate Bill 2113.

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.

SB 2113 creates a structure under which the Department of Transportation has the authority to match incoming federal or private grants as they become available to maximize opportunities as they arise. Maintaining an integrated transportation system is an ongoing process of vision, planning, engineering and construction. The timing of which doesn't always coincide with the legislative session. The flexible transportation fund provides the DOT another tool to meet the ever-increasing demands of our statewide transportation system.

The bill received unanimous support by the State Senate and the NDTC requests a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2113.

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 and permitting.

## Secondary Priorities



Continued support for UGPTI.

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

