SENATE BILL 2168
HANDOUT

Enhanced Penalty for Higher Speeds Handout

- North Dakota – Speed-Related Crashes
    - Speeding or traveling too fast for conditions is a factor in about 30-40 percent of all fatal crashes in North Dakota each year. (Source: NDDOT Highway Safety Division)
    - There were 160 fatal crashes on North Dakota roadways from 2017-2021. Of these, 33.8 percent (160 of 473) were related to speed/too fast for conditions. (Source: NDDOT Highway Safety Division)
    - There were 1,652 serious injury crashes on North Dakota roadways from 2017-2021. Of these, 39.9 percent (659 of 1,652) were related to speed/too fast for conditions. (Source: NDDOT Highway Safety Division)
    - Of the 659 speed-related crashes that resulted in a fatality or serious injury on North Dakota roadways from 2017-2021, 23 percent (151 of 659) were speed-related rollover crashes.
    - 178 people have died in speed/aggressive driving-involved crashes in North Dakota over the past five years (2017-2021). Know the road conditions and adjust your speed accordingly. *(NDDOT Crash Summary)*
    - Nearly every 2.4 hours, one speed/aggressive driving-involved crash occurred in North Dakota in 2021. Stop speeding before it stops you. *(NDDOT Crash Summary)*
    - Every 10.4 days, one speed/aggressive driving-involved vehicle fatality occurred in North Dakota in 2021. Plan ahead and allow extra time so everyone can make it to their destination safely. *(NDDOT Crash Summary)*
    - Speeding and/or aggressive driving has been a factor in 34% of fatal crashes in North Dakota in 2021. Slow down and arrive alive. (NDDOT Crash Summary)

- Speeding isn't just aggressive driving, it's deadly driving. *(Vision Zero ND – Speed & Aggressive Driving)*
- Over 20,000 speed-related citations of 20 mph over the posted speed limit were issued from 2017-2021. (*NDDOT Drivers License*)
- All too often, drivers make the wrong choice by trying to pass slower traffic or drive too fast for road conditions. Think ahead. The stopping distance at 20 mph is about 60 feet. At 65 mph, you may travel 450 feet or more before stopping. *(Vision Zero ND – Speed & Aggressive Driving)*
- Every driver and vehicle occupant in North Dakota need to take personal responsibility for their actions while travelling in order to help the state achieve the zero goal. *(Vision Zero ND – Speed & Aggressive Driving)*

- There is a direct correlation between collision speed and the *severity* of a crash. ***The higher the collision speed, the more serious the consequences in terms of injury and material damage.*** In addition, the human body is physically very vulnerable in comparison with the enormous forces released in a collision. During the past decades, vehicles have become ever better equipped (with crush areas, airbags and seatbelts) to absorb the energy released in a crash, thus protecting the occupants. However, the collision speed still is very important for the crash outcome. (Source: Institute for Road Safety Research)

- FHWA is currently promoting a Safe Systems approach to safety on our roadways. One of the elements of the Safe Systems approach is safe speeds. FHWA states "Humans are unlikely to survive high-speed crashes. Reducing speeds can accommodate human injury tolerances in three ways: reducing impact forces, providing additional time for drivers to stop, and improving visibility".

- Rational speed limits promote public safety by helping drivers choose reasonable and prudent speed that is appropriate for normal traffic, weather, and roadway conditions. This encourages more drivers to travel at about the same speed, which has been shown to reduce the likelihood of crashes. Rational speed limits make sense to the majority of drivers because they are not unrealistically low or high, therefore mostly self-enforcing. (Source: FHWA)

- The most widely accepted method by state and local agencies is to set the speed limit at or below the speed at which 85 percent of the traffic is moving. The 85th percentile speed is the speed not exceeded by 85 percent of drivers. Studies have shown crash rates are lowest at around the 85th percentile speed. Drivers traveling significantly faster or slower than this speed are at a greater risk for being in a crash. It is the variation of speed in traffic that is related to crash risk, not just high speeds. (Source: Speed Limits in North Dakota brochure, North Dakota Department of Transportation, North Dakota State University Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute and the North Dakota Highway Patrol)

- Automatic Traffic Records (ATR) data shows the 50th percentile speed is about 78 mph and the 85th percentile speed is about 82 mph. (Source: NDDOT Planning/Asset Management Division)

  Drivers traveling between the 50th and 85th percentile have the lowest risk of crashing due to speed. Drivers exceeding the 90th percentile have a significantly higher risk of crashing. (Source: FHWA)

  <u>I-94 ATR Sites;</u>
  - Tower City all lanes, RP 312.5 = >85th percentile speed 82.5 mph
  - Tower City all lanes, RP 312.5 = >50th percentile speed 77.8 mph
  - New Salem all lanes, RP 126.8 = >85th percentile speed 83.8 mph
  - New Salem all lanes, RP 126.8 = >50th percentile speed 79.0 mph

  <u>I-29 ATR Sites;</u>
  - Buxton all lanes, RP 112.8 = >85th percentile speed 81.8 mph
  - Buxton all lanes, RP 112.8 = >50th percentile speed 77.5 mph
  - Mooreton all lanes, RP 25.0 = >85th percentile speed 83.0 mph
  - Mooreton all lanes, RP 25.0 = >50th percentile speed 78.0 mph

  <u>I-94 WIM Sites;</u>
  - Belfield EB only, RP 34.7 = >85th percentile speed 82.0 mph

  <u>I-29 WIM Sites;</u>
  - Joliette SB only, RP 207.8 = >85th percentile speed 79.0 mph