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## GOVERNMENT FINANCE - TRANSPORTATION STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, December 11, 2025  
Room 327B, State Capitol  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Randy A. Burckhard, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Members present:** Senators Randy A. Burckhard, Justin Gerhardt, Chuck Walen; Representatives Bert Anderson, Ty Dressler, Austin Foss, Kelby Timmons\*

**Members absent:** Representatives Jim Grueneich, Patrick R. Hatlestad

**Others present:** Julie Bommelman\*, Brenda E. Derrig, and Cole Swingen, City of Fargo; Brian Horinka, City of Minot; Jeremy Mattson\*, North Dakota State University

*\*Attended remotely*

Mr. Adam Mathiak, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, reviewed a memorandum entitled [Study of Fixed Route City Transportation Services - Background Memorandum](#).

### UPPER GREAT PLAINS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

Dr. Jeremy Mattson, Associate Professor, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University, presented information ([Appendix A](#)) regarding research related to transportation networks, including a comparison of transportation networks in other states. He noted:

- The research evaluated transit services in Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, excluding the metropolitan areas of Omaha, Nebraska and Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Based on the research, transit service operating hours and bus frequency in North Dakota are similar to the services in other states, except Minnesota which had more operating hours and more frequent bus service.
- South Dakota and Wyoming have less ridership than North Dakota resulting in higher operating costs per trip for those states.
- Montana, Nebraska, and Minnesota have more ridership than North Dakota resulting in lower operating costs per trip in those states.

### MINOT TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Brian Horinka, Transit Superintendent, City of Minot, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding fixed route city transportation services in Minot. He noted:

- Minot City Transit operates eight routes along a flag stop system allowing riders to be picked up at any safe corner along the routes.
- Estimated revenues for the fixed route services in 2025 total \$1.72 million, including \$920,000 of federal funds, \$60,000 of state funds, \$660,000 of local funds, and \$80,000 of fare collections.
- The transit system served approximately 82,000 riders in 2024, of which approximately 44 percent were K-12 students.

- Because the Minot Public School District does not provide bus service, ridership increases during the school year, and more buses operate in the morning and afternoon to accommodate the additional riders before and after school.
- Budgeting for federal funds is a challenge because the funding levels are based on performance metrics that transit providers may not consistently achieve.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Horinka noted Minot does not have a dedicated sales tax or a specific property tax levy for transit services.

### **FARGO TRANSIT SERVICES**

Ms. Julie Bommelman, Transit Director, Mr. Cole Swingen, Assistant Transit Director, and Ms. Brenda E. Derrig, Assistant City Administrator, City of Fargo, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding fixed route transportation services in Fargo. Ms. Bommelman noted:

- MATBUS operates 12 routes in Fargo and West Fargo along a designated stop system requiring riders to be picked up at specific locations along the routes.
- Budgeted revenues for the Fargo and West Fargo fixed route services in 2026 total \$4 million, including \$2.92 million of federal funds, \$400,000 of state funds, \$100,000 of local funds, and \$580,000 of fare collections.
- The transit system served approximately 1.26 million riders in 2024, of which approximately 30 percent were college students.
- Since fare collections are not an eligible source to match federal funds, state and local funding for transit services are important to match federal funds for capital expenditures, such as buses, equipment, and shelters.

No further business appearing, Chairman Burckhard adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

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Adam Mathiak  
Senior Fiscal Analyst

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