



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 26, 2026
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Glenn Bosch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Representatives Glenn Bosch, Dori Hauck, Doug Osowski, Nathan Toman, Robin Weisz; Senators Michelle Axtman, Kyle Davison, Mark Enget, Jonathan Sickler, Mike Wobbema; Citizen Members Corey Mock, Jennifer Witham

Members absent: Representative Jonathan Warrey

Others present: Representative LaurieBeth Hager, Fargo, member of the Legislative Management Seth Arndorfer, Dakota Carrier Network; Chris Gergen, Information Technology Department; Steve Mattern and Kayla Pulvermacher, Midco

See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

It was moved by Representative Toman, seconded by Senator Wobbema, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the December 2, 2025, meeting be approved as distributed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT REPORTING

Major Project Reporting

Mr. Justin Data, Director, Project Management Office, Information Technology Department, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding major information technology (IT) project reporting ([Appendix C](#)) and project startup and closeout reports ([Appendix D](#)) completed since December 2025. He noted:

- Major IT project reports and startup and closeout reports are no longer published on the Information Technology Department (ITD) website to comply with digital accessibility provisions of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Of the 53 ongoing major projects, one is more than 20 percent behind schedule: the Department of Transportation Roadway Capital Planning project, part of the Roadway Information Management System Program. The project is approximately 32 percent behind schedule due to extended user testing and vendor "bug" remediation and is expected to be completed in April 2026.
- The Department of Transportation is anticipated to transition from the mainframe by mid-2027.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Corey Mock, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Department, noted ITD is developing a system to monitor proposed IT projects in real time during the legislative session, which would allow the department to report relevant information to legislators.

Other Reporting

Mr. Craig Felchle, Chief Technology Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information ([Appendix E](#)) regarding the coordination of services with political subdivisions and the North Dakota University System pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 54-59-12, and the implementation of distributed ledger technologies pursuant to Section 54-59-02.2. He noted:

- The department coordinates with political subdivisions and higher education institutions for many services, including Statewide Technology Access for Government and Education network (STAGEnet), cybersecurity, the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network, and 911 services.
- The state makes limited use of distributed ledger technology, such as for increased transparency or fraud prevention. An attempt to use the technology in higher education was not implemented in a distributed manner due to technical limitations.

Mr. Chris Gergen, Chief Information Security Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information ([Appendix F](#)) regarding cybersecurity incident reporting pursuant to Chapter 54-59.1, including the status of and any response or remediation to mitigate the incidents pursuant to Section 54-59.1-07. He noted:

- Since the reporting requirement took effect in August 2021, 77 incidents have been reported through the mandatory process. Of those, 47 met the statutory definition of a cybersecurity incident, of which 25 were phishing incidents. All incidents have been resolved or closed except for one ransomware incident reported in March 2026, which remains under active remediation.
- Separate from the mandatory reporting process, the state cyber operations center handled 43,881 security incidents in 2024 and 69,391 in 2025. Approximately 39 percent of incidents are closed automatically.

K-12 STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM UPDATE

Mr. Tony Ambrose, Bridge Project Executive Lead, Department of Public Instruction, presented information ([Appendix G](#)) regarding the K-12 student information system transition from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus ([Appendix H](#)). He noted:

- The go-live date for the Infinite Campus system is July 1, 2026.
- The previously selected data migration vendor's performance was inadequate, and the contract was terminated. A new vendor has been contracted to complete the work. The cost of the former vendor's work and the new vendor's contract is less than the original vendor contract amount.
- Not all functionality provided through the Statewide Longitudinal Data System, including eTranscript and choice ready functionality, will be available on July 1, 2026, and the department is developing alternatives. The eTranscript functionality will be retained for historical transcripts.
- The department anticipates organizing future releases into 6-month generations and is developing key performance indicators to measure progress.

STATE NETWORK AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Broadband Grant Program Updates

Mr. Felchle presented information ([Appendix I](#)) regarding the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program and the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Grant Program. He noted:

- The Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program, funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act, has provided \$37.2 million in awards to telecommunications carriers to build infrastructure capable of providing high-speed broadband services to unserved and underserved areas in the state, with 2,448 locations anticipated to be served. Of the funding, \$19.4 million has been expended, and the department anticipates spending all remaining funds during the 2025-27 biennium.
- Under the BEAD Grant Program, the federal government allocated \$130 million to the state, which is being administered by ITD. In June 2025, the United States Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration placed all BEAD nondeployment activities and associated funding on hold. Approximately \$102 million of the original \$130 million allocation remains as nondeployment funding. The funding still may be awarded pending future federal guidance. Of the available funding, ITD has awarded contracts to provide broadband infrastructure to 279 locations at a total cost of \$6,133,968.

Broadband Service Provider Updates

Ms. Kayla Pulvermacher, Government Relations Manager, and Mr. Steve Mattern, Senior Vice President of Operations, Midco, presented information ([Appendix J](#)) regarding Midco's history, network, and fiber optic infrastructure investment in North Dakota. They noted:

- The Midco fiber network maintains 99.99 percent core network reliability and spans more than 21,000 miles, an increase from approximately 11,000 miles in 2021.
- Midco has invested \$44 million in North Dakota fiber infrastructure upgrades since 2021, improving services for approximately 126,000 locations, and anticipates upgrading services for all North Dakota communities it serves by the end of 2028.

Mr. Seth Arndorfer, Chief Executive Officer, Dakota Carrier Network, presented information ([Appendix K](#)) regarding Dakota Carrier Network's (DCN) history, fiber network, STAGEnet public-private partnership, and data center connectivity. He noted:

- DCN is owned by 13 rural broadband service providers and has more than 70,000 miles of fiber connecting homes, farms, and schools to the Internet. Dakota Carrier Network has invested approximately \$100 million into fiber infrastructure per year over the past 15 years, totaling approximately \$1.5 billion. Dakota Carrier Network's backbone data transmission capacity is 19.2 terabits, scalable to 38.4 terabits with additional electronics.
- The state and DCN have partnered through STAGEnet for 26 years. Approximately 10 to 12 percent of DCN's revenue is derived from the state network contract, which ITD procures through a request for proposal every 3 years.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Arndorfer noted:

- Companies planning new data center development first secure power, then land and data transmission, and ultimately begin construction.
- Because large data center operators require diverse fiber entrances from multiple carriers, both DCN and Midco are likely to invest to support new data center demand.
- A large data center operator in the state has requested up to 400 terabits of supplemental fiber capacity.

STUDY OF THE ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SYSTEM

Mr. Joe Goplin, Director, State Financial Services, Office of Management and Budget, presented information ([Appendix L](#)) regarding the Oracle business value assessment. He noted:

- The assessment was conducted from October through November 2025, and involved 19 interview sessions across state agencies.
- The assessment identified various challenges with the state's systems and processes, including aging and heavily customized legacy software, manual and inefficient processes, and data silos.
- The assessment estimated total possible productivity and financial savings of up to \$150 million per year across finance, supply chain management, human capital management, and IT functions.
- The assessment estimated the total annual ongoing cost of ownership for a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system at \$2.2 million, a reduction of \$6 million from the \$8.2 million annual cost of the current system.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Goplin and Mr. Mock noted estimated productivity savings would be realized as a reallocation of staff time rather than a direct reduction in force, and that some savings would be realized as cost avoidance.

Mr. Greg Hoffman, Deputy Chief Information Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information ([Appendix M](#)) regarding the technical and hosting components of the business value assessment and the results of the request for information. He noted:

- Because the assessment was conducted by Oracle using industry standards, the dollar and percentage figures should be treated as estimates, and a neutral third-party evaluation of return on investment should be performed before transitioning to a new system, consistent with the approach used when the state transitioned to ConnectND.
- The request for information included demonstrations by four vendors: two can provide all three application areas (financial, human resources, and student), and two can provide the financial and human resources modules, but lack developed student modules. The demonstrations covered product roadmaps, support structures, licensing models, implementation timelines, and annual subscription costs, which varied by vendor. A request for proposal would address technical details more thoroughly. Total estimated implementation costs ranged from \$65 million to \$102 million for vendors providing modules for all three application areas.

Mr. Corey Quirk, Chief Information Officer, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix N](#)) regarding the study of the ERP system. He noted:

- During the 2025 legislative session, the University System requested approximately \$10 million for cloud readiness work. The 2025 Legislative Assembly did not provide funding for ERP cloud readiness, instead directing the legislative interim study.
- The student module is the most critical ERP module for the University System.
- The ConnectND software has close to 7,000 customizations across the financial, human resources, and student modules.
- The University System is targeting a move to the cloud by 2035. ConnectND has been given rolling 10-year extensions by Oracle for each of the last 8 years, most recently renewing support for the software through 2037.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Quirk noted the state and University System could pursue separate or combined systems, and could phase implementation.

OTHER

Mr. Felchle presented information ([Appendix O](#)) regarding compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. He noted:

- The compliance deadline for the state and political subdivisions with populations over 50,000 is April 24, 2026; political subdivisions with populations under 50,000 have a deadline of April 26, 2027.
- During the January 2026 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly provided \$1.5 million to ITD for updating state-controlled websites and digital content to comply with digital accessibility provisions of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. The department anticipates using the funding for licensing, tools, training, and assisting agencies.
- Tools were procured to allow political subdivisions the option to buy in.
- The department is tracking compliance by agency and is working with the Attorney General's office on exceptions.

No further business appearing, Chairman Bosch adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Grant Gader
Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH: 15