



GOVERNMENT FINANCE - TRANSPORTATION STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, March 19, 2026
Roughrider Room, 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, Jim Grueneich, Kelby Timmons

Member absent: Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad

Others present: Senators Brad Bekkedahl, Williston, and Jerry Klein, Fessenden, members of the Legislative Management

Brian Horinka, City of Minot; Deidre Hughes, City of Bismarck; Micah Olson, Protection and Advocacy Project; Kristi Slominski, City of Grand Forks

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

**Attended remotely*

It was moved by Representative Grueneich, seconded by Senator Walen, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the December 11, 2025, meeting be approved as distributed.

GRAND FORKS

Ms. Kristi Slominski, Public Transportation Director, City of Grand Forks, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding fixed route city transportation services in Grand Forks. She noted:

- Cities Area Transit operates 13 routes, including 3 routes on the University of North Dakota campus, and had 278,195 riders in 2025, of which 123,540, or 44 percent, were University of North Dakota students.
- Budgeted revenues for 2026 total \$3.5 million, including \$1.5 million of federal revenues, \$1.4 million of property tax revenues, \$0.3 million of fare collections, \$0.2 million of state funding, and \$0.1 million of other revenue.
- Operating costs per passenger on the fixed route services increased from \$11.47 in 2024 to \$12.33 in 2025 primarily related to increased operating expenses.

BISMARCK

Ms. Deidre Hughes, Executive Director, Bis-Man Transit, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding fixed route city transportation services in Bismarck and Mandan. She noted:

- Bis-Man Transit operates five routes in Bismarck and one route in Mandan along a flag stop system and had 138,073 riders in 2025.
- Revenues for the fixed route services in 2025 totaled \$7.1 million, including \$3.8 million of federal funding, \$1.7 million of property tax revenues, \$0.7 million of sales tax collections, \$0.5 million of state funding, \$0.1 million of fare collections, and \$0.3 million of other revenue.
- Operating costs per passenger on the fixed route services decreased from \$17.53 in 2024 to \$15.81 in 2025 primarily related to an increase in riders.

COMMENTS

Mr. Micah Olson, Attorney, Protection and Advocacy Project, noted fixed route and paratransit services are vital for providing transportation to individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Jordan Smith, Assistant Transit Director, City of Fargo, noted transit services connect individuals between their homes, workplaces, shopping, schools, and other essential services, and state support for fixed route transit services is important for matching federal funds.

Mr. Brian Horinka, Transit Superintendent, City of Minot, noted:

- Some communities use microtransit services, which are similar to ride-sharing services, to provide transportation between fixed route service areas and underserved areas of communities, but microtransit services may not be a viable replacement for fixed route services.
- State funding through the highway tax distribution formula provides regular funding for transit services, but the funding formula provides more funding to rural and paratransit services compared to fixed route services.
- In addition to the existing state funding for public transit services, the fixed route transit providers are requesting a new source of stable funding from the state.

It was moved by Senator Gerhardt, seconded by Senator Walen, and carried on a voice vote that the Legislative Council staff prepare a summary of the subcommittee's activities for the 2025-26 interim for inclusion in the Government Finance Committee's report to the Legislative Management.

No further business appearing, Chairman Burckhard adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Adam Mathiak
Senior Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:3