



## Letter of Support – SB 2254

Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2254.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Access to transportation is vital to the wellbeing and stability of our cities, communities, and workforce.

In 2023, Fargo represented 38.5% of all elderly and disabled riders in the state as well as 50.5% of all general ridership in the state. Ridership grew to 863,320 in 2024 and is projected to reach 870,963 in 2025. This increase comes at the same point in time where the metro was also reclassified by the Federal Transportation Authority (2024), and the FM Metro is facing a significant reduction in federal support which will have an adverse effect on the city's ability to meet the transportation demands of the growing population. Investing in robust, reliable, and accessible public transportation builds stronger and more connected cities.

These one-time funds will bridge the gap caused by the reduction in federal funding. Additionally, in order to accurately and fully understand what long term funding strategies are available to support transportation— we recommend a legislative study be conducted during the interim session, providing the information needed to develop sustainable plans to support transportation across the state.

These transportation services are essential to our communities, with North Dakotans relying on them to participate in educational opportunities, entertainment, employment, health care, community, and more. The value of providing these services to our communities is why we urge this committee to give the bill a DO PASS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cale Dunwoody".

Cale Dunwoody  
Vice President of Public Policy  
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce