

# GOAL

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PASS LEGISLATION TO SECURE FUNDS OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD TO ADDRESS COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP MOST CRITICAL BRIDGE NEEDS

# BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

- 32% of major local Government bridges, or 750 bridges, are posted for load based on the ND DOT bridge dashboard.
- If a bridge is posted for load, the road is limited in serving its purpose.
- Transportation dependent industries suffer from washboards, potholes and poor road conditions.
  - These same industries are unable to operate when low load limit or closed bridges prohibit their use.



# BRIDGE INSPECTIONS

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- Bridge inspections are mandatory

# PAST HISTORY OF FUNDING

- From 2022 to 2024 the DOT allocated \$80.9 million for 36 bridge replacements
- \$20 million of this funding came from ARPA funds and \$16.5 million from local match

# PROBLEMS WITH HISTORICAL FUNDING

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- Not enough
- Cost share can be prohibitive for some counties
- One shot appropriations
  - Counties unable to do long term planning and studies

# WHAT DO WE WANT TO FUND?

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- Bridge Replacement
  - New Bridge Construction
  - Replacement with culverts or other structures when possible
- Bridge Repair



# WHAT ARE SOME ESTIMATED COSTS

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Hydrology Study  
\$10,000 to \$20,000



Box Culverts to replace  
bridges \$500,000 to  
\$900,000



Bridge replacement \$1  
to \$5 million / bridge



Bridge repair variable

# WHERE ARE THESE BRIDGES?

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- 2024 UGPTI study identified
  - 2 counties with no bridge needs last session it was 7
  - 17 counties with 1 to 5 bridges in need of rehabilitation or replacement
  - 19 counties with 6 to 19 bridges in need of rehabilitation or replacement
  - 15 counties with 20 or more
    - Grand Forks, Morton, Pembina, Traill and Walsh have over 60 each
    - Renville – 6, McLean – 7, Ward – 22, Bottineau – 33, McHenry 40





# EXAMPLES OF PROBLEMS CREATED

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Land surrounded by Mouse River with two access points, one bridge is closed the other bridge is derated to 8 ton.

Farmstead and private land with only access to it is a closed bridge.

8 ton, 12 ton and 31 ton load limits on farm to market roads that are built for 80,000 lb. or greater payloads but are now hindered by deficient bridges.

**WEIGHT  
LIMIT  
4  
TONS**







WEIGHT  
LIMIT  
10  
TONS





# CONSIDERATIONS TO HOW MUCH FUNDING

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- How much work can be done in biennium
  - Avoid inflation
  - Federal dollars have been increased nationwide to address infrastructure
  - Contractors are currently tied up on FM Diversion
  - Limitations include
    - Lack of bridge contractors currently in ND
    - Number of engineers / firms available
    - Time involved to do proper studies – engineering, hydrology, easements, mitigation

# COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP BRIDGE NEEDS

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- 2024 Study by Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute
  - Identified \$1.087 billion needed in improvement and preventative maintenance needs over the next 5 bienniums.
  - In person meetings with Counties, Contractors and Engineers have supported their ability to expend \$100 million / biennium without causing hyper inflation due to lack of labor and resources

# LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE

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- State funding needs to be directed to bridges
- Stream over a period of years to allow for long term plans and efficiency
- Allocated to each county as a percent of their identified needs in the 2024 UGPTI study
  - For counties with fewer bridge needs their appropriation will need to be allocated based on a project cost rather than an annual percent
    - Address these needs on a county-by-county basis
- Ten year / 5 biennium timetable



# STATE DOT INVOLVEMENT

- Allocate funds to DOT and have them distribute to counties based on formula
  - Advantages
    - Clearing house for allocating to counties with fewer needs
    - Oversight of a statewide benefit
    - Leverage with federal funds to decrease the amount needed from state
  - Potential disadvantages of Federal match
    - Perception of loss of local control
    - Time delay in funds being allocated while waiting for federal match
    - Potential need for local match if Federal funds are used
      - Potential for Federal guidelines being used in allocation formula
        - Ex. 6 mile recommendation

A photograph of a concrete structure, possibly a bridge or a dam, with a large red text overlay that reads "QUESTIONS". The structure is made of concrete and has a dark, possibly painted, section in the middle. There are some pipes or conduits visible on the top surface. The background shows bare trees and a clear sky. In the foreground, there are tall, dry reeds or grasses. A yellow and black striped sign is visible on the right side of the structure.

**QUESTIONS**