



Administration

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

HB 1577

Senator Dale Patten, Chairman

March 21, 2025

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee, my name is Jim Neubauer, City Administrator for Mandan and I offer testimony in support of HB 1577.

Wastewater collection systems, disposal systems and treatment plants have typically not been recipients of grant funds. Through the State of North Dakota, we have had the advantage of low interest loans, but rarely, if any, grant funds have been available. HB 1577 is a good start in this direction.

The City of Mandan is facing a significant funding hurdle regarding our wastewater treatment plant facility project, at an estimated cost of \$110M - \$120M. The main drivers for this project are a result of aging infrastructure, odor issues, regulatory requirements, surpassing treatment capacity and redundancy issues.

City of Mandan residents, on average, pay \$28.60/month for wastewater charges. Examples of other cities in North Dakota include Williston at \$16.52/month, Bismarck at \$30.00/month and Watford City at \$42.29/month. Mandan's wastewater charge per month would need to increase by \$72-\$78/month in order to fund the \$110M debt that would be associated with this project. Therefore, any grant funding that becomes available is extremely important.

The anticipated timeline of our project is to complete the pre-design work in 2025, detailed design complete in mid-2027 with construction beginning in 2027 and completed in 2029.

Outside funding sources will be critical to help minimize the costs of this project to our residents and thus we fully support HB 1577.

I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have regarding this testimony.

Thank you.



Mandan Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Project

In a move towards a sustainable future, the City of Mandan hired AE2S to update the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Master Plan that they originally developed in 2011. This thorough review examines the facility's condition, treatment redundancy and capacity, and forthcoming regulatory requirements. The report's findings underscore the urgent need for

a significant facility improvement project in order to continue to protect public health and the environment by effectively removing harmful contaminants from the wastewater. This process ensures that the water released back into the Missouri River is clean and safe, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and environmental pollution.

Main drivers for this project:

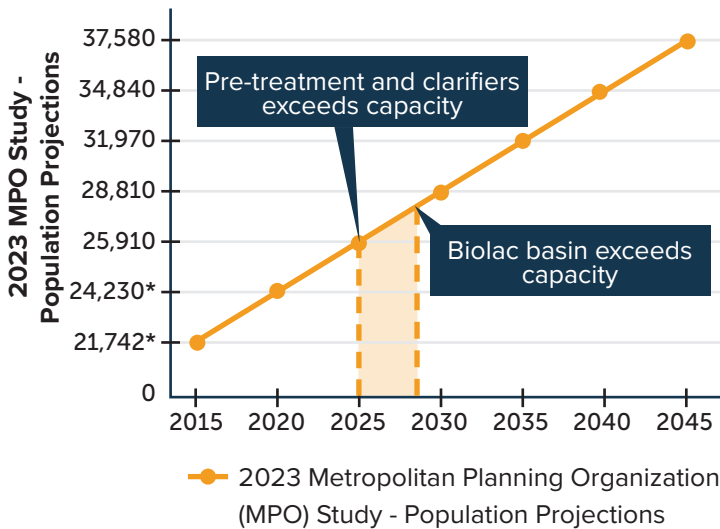
➤ **Surpassed Treatment Capacity** - Address unexpected population growth.

➤ **Aging Infrastructure** - Rehabilitation/ replacement of the original 1967 and 1997 construction.

➤ **Odor Issues** - Address and reduce the persistent odor issues emitting from the facility.

➤ **Redundancy** - Routine maintenance is not possible due to the lack of redundancy.

➤ **Regulatory Requirements** - Address new and emerging wastewater effluent discharge regulations.



**Recorded Per United States Census Bureau*



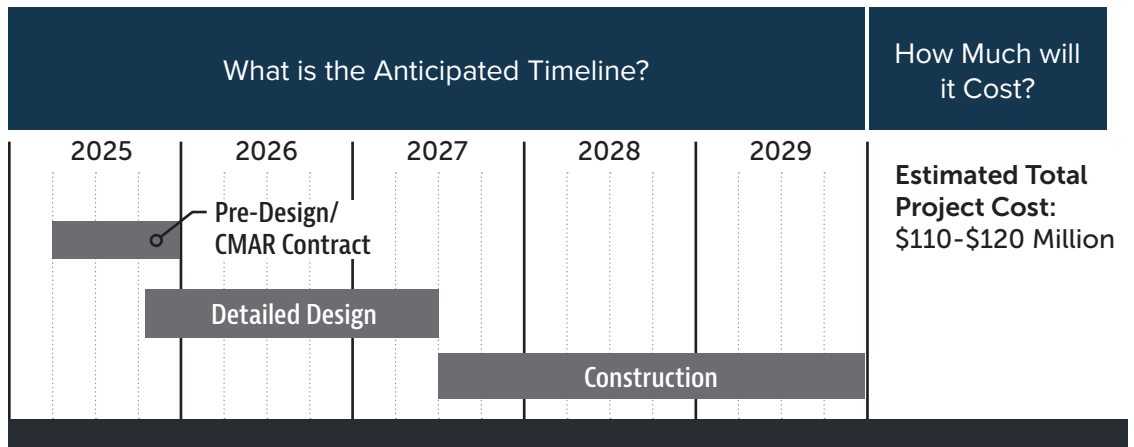
FUTURE OF MANDAN'S WWTF

Facing unexpected population growth, overtaxed treatment capacity, aging infrastructure, and ongoing odor problems - the City of Mandan is exploring funding options to undertake a costly wastewater treatment facility enhancement project. This initiative is essential to address the challenges and ensure a brighter future.

Launching the \$110-\$120M Project: **\$12.5M Allocated for Design & Initial Construction**

This \$12.5 million investment will initiate the project in the next biennium, covering design, permitting, and early construction activities. The schedule below outlines key milestones planned for this phase.

FUNDING ALLOCATION



UTILITY RATES

Average Residential Wastewater Bill

