

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Chad M. Orn, Deputy Director for Planning for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I am here to provide neutral testimony on SB 2254.

SB 2254 would provide one time funding of \$15,000,000 to the NDDOT for the purpose of providing grants to fixed route city transportation providers for the 2025–2027 biennium.

In North Dakota, each of the four largest cities have a fixed route transit system. According to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 4710.1 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Guidance, Chapter 8, even when fixed route transit systems are fully accessible, there will be some individuals whose disabilities prevent them from being able to use the system. Because of this situation, federal regulations have been put into place to ensure these individuals have transportation available to them on the same basis as individuals using the fixed route system. The ADA regulations in 49 CFR Part 37, Subpart F, require public entities that operate a fixed route system to provide paratransit services for persons whose disabilities prevent them from using the fixed route system.

Based on the federal regulations, NDDOT believes that paratransit services should be considered part of the fixed route transit operations, regardless of whether the service is provided directly by the public entity or through a contractor. We just want to make sure the intention of SB 2254 is to include paratransit services as part of the fixed route city transportation providers.

This concludes my testimony - I would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.