



STUTSMAN COUNTY

511 2nd Ave SE
Jamestown, ND 58401
(701) 252-9035
www.stutsmancounty.gov

February 5, 2025

Senate Transportation Committee
David A. Clemens, Chairman
and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2391

Chairman Clemens and Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Levi Taylor and presently serve as vice-chairman for the Stutsman County Commission. I reside in the rural, southeast part of the county where I farm and own/operate a seed and crop protection business. I stand before you today honored and thankful for legislators such as yourselves who are willing to listen to and consider the needs of the communities, businesses, and counties that make up our great state.

Stutsman County is asking for your support and urging a “do pass” on SB2391. The section of County Road 62 (CR62) pertaining to this bill is an 18 mile stretch of road - 8 miles of which, from I94 south to 44th St SE, are paved, and 10 miles (from 44th St SE to Highway 46) unpaved. CR62 South is a critical infrastructure that serves Dakota Spirt Ag Energy (corn ethanol plant) and Green Bison (soybean crush facility). DSA processes 21,900,000 bushels each year and ADM processes 43,800,000 bushels—a very important domestic use of corn and soybeans for North Dakota—running 24/7, 365 days a year!

CR62 South has become a very difficult issue for Stutsman County, specifically the 10 miles of gravel. This stretch of road is an original mucker road that was not built to handle the excessive weight and high volume of truck traffic that is required for a road leading to a major agricultural collector. In addition, unpredictable weather has added to the problems we are facing. These combined issues have caused excessive rutting, road shoulders giving out, and impassable conditions to CR62 leading to road closures. These conditions have forced farmers to bring animal feed into farms via tractor, it has forced agricultural input disruptions, causing delivery trucks to unload payload on the pavement, and pickup trucks bringing payload to farms and warehouses one pickup load at a time. Difficult travel on these roads during the spring thaw and after 1”+ rains requires high clearance vehicles with four-wheel drive for essential travel. Many spots along this route turn into a mud, clay, and sand mixture that resembles nothing close to reliable and safe infrastructure. The burden of this stretch of road is also shared with neighboring townships. When CR62 becomes impassable or is closed, all traffic is diverted to alternate routes on township roads. These roads begin to bear the brunt of damage that creates a problem for townships to manage on limited resources.

I believe that this bill provides a solution for the many problems that our county and townships are facing pertaining to CR62. The state highway system has access to resources and personnel that can better manage the unique needs of CR62. SB2391 could result in a more sustainable and reliable stretch of infrastructure that can serve the needs of DSA and Green Bison.

County Commissioners

Jerry Bergquist – Jamestown
Chad Wolsky – Jamestown
Levi Taylor – Ypsilanti
Michael Hansen – Montpelier
Amanda Hastings – Jamestown

County Officials

Jessica Alonge – Auditor/COO
Maureen Pederson –Treasurer/Recorder
Tyler Perleberg – Tax Director
Fritz Fremgen – States Attorney
Chad Kaiser – Sheriff

Josh Smaage – Dir. Of Information Technology
Shannon Davis – Human Resource Director
Mandi Freije – Human Service Zone Director
Chad Jackson – Jail Administrator
Jessica Moser – 911/Emergency Manager

David Bratton – Veterans Service Officer
Jesse Christianson – Int. Road Superintendent
Karl Bergh – Park Superintendent
Ashley Kjellberg – Extension Agent
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From 2019-2024 Stutsman County spent a total of \$330,000 on gravel road emergency repairs. These repairs were just temporary bandages for the many troubled spots. In the last six years, this stretch of road has been closed on two different occasions due to impassible conditions. Last year Stutsman County applied for a Flexible Transportation Grant in the full amount of roughly \$35 million. This number reflects a cost estimate we received to completely reconstruct the 10 mile stretch of gravel on CR62. The grant was not awarded to Stutsman County because of the excessive dollar amount. This has left Stutsman County with few options other than SB2391.

If the committee or department would like to discuss other future options to address this unique issue, I would be happy to facilitate future discussions. I appreciate your time and dedication to our great state.

Respectfully,

Levi Taylor
Vice Chairman
ltaylor@stutsmancounty.gov

Jerry Bergquist
Chairman
jlbergquist@stutsmancounty.gov

Letter submitted with support of Jerry Bergquist, Chairman and Levi Taylor, Vice-Chairman

County Commissioners

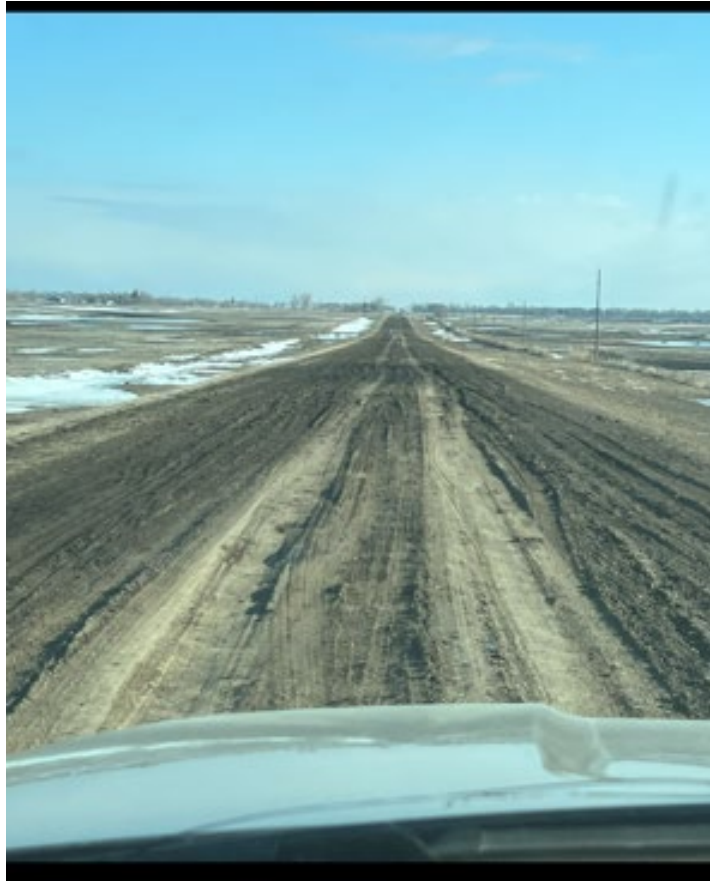
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May 2023



May 2023



May 2019

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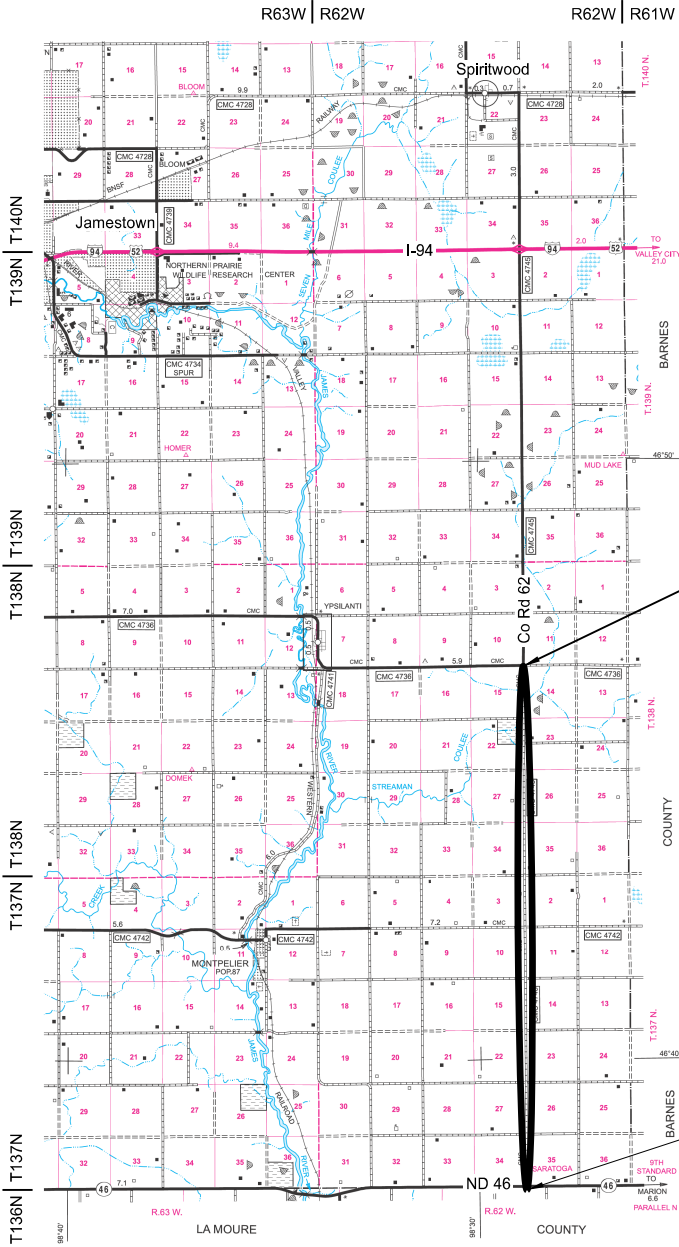


Stutsman county roads



Project Location Map

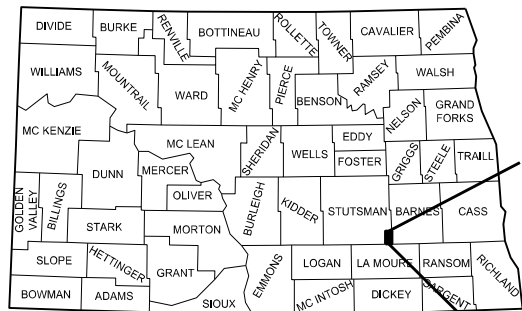
Grading, Drainage Structures, Aggregate Base, Bituminous Pavement and Miscellaneous Items



DESIGN DATA			
Traffic	Average Daily		
Current 2010	Pass: 66	Trucks: 9	Total: 75
Forecast 2024	Pass: 66	Trucks: 29	Total: 95
Clear Zone Distance: 12'	Design Speed: 55 M.P.H.		
Minimum Sight Dist. for Stopping: 495 ft	Bridges: NA		
Sight Dist. for No Passing Zone: 900 ft			
Pavement Design Life: 20 (years)			
Design Accumulated One-way	ESALs: 56,496		

End Project Hwy 62
Sta. 540+11, 91' south of the
southeast corner of Section 10,
T138N, R62W.

Begin Project Hwy 62
Sta. 10+00, 28.00' north of the
southeast corner of Section 34,
T137N, R62W.



STATE COUNTY MAP

End Project

Begin Project