

2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1140

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1140
1/16/2025

Relating to designating the bridge on south state avenue in Dickinson as the Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to declare an emergency.

9:20 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Hendrix, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz
Members Absent: Vice Chair Grueneich

Discussion Topics:

- Specialist Jon P. Fettig's life and service

9:21 a.m. Representative Steiner, ND Legislative Assembly, District 37, introduced HB 1140 and provided testimony #29506 and #29510.

9:27 a.m. Jim Nelson, Legislative Director, ND Veterans Legislative Council, testified in favor.

9:27 a.m. Pat Flanagan, Chief of Staff, ND Army National Guard, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29216.

9:31 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing.

9:31 a.m. Representative Schatz moved a Do Pass.

9:31 a.m. Representative Dressler seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	AB
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y

Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

9:32 a.m. Motion passed 13-0-1.

9:32 a.m. Representative Schatz will carry the bill.

Additional Testimony:

Wangen, Lonnie L., ND Department of Veterans Affairs, provided testimony in favor #29404.

9:33 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1140 ([25.0270.02000](#))

Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1140 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

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Vicky Steiner, District 37, Dickinson.

It's a privilege and honor to bring this bill to you today. Thanks to Jim Nelson and the ND Veterans Legislative Council.

House Bill memorializes the military service of Dickinson soldier, Specialist Jon Fettig who died in Operation Iraqi Freedom July 22, 2003. He was an 11-year veteran of the 164th Engineer Battalion. This is a project to place a bridge sign at the Heart River bridge on South State Avenue in Dickinson.

I remember seeing Jon as he worked at a local store in Dickinson. This sign will be a special tribute to his sacrifice in a foreign war to protect our country.

I'd like to highlight 3 points that touch my heart.

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1. Military service often requires individuals to leave their families, endure rigorous training, and face the dangers of combat. Recognizing this sacrifice is essential in expressing gratitude. It's important to honor both those who serve and their families, who also bear the burden of separation and worry.
2. Service members choose to dedicate their lives to protecting their country and its values. This commitment to duty, honor, and country deserves recognition and respect. Highlighting their bravery and selflessness reinforces the importance of their role in safeguarding freedom and democracy.
3. Ultimately, expressing patriotic gratitude for military service is also about promoting peace and understanding. It reinforces the idea that while military service is often necessary, the ultimate goal is to create a world where such sacrifices are less needed.

In conclusion, patriotic gratitude for military service is a vital aspect of honoring those who protect and defend the nation. It encompasses recognition, support, and a commitment to fostering a society that values peace and freedom, built on the sacrifices of its service members.

Jon's parents, Larry and Shirley, are here today.

There is an emergency clause as the Council would like to get the project started this spring.

Please give House Bill 1140 a Do Pass recommendation Thank you.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
SPECIALIST JON P. FETTIG

Died July 22, 2003
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 30, of Dickinson, ND;
assigned to the 957th Engineer
Company (Multi-Role Bridge), ND
Army National Guard, Bismarck,
ND; died when his Heavy
Expanded-Mobility Tactical Truck
was hit by a rocket-propelled
grenade outside of Ramadi, Iraq

Jon Fettig was an 11-year veteran of the 164th Engineer Battalion in Dickinson, North Dakota, who transferred to a National Guard unit in need of more Soldiers. The deployment meant Jon and his wife, Cody, would have to put their plans of starting a family on hold, but that did not stop Jon from being a devoted husband. Family was important to Jon and he called home whenever he could to speak to his wife, parents and younger siblings. The day before he died, Jon called his grandmother to wish her a happy birthday.

Jon lost his life when his unit was ambushed outside Ar Ramadi while traveling to the Euphrates River. He was with a convoy that was delivering supplies and dropping off Soldiers to relieve others with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company on river patrol.

It's hard for Jon's family to accept the fact that they will never again pick up the phone to find him on the other end of the line, but are comforted by the memories. Because of the way he lived his life, there was never a question about how much he loved his family. Jon was 30 years old.

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SPECIALIST JON P. FETTIG
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
JANUARY 1973-JULY 2003
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM



On July 22 2003 Jon lost his life when his unit was ambushed outside of Ramadi while traveling to the Euphrates River. He was in an Expanded-Mobility Tactical Truck delivering supplies and dropping off Soldiers to relieve others with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company on river patrol when they were hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Jon is resting in the Saint Joseph Cemetery in Dickinson ND.

TESTIMONY OF
COLONEL PAT FLANAGAN
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
16 JANUARY 2025
HOUSE BILL 1140

Chair Ruby and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1140, a measure to name a bridge in honor of Specialist Jon P. Fettig. My name is COL Pat Flanagan, Chief of Staff, North Dakota Army National Guard, and I am proud to represent the North Dakota Army National Guard in support of this meaningful legislation.

Specialist Jon P. Fettig was a soldier of exemplary character, a son of North Dakota, and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. On July 22, 2003, while serving as a volunteer with the North Dakota Army National Guard's 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company in Iraq, Specialist Fettig was killed in action. His selflessness, dedication to duty, and unwavering courage exemplify the highest ideals of military service. Naming a bridge in his honor is a fitting tribute to his legacy and a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by the men and women of our Armed Forces.

The proposed naming of this bridge is not only a way to honor Specialist Fettig but also a means to inspire future generations. It will serve as a physical reminder of his service and sacrifice, prompting those who cross it to reflect on the cost of freedom and the valor of those who defend it. Specialist Fettig's story is one of courage and commitment—qualities that resonate deeply with the people of North Dakota and beyond.

Beyond his military service, Jon was a beloved son, brother, and friend. His loss was deeply felt by his family, his community, and his fellow Guardsmen. This bridge will not only honor his memory but also provide a place for his family and the community to reflect and remember. It is a way to ensure that Jon's sacrifice is never forgotten.

House Bill 1140 carries significant meaning for the North Dakota Army National Guard and the communities we serve. It underscores the bond between our state and its citizen-soldiers, acknowledging their contributions and sacrifices. Passing this bill will send a strong message of gratitude and respect to Specialist Fettig's family and all those who have worn the uniform.

In closing, I urge this committee to pass House Bill 1140 and allow the state of North Dakota to honor Specialist Jon P. Fettig in this enduring way. Let this bridge stand as a testament to his courage, his sacrifice, and the enduring values he upheld.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

HB 1140

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

1/16/2025

**House Transportation Committee
69th Legislative Session
Representative Ruby-Chair**

Chairman Ruby and House Transportation Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1140.

Intent of this bill...

- Provide lasting recognition and appreciation to the North Dakota Service Men and Women who have died for our Country in time of war.
- July 22, 2003 US Army Staff Jon P. Fettig was killed in action outside Ar Ramadi, Iraq while serving with North Dakota's 957 multi-role bridge company (V Corps). He was the first ND Army National Guard Soldier killed in battle since the Korean War.
 - Name included on the Global war on terrorism memorial outside Fraine Barracks.

Need for bill...

- Keep their memory alive.
- Recognition to the family and friends they left behind.
- Community involvement in the process.

I support this bill and encourage the ND 69th Legislative Assembly to allow all bridges in ND be named after a Fallen ND Service Man or Woman.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

2025 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1140

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1140
2/21/2025

Relating to designating the bridge on south state avenue in Dickinson as the Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to declare an emergency.
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9:00 a.m. Chairman Clemens called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

Discussion Topics:

- Background on Jon P. Fettig.
- Information from Mayor of Dickinson regarding bridge naming

9:01 a.m. Representative Steiner, District 37, introduced HB 1140 and testified in favor.

9:04 a.m. Jim Nelson, Legislative Director, North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38293.

9:05 a.m. Patrick Flanagan, Chief of Staff, ND National Guard, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38228.

9:09 a.m. Wayde Swenson, Director of Operations, NDDOT, testified neutral and submitted testimony #38266.

9:13 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY OF
COLONEL PAT FLANAGAN
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
21 FEBRUARY 2025
HOUSE BILL 1140

Chair Clemens and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1140, a measure to name a bridge in honor of Specialist Jon P. Fettig. My name is COL Pat Flanagan, Chief of Staff, North Dakota Army National Guard, and I am proud to represent the North Dakota Army National Guard in support of this meaningful legislation.

Specialist Jon P. Fettig was a soldier of exemplary character, a son of North Dakota, and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. On July 22, 2003, while serving as a volunteer with the North Dakota Army National Guard's 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company in Iraq, Specialist Fettig was killed in action. His selflessness, dedication to duty, and unwavering courage exemplify the highest ideals of military service. Naming a bridge in his honor is a fitting tribute to his legacy and a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by the men and women of our Armed Forces.

The proposed naming of this bridge is not only a way to honor Specialist Fettig but also a means to inspire future generations. It will serve as a physical reminder of his service and sacrifice, prompting those who cross it to reflect on the cost of freedom and the valor of those who defend it. Specialist Fettig's story is one of courage and commitment—qualities that resonate deeply with the people of North Dakota and beyond.

Beyond his military service, Jon was a beloved son, brother, and friend. His loss was deeply felt by his family, his community, and his fellow Guardsmen. This bridge will not only honor his memory but also provide a place for his family and the community to reflect and remember. It is a way to ensure that Jon's sacrifice is never forgotten.

House Bill 1140 carries significant meaning for the North Dakota Army National Guard and the communities we serve. It underscores the bond between our state and its citizen-soldiers, acknowledging their contributions and sacrifices. Passing this bill will send a strong message of gratitude and respect to Specialist Fettig's family and all those who have worn the uniform.

In closing, I urge this committee to pass House Bill 1140 and allow the state of North Dakota to honor Specialist Jon P. Fettig in this enduring way. Let this bridge stand as a testament to his courage, his sacrifice, and the enduring values he upheld.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

**House Bill No. 1140****Senate Transportation Committee**

Fort Totten | February 21, 2025, 9 a.m.

Wayde Swenson, Office of Operations

Good afternoon, Chairperson, and members of the Committee. I'm Wayde Swenson, Director of Operations for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to provide testimony and ask for an amendment to HB 1140.

After this bill was passed in the House, it was found that the location of the dedicated bridge is off the state highway system. The bridge is located on a city street. Because the bridge is located off the state system, the NDDOT would not be able to fulfill the requirements of the bill.

The NDDOT asks that the bill be amended as shown on the next page.

This concludes my testimony, and I will stand for any questions. Thank you.

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota
**PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE BILL NO. 1140**

Introduced by

Representatives Steiner, Lefor, M. Ruby, Schatz, Kempenich, Pyle

Senators Bekkedahl, Dever, Hogue, Kessel, Rummel

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 24-08-14 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to designating the bridge on south state avenue in Dickinson as the
3 Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to declare an
4 emergency.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 24-08-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge - South state avenue - Continuing appropriation.**

9 The ~~department shall designate the~~ bridge on south state avenue in Dickinson between the
10 junction of fifth street southwest and the junction of second street southwest shall be designated
11 as the Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge. Any donated funds are appropriated to the road authority
12 that owns the bridge, on a continuing basis, for the ~~and shall place signs along the avenue~~
13 ~~designating that name. The department may accept any appropriate signs or funds donated to~~
14 ~~the department for the placement of signs. Any donated funds are appropriated to the~~
15 ~~department on a continuing basis for the~~ purpose of providing signs designating the bridge on
16 south state avenue as the Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge.

17 **SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

SPECIALIST JON P. FETTIG
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
JANUARY 1973-JULY 2003
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM



On July 22 2003 Jon lost his life when his unit was ambushed outside of Ramadi while traveling to the Euphrates River. He was in an Expanded-Mobility Tactical Truck delivering supplies and dropping off Soldiers to relieve others with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company on river patrol when they were hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Jon is resting in the Saint Joseph Cemetery in Dickinson ND.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1140
3/6/2025

Relating to designating the bridge on south state avenue in Dickinson as the Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to declare an emergency.
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11:25 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

Discussion Topics:

- Process of designating names to city roads
- Potential relocations of bridge naming

11:25 a.m. Senator Rummel provided updates to the committee regarding the naming of city roads and state roads.

11:32 a.m. Chairman Clemens adjourned the meeting.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1140
3/13/2025

Relating to designating the bridge on south state avenue in Dickinson as the Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to declare an emergency.

9:17 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

Discussion Topics:

- Location of proposed bridge

9:17 a.m. Senator Paulson updated the committee on a proposed amendment, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41281.

9:18 a.m. Senator Paulson moved amendment LC#25.0270.02001.

9:19 a.m. Senator Klein seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	AB
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 5-0-1.

9:19 a.m. Senator Paulson moved a Do Pass as Amended.

9:19 a.m. Senator Rummel seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	AB
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 5-0-1.

Senate Transportation Committee

HB 1140

March 13, 2025

Page 2

Senator Rummel will carry the bill.

9:20 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1140

Introduced by

Representatives Steiner, Lefor, M. Ruby, Schatz, Kempenich, Pyle

Senators Bekkedahl, Dever, Hogue, Kessel, Rummel

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 24-01 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to designating the bridge on ~~south state avenue~~ state highway 22 in
3 Dickinson as the Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge; to provide a continuing appropriation; and
4 to declare an emergency.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 24-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge - ~~South state avenue~~State highway 22 - Continuing**
9 **appropriation.**

10 The department shall designate the bridge on ~~south state avenue~~state highway 22 in
11 Dickinson between the junction of ~~fifth street southwest~~Kuchenski drive and the junction of
12 ~~second street southwest~~fourth street southwest as the Specialist Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge and
13 shall place signs along the ~~avenue~~highway designating that name. The department may accept
14 any appropriate signs or funds donated to the department for the placement of signs. Any
15 donated funds are appropriated to the department on a continuing basis for the purpose of
16 providing signs designating the bridge on ~~south state avenue~~state highway 22 as the Specialist
17 Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge.

18 **SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1140**

Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0270.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1140 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

25.0270.02001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative Steiner
March 7, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1140

Introduced by

Representatives Steiner, Lefor, M. Ruby, Schatz, Kempenich, Pyle

Senators Bekkedahl, Dever, Hogue, Kessel, Rummel

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13 shall place signs along the ~~avenue~~highway designating that name. The department may accept
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15 donated funds are appropriated to the department on a continuing basis for the purpose of
16 providing signs designating the bridge on ~~south state avenue~~state highway 22 as the Specialist
17 Jon P. Fettig Iraq bridge.

18 **SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.