

Testimony

Presented to: **Advisory Commission on
Intergovernmental Relations**

Presented by: **Jon Mielke, Researcher
Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute**

Date: **January 23, 2008**

Chairman Kaldor and commission members, my name is Jon Mielke. I am a research associate with the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute.

I appeared before you at your last meeting and briefed you on an outreach effort that is designed to generate public involvement and input on issues related to transportation infrastructure and personal mobility. I asked Chairman Kaldor for some time on today's agenda so I could update you on our efforts.

Since your last meeting, we have expanded this project's steering committee and finalized plans for eight public informational input sessions. A list of steering committee members is attached to my testimony.

The informational input sessions are scheduled for the last week in March and the first week in April. These workshops will be held in each of the state's regional centers. The dates and locations for these workshops are identified in the informational brochure that is attached to my testimony.

The agenda for these workshops will be divided into two distinct parts. The initial presentations at each workshop will be largely informational and will focus on North Dakota's existing transportation infrastructure and related service providers. Latter portions of the program will be designed to elicit attendee input concerning the adequacy of existing

facilities and services and suggestions for possible modifications. These discussions will also involve existing funding sources and future options.

We will attempt to generate input in several ways, including structured luncheon discussions, a panel of local leaders, an open microphone session, and a questionnaire that attendees can fill out on site or via the project's web site. A draft copy of the input questionnaire is attached for your review.

We have developed an extensive list of invitees for these workshops. As the attached list indicates, it includes elected officials and other community leaders, service providers, transportation planners, law enforcement personnel, school administrators, energy industry representatives, major shippers, and the media. Invitations will be mailed out to approximately 4,500 North Dakotans in early February.

These eight workshops will be followed up by a state conference which will be held in Mandan on May 1st. This conference will summarize the input that was received at the local workshops and solicit further input concerning specific recommendations related to future infrastructure and personal mobility needs and funding options. We hope to provide a related report to this commission and the interim transportation committee shortly thereafter.

At your commission's last meeting, there were some general questions concerning the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute. I have attached an informational brochure concerning the Institute to my testimony.

Chairman Kaldor and commission members, that concludes my presentation. I would be happy to respond to any questions that you might have.

Steering Committee Members

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Agenda

Local Educational & Input Workshops

- 10:00 Welcome, Introductions, & Goals
- 10:15 Inventory of North Dakota's Transportation System
- 10:35 Condition of Existing System, Inflationary Trends, & Transportation's Role in Economic Development
- 11:05 Funding Sources, Income Projections, & Distribution
- 11:25 Planning, Project Selection, & Budgeting Processes
- 11:45 Buffet Lunch & Small Group Discussions*
- 12:45 Panel Discussion – Local Perspectives & Challenges
- 1:30 Participant Input – System & Service Needs, Budgets, & Options (Open Microphone & Questionnaire)
- 2:00 Effectuating Change – Where Do We Go From Here?
- 2:15 Adjourn

Local Workshops – Participant Questionnaire

1. What are the first three digits of your Zip Code (check one)?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 581 | <input type="checkbox"/> 582 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 583 | <input type="checkbox"/> 584 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 585 | <input type="checkbox"/> 586 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 587 | <input type="checkbox"/> 588 |
| Other (please specify): _____ | |

2. Your association with which of the following best describes your reason for attending this workshop (check one):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned citizen | <input type="checkbox"/> Shipper – Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected official | <input type="checkbox"/> Public employee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation service provider | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation contractor / consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

3. Please rank the following areas of concern (starting with #1 as the area of greatest concern):

- ☐ Quality of state roadways and bridges
- ☐ Quality of county roadways and bridges
- ☐ Quality of township roadways and bridges
- ☐ Quality of city roadways and bridges
- ☐ Funding for future transportation infrastructure projects
- ☐ Transit service levels & related funding (city buses, rural public transportation, etc.)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

4. Comments and suggestions concerning North Dakota's transportation infrastructure, transit services, and related funding:

5. Other comments and suggestions:

This questionnaire may be filled out at this local workshop or mailed to UGPTI, Box 5074, Fargo, ND 58105. Questionnaires may also be completed online at UGPTI.org

Generating Public Involvement in Transportation

Mailing List

Legislators
County Commissioners & Engineers
Mayors & City Auditors
ND Township Officers
Motor Carriers
Highway Contractors
NDDOT District Engineers
Transit Operators
Tribal Councils
School District Administrators
Highway Patrol
County Sheriffs
ND Grain Dealers Association/Elevators
Airports
MPOS
Farm Groups
Commodity Groups
Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperatives and MDU, Excel, & Otter Tail Power
UGPTI Advisory Council
Regional Planning Councils
Dakota Resource Group
ND Media – Newspapers, Radio, TV
Chambers of Commerce
Major Shippers & Manufacturers
Colleges & Universities
Railroads
AAA North Dakota
ND Dept of Commerce
Energy Companies – oil, coal, etc.
ND Dept. of Tourism – including local tourism offices
Local economic development offices
Steering Committee Members
ND Dept. of Human Services
Transportation Consultants

State Conference

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Seven Seas – Mandan

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| 9:45 am | Welcome & Introductions |
| 10:00 am | Overview of Local Workshops & Summary of Input Received
Agenda
Locations
Attendance
Panelist Comments
Open Mic Comments
Survey Results |
| 11:00 am | Updated Infrastructure Needs Assessment - Presentation of Findings |
| Noon | Lunch & Small Group Discussions |
| 12:45 pm | Panel Discussion on Infrastructure Needs |
| 1:25 pm | Panel Discussion on Personal Mobility Needs |
| 2:05 pm | Panel Discussion on Funding Options |
| 2:45 | Preliminary Recommendations |
| 3:15 pm | Coffee & Break Out Sessions – Participant Reactions & Input |
| 4:00 pm | Session Reports |
| 4:45 pm | Effectuating Change – Where Do We Go From Here? |
| 5:15 pm | Adjourn & Hosted Social |