2009 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

нв 1356

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1356

House	Trans	portation	Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01/22/09

Recorder Job Number: 7562

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Representative R. Kelsch introduced HB 1356 and spoke in support of the bill. The bill states that the director of the Department of Transportation shall give priority to putting new pavement on a portion of US Highway 83 in the south bound lane from the intersection of Highway 37 north for approximately 13.4 miles. It is the area coming south from Max.

Representative R. Kelsch explained that the bill is not only important to her, but also to two of her constituents, Tom and Patty Regan. A crash history list is attached for the section of road in this bill. See attachment # 1. This report covers the period from 01/01/01 through 07/31/08. The report shows four fatalities, 84 total accidents, and 59 animal crashes that are not shown in the report that have taken place on this stretch of highway. Representative R. Kelsch told of an accident that involved the death of Marlo Regan on this stretch of highway. She introduced the bill to emphasize that this stretch of road is not safe and needs to be a priority in the DOT's budget.

Representative R. Kelsch has been told by the DOT that they know this stretch of highway needs to be done and have a project planned. This bill does not appropriate money to build the road. It just makes it a priority so no more lives are lost because of the unsafe roadway.

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Representative Heller: What makes this stretch of road so dangerous? I have driven it many times and haven't noticed that it is dangerous.

Representative R. Kelsch: It has to do with the grade of the shoulder. It is not a wide shoulder, and also the rumble strips add to the danger.

Tom Regan from Mandan spoke to tell of the story of his daughter's accident. He feels that there is no shoulder on the road at that point, and it causes a real danger. He spoke of others that have also regarded that stretch of road dangerous, including Ken's Towing from Garrison who know of many fatalities in that area. It is Mr. Regan's understanding that the state has been asked by many to improve this section of highway because it is unsafe. He wants to try to do anything that he can to try to get this south bound section of road improved to make it safer for everyone.

Grant Levi, Deputy Director for Engineering for the North Dakota DOT expressed his sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Regan. He spoke in opposition of HB 1356 on behalf of the DOT. He introduced a map that tracked all the fatal crashed in North Dakota from 2003-2007. See attachment #2. Mr. Levi explained that whenever a fatality occurs the DOT puts together a team to look at the site and to study and analyze it. They want to know if there is anything that they should be doing differently. Mr. Levi provided written testimony that explains the process that the DOT follows when making decisions on road projects (STIP). See attached testimony #3. He added that from an engineering prospective that section of Highway 83 is not dangerous. However, it is not constructed to the same standards as the portions north and south of it. When it is redone in 2010 or 2011, it will be a corridor that is consistent with wide shoulders and rumble strips.

Representative Schmidt: Are economic recovery dollars, Federal dollars?

Grant Levi: Yes, they would be 100% Federal, with no match.

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Representative Schmidt: Since North Dakota has the best economic situation in the Union, do you think we will get economic recovery dollars?

Grant Levi: The Federal government has using the traditional distribution method. We are watching closely to see that it stays on that course.

Representative Heller: Why do you think that the road is not dangerous without a wider shoulder?

Grant Levi: When we study the crash histories, the additional width for roadways does not always result in the reduction of crashes that occur. Width is not always a contributing factor to safety.

Chairman Ruby: Considering the language in this bill, why would it be a problem for you? Would a wording change make it more acceptable to you?

Grant Levi: Philosophically, the DOT believes that it is in the state's best interest not to have the legislative body start ear marking highway projects. We feel that the process that is in place allows us to select projects according to engineering data and other factors as explained before. This is in the state's best interest.

Representative Thorpe: I understand that this stretch of road is already in your plan. Is this bill necessary?

Grant Levi: It is in our program, and we do intend to proceed. From our prospective we are opposing the bill because we do not feel it is necessary at this point.

Representative Weiler: When did the new director come on?

Grant Levi: Mr. Frances Ziegler joined the department as the director about two and one half years ago.

Representative Weiler: Was this prior to this unfortunate accident? When the team was formed, did you go out inspect this location?

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Grant Levi: We did an extensive review of this location this past summer. We shared with Representative R. Kelsch that we feel that the project that we are proceeding with will address

her concerns.

Representative Weiler: How soon after an accident does your team go out and inspect a

site?

Grant Levi: The first step is to look at the crash report. Based on the information that the team sees in the crash report and conversations with district engineer and safety personal in DOT, they will make a decision whether to go out and inspect the site. For example, if a fatality occurs because of an icy road, and it is noted by the Highway Patrol, they will not go

out to look at that fatality site. If they know there is an engineering concern, the team will get

out as soon as they can to look at it.

Representative Weiler: So, the team that went out to inspect this site didn't go out until over

a year after the accident?

Grant Levi: On this particular fatality, that is correct.

Representative Weiler: Does that seem like a long time to you?

Grant Levi: We have changed our process and tried to look at the sites more quickly. It

places more emphasis on getting out sooner.

Representative Delmore: Does the Highway Patrol file a report?

Grant Levi: That is correct. They file a report and note if there is an engineering concern.

Representative Delmore: In this case and the other three fatalities, would they list roadway

as being a cause? Or is that your job to figure out what the cause was?

Grant Levi: The Highway Patrol fills out a crash report. They will make a decision whether or

not they feel that there were any roadway or engineering concerns. They will list it on the

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report. We are in constant contact with the Highway Patrol. If they see a concern, they do bring it to our attention.

There were no other questions.

No one else spoke in opposition to HB 1356.

The hearing was closed on HB 1356.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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House Transportation Committee

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Hearing Date: 01/23/09

Recorder Job Number: 7648

Committee Clerk Signature

nudge them a little bit.

Minutes:

Chairman Ruby brought up HB 1356 that provides repaving on a section of road south of Max.

Representative Weiler: I am going to support this bill for a couple of reasons. We had a

good discussion about telling the DOT what to do. But, they acknowledge that is a bad area. It is already on their priority list. By passing this it won't do anything one way or the other, just

Representative Potter: I feel just the opposite. Since the DOT says that the road will be repaired and is already on their list, and could even be bumped up with Economic Recovery money, I think that we should just let them go with their plan. We should do the same as we did with the last bill.

The committee reviewed the map and the area where the accidents occurred on Highway 83. It was also confirmed that there were four fatalities on the south bound lane.

Chairman Ruby stated that this bill does set a precedence. The DOT did say that they would bump this road project up, if they get the funding. It is in their plan, and it may be a couple of years down the road.

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Representative Heller: If you go through this crash report, it shows 18 accidents attributed to

the bad shoulder on that stretch of road. How long does it take for it to sink in that there is a

shoulder problem in that area?

Chairman Ruby: The DOT has been updating Highway 83 for years. If it is the last section, it

may be the one that has the most issues.

Representative Weisz: There are thousands of roads in North Dakota without shoulders. It is

not just a simple issue of the DOT blowing it off. They have a certain amount of money, and

they have to figure out how to spend in the best way. The question is if we want to force them

into something.

Representative Heller: I wasn't necessarily speaking in favor of the bill. I was just pointing

out that that section of road is bad.

Representative Schmidt: I believe that the DOT will move the project up without us telling

them to.

Representative Frantsvog: I want go on record as supporting this bill. I think in both cases

the intent is to create awareness.

Representative Potter moved a Do Not Pass on HB 1356.

Representative Griffin seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Aye 11 Nay 3 Absent 0

Representative Thorpe will carry HB 1356

			Date:	<u>3 - C</u>	<u> </u>
			Roll Call Vote #:1		
2009 HOUSE STA BILL/RESOLUT			1356		
House TRANSPORTATION	<u>.</u>			Com	mittee
☐ Check here for Conference C		ee			
Action Taken		Pass	☐ Amended		
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Representative Ruby - Chairman	V		Representative Delmore	V	
Rep.Weiler – Vice Chairman		<u> </u>	Representative Griffin	\\\	
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Total Yes	^	No	3		
Bill Carrier	hon	pe			
If the vote is on an amendment, briefl	v indica	ite inten	t:		

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410) January 23, 2009 5:00 p.m.

Module No: HR-14-0887 Carrier: Thorpe Insert LC: Title:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1356: Transportation Committee (Rep. Ruby, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (11 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1356 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

HB 1356

HB 1356

Totals for Page × 1 2 7

Ref #3674 Page 1 of 9

Crash Summary 1/1/2001 - 7/31/2008 Hwy: 83 R/f

R/P: 159.621 (ND 37) to 173.0

Summary: Animal Ran off Road Overtum / Rollover Other TOTAL # OF CRASHES: 59 21 32 31 143

-Animal crashes are not shown in the sheets below.

Angle = 15, Rear End = 4, SS SD = 4, Other = 8

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Overtum / Rollover	Overtum / Rollover	Ran Off Roadway	Sideswipe Same Dir	Overtum / Rollover	Ran Off Roadway	Rear End	Sideswipe Same Dir	Other	Angle	8
Roads were not slippery except for this extremely key curve. D1 tost control of veh on key curve, stid into the west ditch, hit a ditch embankment, and rolled over.	Freezing rain. D1 lost control of veh on icy road, slid into the west ditch, hit an approach, and rolled over.	No narrative available.	D1 was travelling ~50mph, attempted to pass V2, and lost control of veh on icy road. V1 sideswiped V2.	lcy road due to freezing mist and fog. D1 lost control of veh on icy, hilly curve. V1 slid sideways into the median, hit a median crossover, and rolled over.	Veh ahead of V1 slowed to make a SB right turn. D1 attempted to slow, but tost control of veh on icy road, slid into the west ditch, and hit a sign.	V1, v2, and v3 were travelling ~25mph in a convoy due to poor weather conditions (blowing snow/soil). A veh was stopped on the roadway (facing the wrong direction, SB), so V3 stopped. V2 stopped also, but was rearrended by V1.		D1 was WB on ND 37 and it was raining. At the intersection with US 83 D1 attempted to make a WB right turn, slid onto motorcycle's side while turning, and slid into the median.		TO THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
					(LE ON 7 ER SN)		(US 63 & NO 37)	(US 83 & ND 37)	(US 83 & ND 37)	Corrective Action

V2 (which was passing V1 at the time).	Ctrer		×		<u> </u>	¥ &	South	Motorcycle	<u></u>			-					
V1's left front tire came loose, and rolled into			,		=	2	S.	Dickup - Van - Hilliau			×	5-11 PM	Sat	6/11/2005	163.100	8	104436
V1 was pulling two trailers. The end trailer broke free on icy road, went into the east ditch, and rolled over.	Separation of Units	×			<u> </u>	47	North	Pickup - Van - Utility	lce/Sno		×	7:30 AM	Mon .	10/18/2004	162.200 1	83	92412
No narrative available.	Overtum / Rollover	×	<u></u>			17	South	Passenger Car	Dry		×	11:35 AM	Fri	8/1/2001	161.800	83	27816
No narrative available.	Fire / Explosion	×			<u>s</u>	24	South	Truck Tractor	ру		×	1:05 PM	Mon	6/17/2002	161.650	83	46162
V1's hood blew off and hit the windshield and roof. It was discovered the hood had a defective latch.	Other	×			2	39	North	Passenger Car	Dıy		×	11:10 AM	F.	4/2/2004	161.400	83	82900
D1 swerved into the median to evoid a deer. V1 slid sideways in the median, and V1 rolled over when its tires caught the snow.	Overturn / Rollover	×			<u>s</u>	19	South	Passenger Car	Dıy	×		11:15 PM	Sat	161.300 11/18/2006	161.300	8	131861
No narrative available.	Jackknife	×			3	38	North	Truck Tractor	Wet		×	2:20 PM	Wed	6/12/2002	161.300	83	46104
No narrative available.	Ran Off Roadway	×	 		П	49	South	Passenger Car	lce/Smo		×	11:25 AM	Tue	1/9/2001	161.090	83	21685
Strong winds and icy roads. D1 was travelling -60mph and lost control of veh on icy road. V1 spun into the median and rolled over.	Overtum / Rollover	×			3	39	North	Pickup - Van - Utility	ice/Sno	×		9:52 PM	Set	3/6/2004	161.050	83	81148
V1's tire blew, causing V1 to dirch and roll over into a sko	Overturn / Rollover		×		3	51	South	3+ Axle	Dry		×	1:35 PM	Wed	6/7/2006	161.000	83	122902
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23 USC § 409 Documents NDDOT Reserves All Objections

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23 USC § 409 Decuments NDDOT Reserves All Objections

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D1 swerved to avoid a large animal (possibly a moose), went into the east ditch, and struck a delineator post	V1 drifted off the west edge of the roadway and went into the west ditch.	D1 lost control of veh while swatting at a bee in the veh. V1 went out of control, rolled over on the roadway, and rolled into the west ditch.	D1 lost control of veh on black ice, spun into the median, and rolled over.	Freezing rain. D1 lost control of veh on icy road and slid into the median.	D1 tost control of veh on icy road. V1 slid into the west ditch, hit a delineator post, and hit a fence.		D1 was travelling ~65mph (with cruise control on) and lost control of veh on a patch of ice. V1 spun into the median, rolled over, and came to rest in the NB driving lane.	D1 reached down to grab a CD, drifted off west edge of roadway, overcorrected to left, went back onto road, overcorrected to right, went into the west ditch, overcorrected to left, and V1's bumper dug into the side of the ditch.		No narrative available.
	Possible Rumble Strips or Stripes Possible Wider Shoulder					Possible Wider Shoulder		Possible Rumble Strips or Stripes Possible Wider Shoulder		Corrective Action (manaction of Crash):

23 USC § 439 Documents NDDOT Reserves All Objections

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NO HELIAUVE AVAINADIE.		No namative available.	V2 passed V1, attempted to change back into the driving lane, and lost control of veh on ky road. V2 spun and was hit in the right rear bumper by V1.	D1 fell asleep white driving, went into the west ditch, and hit a cement post (which is part of the cemetary fence).	D1 lost control of veh while going up a hill, went into the west ditch, hit a cemetery fence, and hit a tree.	When a semi passed V1, D1 fost control of veh due to turbulence. D1 went into the west dirch, overcorrected to left, went back onto the road, overcorrected to right, and rolled over into the west dirch.	While V1 was attempting to pass V2, V1's trailer fishtailed and sideswiped V2.	No narrative available.	D1 was distracted, drifted into the median, overcorrected to right, crossed the roadway, and rolled into the east ditch.	では、おからのは、ないのでは、これでは、これでは、これでは、これでは、これでは、これでは、これでは、これ
	Possible Rumble Strips or Stripes			Possible Rumble Strips or Stripes		Possible Wider Shoulder				(Friammedian of Crash):

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	D1 was travelling ~60mph end lost control of veh on snow-covered roadway. V1 slid into the west ditch and was partially submerged in a slough.	Black Ide. While V2 was attempting to pass V1, D1 lost control of veh on idy curve/hill, and sideswiped V2.	No narrative avaitable.	D1 (DUI) went off the west edge of the roadway, struck a delineator post, and came to rest partially in a slough.	Witness stated V1 swerved right, then overcorrected left, spun into the median, and rolled over (across the NB roadway, and into the east ditch). D1 was belted, but was partially ejected.	V1 dropped off the west edge of the roadway. D1 attempted to drive back onto the roadway, but V1 and trailer (8500 gallons of gasoline) overturned and started on fire. D1 was unable to escape the fire.	No narrative available.	Freezing drizzle. D1 lost control of veh on icy mad, slid into the west ditch, went over an approach (for a missile site), and hit a stop sign.	V1 hit something that was on the road and went into the west ditch.	NO RATTRIVE AVSIIBME.	CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
				Possible Rumble Strips or Stripes Possible Wider Shoulder		Possible Rumble Strips or Stripes Possible Wider Shoulder		(US 83 & Missie Site)			Correction of Constitution

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(US 83 & ND 53)		-																
	was hit by V1 (NB).			_		<u> </u>	East	Pickup - Van - Utility										_
	D2 stated he could not see due to sun glare, attempted to cross the US 83 NB lanes, and	Angle	<u>×</u>			78 M	North	Passenger Car	D _N		×	8:40 AM	Wed	171.616 10/11/2006	171.616	83	128369	
(US 83 & ND 53)			\vdash			-												_
						47 M	East	Pickup - Van - Utility										
	Inch and was hit by V1 (NB).	Angle	×			57 M	North	Passenger Car	Diy		×	1:30 PM	¥ec	11/16/2005	171.616	83	111842	_ 1
(US 83 & NO 53)						¥ <u>≤</u>	East	Passenger Car		· «								
	D2 (EB) did not see V1, attempted to cross US 83 NB lanes, and was hit by V1 (NB).	Angle	×			79 M	North	Pickup - Van - Utility	να		×	12:10 PM	Sat	12/4/2004	171.616	83	93997	
(US 83 & ND 53)					×	45 ≤	West	Passenger Car				·						
	D2 (VB, had been drinking) ran stop sign and was hit by V1 (NB).	Angle		×		<u>4</u>		Pickup - Van - Utility	Dny		×	7:05 PM	Tue	7/6/2004	171.616	83	85921	
(US 83 & ND 53)						# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #	North	Passenger Car										
	V2 was in the NB feft turn lane and was hit by V1 (EB).	Angle	×			31	East	Pickup - Van - Utlity	ργ		×	8:05 AM	Sat	5/3/2003	171.616	83	63071	
(US 83 & ND 53)						20 M	West	Pickup - Van - Utility										
	No naπative available.	Angle	×		•	25 M	South	Passenger Car	Dη		×	7:05 PM	Sun	5/26/2002	171.616	83	45084	٦
(US 83 & ND 53)						74 M	North 7	Passenger Car			i	•						
	No narrative available.	Angle	<u>×</u>			43 M	East 4	Pickup - Van - Utility	Dry		×	2:50 PM	뒢	5/9/2002	171.616	83	44383	
(US 83 & ND 53)						43 ≤	South	Pickup - Van - Utility		···-								
	No narrative available.	Angle	×			- F	West	Passenger Car	рıу		×	5:00 PM	Mon	8/6/2001	171.616	83	30742	
	V2 was in the passing lane. When D1 (in the driving lane) attempted to pass V2, V2 began drifting towards the driving lane. D1 swerved right to avoid a sideswipe crash, then overcorrected to left (to avoid going into ditch), and lost control of veh. V1 slid through the median, and came to rest on the S8 lanes.	Ran Off Roadway	×			51 F	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	Passenger Car	νο		×	11:30 AM	Set	171.500 10/27/2007	71.500	83	148568	ے ۔
	into the east ditch, and rolled over.	Overtum / Rollover	×		2	38 F	Nor#	Pickup - Van - Utility	Dŋy	×		1:26 AM	Fri	10/14/2005	171.400 1	83 1	110680	
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Crash Summary 1/1/2001 - 7/31/2008 Hwy: 83 R/P: 159.621 (ND 37) to 173.0

(US 83 & Flower St)			_						-					L	_	
	see any traffic, attempted to cross the US 83 SB lanes, and was hit by V1 (SB).				42	West	Passenger Car				. <u>-</u> .					
	D2 was NB, made a left turn into the median, stopped at the stop sign (facing VVB), did not	Angle	×	<u>Z</u>	20	South	Passenger Car	Dıy	•	×	11:16 AM	Mon	4/9/2007	172.000	<u>ڇ</u>	138296
(US 83 & Flower SI)							,									
	lanes and was hit by V1 (NB).	Angle	×	π <u>Σ</u>	78 43	North	Truck Tractor	Dry		×	7:15 PM	Sun	5/11/2003	172.000	<u>æ</u>	63612
(US 83 & Flower St)	77 (50)			+											\perp	
				 Π	85	South	Passenger Car									
	No Namative Avadable.	Rear End	×	Σ_	71	East	Passenger Car	Dıy	-	×	12:10 PM	F .	6/14/2002	172.000	83	46008
(US 83 & Flower St)				_								-				
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	Trailer separated from V1 and rolled onto its side.	Separation of Units	×	 	42	South	Pickup - Van - Utility	Dıy		×	4:38 PM	 쿹	7/3/2008	171.800	83	162761
·	loy road with strong cross wind. O't lost control of veh on key road, fishtailed, spun into the median, and rolled over:	Overtum / Rollover	×	 2	30	South	Pickup - Van - Utility	lce/Sno	×		1:37 AM	S	1/23/2005	171.800	8	98306
	D2 had turned onto NB US 83 at the ND 53 intersection and was in the passing lane. A semi (in the driving lane) passed V2 and created snow fog. D1 (NB) had been thinking about passing the semi, did not see V2 in the snow fog, and rear-ended V2.	Rear End	×	 2 2	69 47	North North	Passenger Car Passenger Car	Snow		×	12:00 PM	Tue	1/28/2003	171.700	83	58835
	D1 was travelling ~60mph and lost control of treater while going over an icy viaduct. V1 and treater continued south of the viaduct, went into the west ditch, and rolled over.	Overtum / Rollover	×		70	South	Pickup - Van - Utility	Snow		×	8:27 AM	Sun	171.700 10/27/2002	71.700	8	52614
(US 83 & ND 53)				 7	8	West	Passenger Car									
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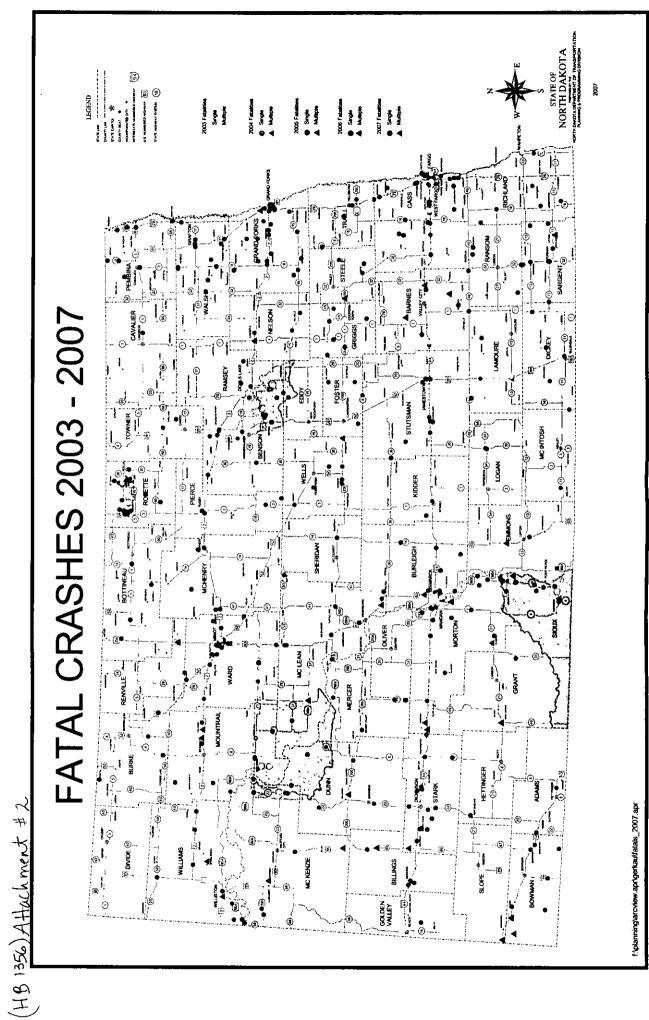
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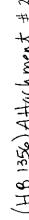
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					Overtum / Rollover	Overtum / Rollover	Ran off Roadway	Rear End	COMPLETE STATES
					D1 reached down to grab a CD, drifted into the median, overcorrected to the right, went back onto the roadway, rolled over, and rolled into the west ditch.	D1 lost control of veh on icy road, slid into the median, and rolled over.	ley road and strong wind. D1 lost control of veh on key road, slid into the median, and struck a 65mph speed limit sign.	O1 was travelling ~50-55mph in the passing lane, reached down to grab a soda that had fallen, and rear-ended V2 (which was travelling ~45mph in the passing tane).	COLLEGE
į					Possible Rumble Strips or Stripes Possible Wider Shoulder			(a) Company of the Co	Consultation of the second

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Attach ment # 3

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE January 22, 2009 9:00 a.m. – Fort Totten Room

North Dakota Department of Transportation Grant Levi, P.E., Deputy Director for Engineering

HB 1356

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Grant Levi, Deputy Director for Engineering for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to oppose HB 1356.

The Department is responsible for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, preservation, and maintenance of the 8,511 roadway miles on the state highway system. A combination of factors is used in selecting projects including: system condition, maintenance costs, roadway capacity, preservation needs, safety, and public input. The final selection of projects makes up the annual Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

As the department develops the STIP, we work hard to ensure the resources made available to the department maximize the expenditures of state funds and allow the department to provide a transportation system that safely moves people and goods. In addition to safety, the department selects projects that will help improve the state highway system's ride quality and load carrying capacity. Even in periods of high inflation, this approach of selecting projects has resulted in maintaining the ride quality and load carrying capacity on the state's roadways. This was accomplished because the department focused the investments on pavement preservation projects. While we have not reached the department's system condition goals and construction inflation is starting to result in additional pavement distress: we believe our strategies are in the best interest of the state of North Dakota.

By using the STIP process we have already programmed a project for the segment of US 83 referenced in HB 1356. We completed the environmental document for the southbound segment of US 83 from Junction ND 37 north to 0.6 mile North of Max. We are working to have the project ready for Economic Recovery funds if they become available this year. If the Economic Recovery dollars become available and the project design and environmental permits can be completed, we will start construction this summer. If for some reason the economic recovery funds do not become available or federal requirement can't be met, then the project will be constructed in 2010 with a follow on paving project in 2011.

Even though we already have the project referenced in the bill programmed, we oppose HB 1356. We already have a process that we believe is in the best interest of the state. Establishing project priorities by statute diminishes the departments' ability to manage the state highway system.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.