



We and others recognize a significant need for improved access to recreational, tourist and historic sites across North Dakota. Recent economic growth has increased the use of these sites creating further deterioration of already poor access conditions. Since limited or no local funds are available we request consideration of the following:

Study Report – Budget Proposal

Funds shall be allocated to the ND Department of Commerce in the amount of **\$150,000** to complete a study report to define the needs of, economic values of, and methods to improve access roadways to recreational, tourist and historic sites in North Dakota. This study to focus on designated or named public or privately developed recreational areas, potential funding requirements through the special road fund or other appropriate funding methods for the identified access roadway improvements and the ability of the local governmental entities to operate and maintain these improvements when completed. The study results shall be utilized to validate the need and justify future state expenditures for the above noted purposes; and be available for use in budgeting for the 2015-2017 biennium. *This is similar to language contained in CR 3032 and complies with its purpose.*

Special Roads Funding Appropriation

1. **SECTION X. APPROPRIATION.** There is to be appropriated monies, the sum of **\$20,000,000** into the special road fund, established under NDCC 24-02-37 (3). These funds to be utilized for the purpose of constructing roadway improvements to recreational, tourist and historic sites in North Dakota. These funds are to be held and accounted for separately from other special road fund monies. These funds shall be distributed on a ninety percent, ten percent basis with the local roadway authority and or other private sources paying the ten percent share. These percentages shall apply to and be inclusive of all project costs. Any federal funds made available for such projects shall be first used to off-set the local roadway authority costs and then state expenditures. Any monies not obligated by the special road committee by June thirtieth 2017 must revert to the general fund.
2. **SPECIAL ROADS FUND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.** For the purpose of reviewing applications and approving the expenditure of the these funds the Special roads committee, established under NDCC 24-02-37.2 shall be expanded to include a representative from the North Dakota Department of Commerce and the North Dakota State Historical Society.