

Transportation Committee

September 21, 2011

Roughrider Room, State Capitol

North Dakota Department of Transportation

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E., Director

Special Road Fund

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I'm Francis Ziegler, Director of the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT). I will discuss the Special Road Fund as requested by the committee.

Special Road Fund information

Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code §§24-02-37 and 24-02-37.2, the DOT, upon request by a city, county, or other state agency, will participate in the cost of constructing and the maintenance of access roads to and roads within recreational, tourist, and historical areas.

The Special Road Fund (SRF) program is a grant program to help finance road projects. Depending upon the proposed project's location, the application must be sponsored by either a county, a city with a population more than 5,000 or a state agency.

- A Special Road Fund committee consisting of one member of the senate and one member of the house of representatives, the director of the game and fish department, the director of the parks and recreation department and the director of the department of transportation review and approve the grants.
- Eighty percent of the interest derived from the interest-bearing account established for the state highway fund is deposited into the Special Road Fund. (The 2009 Legislature increased the percentage from 40% to 80%.)
- Recent interest rates are very low, which results in small amounts of monies entering the SRF account.
- The maximum award per project is \$250,000.
- Funds for this year's projects will come from the amount of funds that are presently available plus the projected earnings through 2011.

Present amount of available SRF funds	\$154,956.69
<u>Projected earnings for 2011</u>	<u>\$180,000.00</u>
Amount available for award	\$334,956.69

- Timeline for program:
 - September - Solicitation of applications begins
 - December - Applications are due December 16, 2011
 - March/April 2012 - SRF Committee meets to select projects
 - April - Applicants are notified of results

This concludes my testimony, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee today.