

**SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**January 8, 2020 - 9:30 a.m. – Fort Totten Room**

**North Dakota Department of Transportation**  
**Chad M. Orn, P.E., Director of Project Development**

**SB 2111**

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Good morning Chairman and members of the committee. I am Chad Orn, Director of Project Development for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT). I am here to provide information related to SB 2111.

Senate Bill 2111 is being introduced by the Department of Transportation and would allow the director to lease space on department owned radio towers or department owned land the towers are located on to public or private entities. Funds acquired from the lease agreements would be deposited into the State Highway Fund.

Since 1962, the DOT has constructed and operated a highway maintenance radio network, using state highway maintenance funds (NDCC 24-03-22). Currently, the DOT maintains 45 radio sites throughout the state. Each site has two, complete separate VHF (very high frequency) radio networks, one used by the DOT for daily operations on the state highway system and the other operated by the Department of Emergency Services 911 services operated by the Division of State Radio.

For years, the DOT has allowed both federal and state public safety entities to lease space on selected towers for their daily operations (NDCC 24-02-45). This proposed addition to the century code would give the DOT flexibility on establishing new and innovated technologies for future transportation initiatives with public or private entities. This addition would align with the State Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN) for sustainable future maintenance and operations.

This concludes my testimony. I am willing to answer any questions you might have.  
Thank You.