

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Matt Linneman, Deputy Director for Engineering for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT). I'm here to provide information on House Bill 1475.

House Bill 1475 proposes to increase the speed limit on the interstate system to 80 mph. The NDDOT has done a preliminary engineering review of the interstate for potential geometric design and feature related concerns related to the proposed increased speed limit. The attached map displays areas of little concern (solid green), areas of additional analysis needed (yellow) and areas that will likely need a reduced (less than 80 mph) speed limit (red).

Upon passage of this bill it would be the NDDOTs intent to simply replace the 75 mph signs on the interstate with 80 mph signs. There are areas of the interstate that currently have reduced speed limits, and those would likely remain at a reduced speed. There may also be areas that cannot safely support an increase to 80 mph (at a minimum the areas in red on the map). In these areas an engineering analysis will be performed to determine the appropriate speed limit.

The NDDOT also supports the amendment proposed by the North Dakota Highway Patrol to include a 40-mph minimum speed on the interstate. This will help to mitigate the unsafe driving conditions caused by large speed differentials on the interstate.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.

Curves Not Meeting Current AASHTO Design Standards for 80 mph Reconstruction

- 24 vertical curves that will be updated in the next few years with programmed reconstruction projects
- 320 vertical curves that do not fall within the limits of programmed reconstruction projects
- ▲ 21 horizontal curves
- ▬ Speed reduced in urban areas due to increase in ramp traffic

Note: Nearly all guardrail locations meet the length of need and clear zone values for 80 mph for both Interstate 94 and Interstate 29

