

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation committee. My name is Mike Blessum. I am a Minot resident and sitting alderman on the Minot City Council. I'd like to give you my perspectives on HB1050 and ask you for a do not pass recommendation. These thoughts are mine and are not the official positions of the City of Minot or other council members.

License Plate Reader (LPR) technology came to my attention during the 2025 budget process for the City of Minot. The Minot Police Chief stated his desire to deploy the technology to aid in various law enforcement activities. This was reiterated by a department Captain during a tour of our central dispatch center. My initial concern with the privacy aspects of the technology was increased when I learned that PD investigators could access the data with nothing more than an open case file in their tracking systems. No warrant, no court order, just an investigator opening a case.

I am not a constitutional lawyer, but I believe that there are various constitutional issues with LPR technology.

- The fourth amendment prohibits tracking movements without a warrant or probable cause. Public roads are not inherently private, but tracking movements in this detailed way undermines citizens' reasonable expectation of privacy.
- The first amendment prohibits monitoring that would systematically track individuals attending protests, religious gatherings, or other lawful assemblies. The chilling effect of this type of monitoring on lawful gatherings should worry us all.
- Disproportional implementation of LPR systems could lead to discriminatory practices if the systems are used more often in minority or low income neighborhoods or communities.

From a personal perspective – over the years I have had family members that may have been on the radar of law enforcement for various reasons. I would hate to think that something as simple as a random break in or other crime in our community could be enough grounds for law enforcement to look into the

movements of my family members in case they could somehow be tied to the crime.

Our law enforcement community has many talented investigators that do wonderful work every day. I certainly understand the advantages of this technology to solving crimes, but we have many protections in place throughout the law to make sure that freedom trumps the supposed safety.

My opinion is that LPR technology should be outlawed in the state of North Dakota. If you believe they are necessary, I would urge you to put safeguards in place like many other states have.

I would ask you to return a do not pass recommendation on HB1050 and consider steps to regulate or outlaw their use.

Thank you for your consideration. I would stand for any questions.

Alderman Mike Blessum – Minot City Council

[mblessum@min.midco.net](mailto:mblessum@min.midco.net)

701-818-2000