

Good morning, Chair and members of the Committee. I'm Matt Linneman, deputy director for engineering for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to introduce and provide supportive testimony related to HB 1052.

This bill will update the language in North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 39-13-09 clarifying where Tourism-Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) may be placed. TODS are signs that display the business identification and directional information for eligible business, services, and activity facilities.

The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is the guide for all signing and traffic control for all streets and highways. The MUTCD is formally adopted by the department under NDCC Section 39-13-06. The MUTCD provides direction on the requirements and permissible use for the TODS program.

When the TODS program was started these signs were allowed in urban areas. Recent changes to the MUTCD now state they are not allowed to be installed on conventional roads in urban or urbanized areas or on the freeway or expressway main roadways or ramps. The proposed bill aligns NDCC with the MUTCD.

Additionally, the MUTCD now allows for the use of logos on tourist oriented directional signs. The NDDOT is proposing an amendment to the bill to strike out the language at the end of Section 2 of NDCC 39-13-09 which states: "except that the rules must provide that logos may not be used on tourist-oriented direction signs." This would further align NDCC with the MUTCD.

The NDDOT recommends a "do pass" on HB 1052. This concludes my testimony. Thank you.