

**Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute  
Budget No. 627  
Senate Bill Nos. 2018, 2020, House Bill No. 1050**

	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2005-07 executive budget (bills as introduced)	48.50	\$501,045	\$15,263,028	\$15,764,073
<b>2005-07 legislative appropriations</b>	<b>48.50</b>	<b>1,162,904</b>	<b>15,290,033</b>	<b>16,452,937</b>
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	0.00	\$661,859	\$27,005	\$688,864
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2003-05 appropriations	7.00 <sup>1</sup>	\$679,805	\$4,928,382	\$5,608,187

<sup>1</sup>The 2003-05 appropriation was based on 31.5 FTE positions. Section 4 of House Bill No. 1021 (2003) authorizes the State Board of Higher Education to adjust FTE positions as needed. A total of 10 FTE positions were added pursuant to this section and reported to the Office of Management and Budget.

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS**

**Salaries and Wages**

The legislative action affecting the recommended appropriation for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute is in accordance with legislative salary and fringe benefits guidelines as contained in House Bill No. 1050.

	<b>Major Items FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
The legislative action:				
Added funding for state employee salary increases		\$1,481	\$32,966	\$34,447
Reduced funding recommended in the executive budget for state employee health insurance premiums from \$559.15 to \$553.95 per month per policy		(154)	(5,961)	(6,115)
Added funding to meet the required state funded budget guidelines for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute to qualify as a regional university transportation center		300,532		300,532
Added funding to Senate Bill No. 2018, the appropriations bill for the Department of Commerce, for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute to perform a transportation study of how improvements to the transportation infrastructure of this state might enhance the business climate and the state's competitive position in economic development (see <b>Related Legislation</b> below)		360,000		360,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$661,859</b>	<b>\$27,005</b>	<b>\$688,864</b>

### **FTE Changes**

The 2003-05 appropriation is based on 31.5 FTE positions authorized by the 2003 Legislative Assembly. Section 4 of 2003 House Bill No. 1021 authorizes the State Board of Higher Education to adjust FTE positions as needed. A total of 10 FTE positions were added pursuant to this section, increasing the total authorized positions to 41.50 FTEs. The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to add 7 FTE positions from new and increases in existing federal grants.

### **Other Sections in Bill**

**Additional income appropriation** - Section 4 appropriates any additional funds, including federal funds, grants, gifts, and donations received by the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, NDSU Extension Service, Northern Crops Institute, and Agricultural Experiment Station (branch research centers, Main Research Center, and Agronomy Seed Farm) for the purpose designated in the act, grant, or donation for the 2005-07 biennium.

**FTE adjustments** - Section 6 authorizes the State Board of Higher Education to adjust or increase full-time equivalent positions for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, NDSU Extension Service, Northern Crops Institute, and Agricultural Experiment Station during the 2005-07 biennium.

**Carryover authority** - Section 7 authorizes the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, NDSU Extension Service, Northern Crops Institute, and Agricultural Experiment Station to retain, beyond the close of the 2005-07 biennium, any unspent general fund money appropriated to or excess income received by the agency during the 2005-07 biennium.

**Mountain-Plains Consortium** - The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to increase the grants line item and federal funds spending authority by \$1,290,000 for the Mountain-Plains Consortium which is a four-university consortium for the development of a transportation education, research, technology transfer, and service program. North Dakota State University is the lead university for the consortium and the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute provides the administrative and fiscal services for the program.

### **Related Legislation**

**Transportation study** - Section 23 of Senate Bill No. 2032 directs the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute to conduct a study and provide a report to the Legislative Council regarding how improvements to the state's transportation infrastructure might enhance the business climate and provide for economic development. The study is to focus on:

- The potential to expand the sale of goods to markets outside the state by strengthening the state's transportation infrastructure.
- How to improve the load-carrying limits of the state's highways.
- What enhancements must be made to the state's highways to allow load limits to be raised to more efficiently move goods to market.
- Exploration of the phenomenon of the decline of freight service by rail, including the prospects for offering incentives to rail providers to expand the availability of rail for transportation of goods to market.
- Recommendations on how to enhance the state's transportation infrastructure.
- Whether it is feasible to identify and assist airports that are specially situated in order to assist in economic development.
- An analysis of the projected economic development impacts associated with the recommended infrastructure improvements.