

**2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 1053**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Transportation Committee**  
Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1053  
1/10/2025

The length of the state highway system
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10:28 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Hendrix, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz

**Discussion Topics:**

- State Mile Limitations

10:28 a.m. Ron Henke, Director, ND Department of Transportation, testified in favor and submitted testimony #28119.

10:42 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing.

*Joseph Reed, Committee Clerk*



**Senate Bill No. 1053**  
**Senate Transportation Committee**  
Room 327E | Jan. 10, 2025, 10 a.m.  
Ronald J. Henke, Director

Greetings, Chairperson and members of the Committee. I'm Ron Henke, director of the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to introduce and provide supportive testimony for SB 1053.

Senate Bill 1053 repeals section 24-01-01.2, which sets limits on the total mileage of the state-owned transportation system. The reason for this change is due to the significant confusion caused by this statute. Currently, the size of the state system is limited to the lesser of 7,700 miles or 7% of the total publicly owned road miles in North Dakota.

Due to the uses and sources of the information, there are at least three ways the total miles of publicly owned roads can be computed with an additional three ways each of those could be measured.

The three calculation methods are driven by federal regulations, by state tax distribution and local reporting regulations, and by historical precedence used to comply with section 24-01-01.2 which was originally enacted in 1927 and last modified in 1933 to include the 7,700-mile limit. Using anything other than the nearly 100-year-old precedence method would result in the state highway system being non-compliant with this statute, because the total mileage of reported public roads would become small enough that the state system would exceed 7% of the total. However, using this method means our information conflicts with locally and federally reported information.

To add to the confusion, road mileage can be measured based on the length of the right of way centerline, on the number of roadways for divided highways, or on the number of lanes. As a result, the potential confusion and outdated nature of this section becomes apparent.

NDDOT is already encouraged to limit the miles we add to the state system. Section 24-01-02 limits the number of new state highway system miles to 50 per calendar year. This bill would not change that limitation.

Section 24-01-01.2 adds confusion and is outdated. Therefore, NDDOT requests a "do pass" vote on this bill to repeal it.

The NDDOT recommends a "do pass" on SB 1053. This concludes my testimony. Thank you.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Transportation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1053  
1/10/2025

The length of the state highway system
----------------------------------------

11:39 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing on HB 1053.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chair Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-Deville, Frelich, Hendrix, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz

### Discussion Topics:

- State Highway Miles
- State Highway Percentage Caps

11:40 a.m. Representative Koppelman moved to amend LC #25.8041.01001.

11:40 a.m. Representative Frelich seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

Motion Carried 14-0-0

11:46 a.m. Representative Koppelman moved a Do Pass as Amended.

11:46 a.m. Representative Frelich seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y

Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

11:47 a.m. Motion passed 14-0-0.

11:47 a.m. Representative Dressler will carry the bill.

11:48 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby adjourned the meeting.

*Joseph Reed, Committee Clerk*

January 10, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1053**

Introduced by

Transportation Committee

(At the request of the Department of Transportation)

1 A BILL for an Act to ~~repeal~~ amend and reenact section 24-01-01.2 of the North Dakota Century  
2 Code, relating to the length of the state highway system.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 ~~**SECTION 1. REPEAL.** Section 24-01-01.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.~~

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 24-01-01.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **24-01-01.2. State highway system - Mileage.**

8 The state highway system may not exceed ~~seven percent of the entire road mileage of the~~  
9 ~~state, whether such roads are township, county, or state roads, which may be functionally~~  
10 ~~classified as to service, and in no case may such highway system exceed~~ seven thousand  
11 seven hundred miles [12391.95 kilometers] in length.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
HB 1053**

**Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.8041.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1053 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

**2025 SENATE TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 1053**



# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1053  
2/13/2025

Relating to the length of the state highway system.
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9:29 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

### Discussion Topics:

- Current length of state highway system
- Current state highway limitations for NDDOT
- Amendment to remove 7,700 mile state highway limitation

9:29 a.m. Ron Henke, Director, NDDOT, testified in favor and submitted testimony #37449.

9:44 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

9:47 a.m. Senator Hogan moved to adopt amendment LC#25.8041.02001.

9:47 a.m. Senator Rummel seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	N
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 5-1-0.

9:47 a.m. Senator Hogan moved a Do Pass as Amended.

9:47 a.m. Senator Rummel seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	N
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Senate Transportation Committee  
HB 1053  
February 13, 2025  
Page 2

Motion passed 5-1-0.

Senator Hogan will carry the bill.

9:48 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

*Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk*

February 13, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

2/13/25  
1061

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1053**

Introduced by

Transportation Committee

(At the request of the Department of Transportation)

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact section 24-01-01.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~  
2 ~~relating to the length of the state highway system.~~ for an Act to repeal section 24-01-01.2 of the  
3 North Dakota Century Code, relating to the length of the state highway system.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 ~~—SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.~~ Section 24-01-01.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

7 ~~—24-01-01.2. State highway system— Mileage.~~

8 ~~—The state highway system may not exceed seven percent of the entire road mileage of the~~  
9 ~~state, whether such roads are township, county, or state roads, which may be functionally~~  
10 ~~classified as to service, and in no case may such highway system exceed seven thousand~~  
11 ~~seven hundred miles [12391.95 kilometers] in length.~~

12 **SECTION 1. REPEAL.** Section 24-01-01.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED HB 1053**

**Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.8041.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1053 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**House Bill No. 1053****Senate Transportation Committee**

Fort Totten Room | Feb. 13, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Ronald J. Henke, Director

Greetings, Chairperson and members of the Committee. I'm Ron Henke, director of the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I'm here to introduce and provide supportive testimony for HB 1053.

Before HB 1053 was amended by the House Transportation Committee, it repealed section 24-01-01.2 in its entirety which sets limits on the total mileage of the state-owned transportation system. The reason for this change was due to the significant confusion caused by this statute. Currently, the size of the state system is limited to the lesser of 7,700 miles or 7% of the total publicly owned road miles in North Dakota.

Due to the uses and sources of the information, there are at least three ways the total miles of publicly owned roads can be computed with an additional three ways each of those could be measured.

The three calculation methods are driven by federal regulations, by state tax distribution and local reporting regulations, and by historical precedence used to comply with section 24-01-01.2 which was originally enacted in 1927 and last modified in 1933 to include the 7,700-mile limit. Using anything other than the nearly 100-year-old precedence method would result in the state highway system being non-compliant with this statute, because the total mileage of reported public roads would become small enough that the state system would exceed 7% of the total. However, using this method means our information conflicts with locally and federally reported information.

To add to the confusion, road mileage can be measured based on the length of the right of way centerline, the number of roadways for divided highways, or the number of lanes. As a result, the potential confusion and outdated nature of this section becomes apparent.

NDDOT is already encouraged to limit the miles we add to the state system. Section 24-01-02 limits the number of new state highway system miles to 50 per calendar year. This bill would not change that limitation.

Although HB 1053 as adopted by the House leaves the stipulation that the state highway system may not exceed the 7,700-mile limit, it eliminates the language of section 24-01-01.2 that was the most confusing and outdated. Therefore, NDDOT requests a "do pass" vote on this bill as amended by the House. This concludes my testimony. Thank you.

**2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**HB 1053**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Transportation Committee**  
Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1053  
4/3/2025  
Conference Committee

Relating to the length of the state highway system.
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5:00 p.m. Chairman Dressler called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Dressler, Representatives Johnston, Frelich; Madam Chair Hogan, Senators Rummel, Cory

**Discussion Topics:**

- State highway system
- Original century code written in 1933
- Appropriations
- Road miles

5:01 p.m. Madam Chair Hogan explained the changes that the Senate applied to the bill.

5:09 p.m. Ron Henke, Director, ND Department of Transportation, stood for questions.

5:18 p.m. Representative Frelich moved that the Senate rejects the amendment LC#25.0841.2001.

5:18 p.m. Representative Johnston seconded the motion.

5:19 p.m. Motion failed 4-2-0

5:19 p.m. Chairman Dressler adjourned the meeting.

*Joseph Reed, Committee Clerk for Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk*

# Committee Vote Details

## Final Recommendation

**HB 1053**  
**Date Submitted:** April 3, 2025, 5:18 p.m.  
**Recommendation:** Reject  
**Amendment LC #:** 25.8041.02001  
**Engrossed LC #:** N/A  
**Description:**  
**Motioned By:** Frelich, Kathy  
**Seconded By:** Johnston, Daniel  
**House Carrier:** N/A  
**Senate Carrier:** N/A  
**Emergency Clause:** None  
**Vote Results:** 4 - 2 - 0

Rep. Dressler, Ty	YEA
Rep. Johnston, Daniel	YEA
Rep. Frelich, Kathy	YEA
Sen. Hogan, Kathy	NAY
Sen. Rummel, Dean	NAY
Sen. Cory, Claire	YEA



# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Transportation Committee**  
Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1053  
4/10/2025  
Conference Committee

Relating to the length of the state highway system.
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3:59 p.m. Chairman Dressler called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Dressler, Representatives Johnston, Frelich; Madam Chair Hogan, Senators Rummel, Cory

**Discussion Topics:**

- Highway miles cap

4:01 p.m. Madam Chair Hogan moved that the Senate rejects its amendment LC#25.8041.02001.

4:01 p.m. Representative Johnston seconded the motion.

4:04 p.m. Motion passed 6-0-0.

4:04 p.m. Chairman Dressler will carry the bill.

4:04 p.m. Madam Chair Hogan will carry the bill.

4:04 p.m. Chairman Dressler adjourned the meeting.

*Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk*

# Committee Vote Details

## Final Recommendation

**HB 1053**  
**Date Submitted:** April 10, 2025, 4:03 p.m.  
**Recommendation:** Reject  
**Amendment LC #:** 25.8041.02001  
**Engrossed LC #:** N/A  
**Description:**  
**Motioned By:** Hogan, Kathy  
**Seconded By:** Johnston, Daniel  
**House Carrier:** Dressler, Ty  
**Senate Carrier:** Hogan, Kathy  
**Emergency Clause:** None  
**Vote Results:** 6 - 0 - 0

Rep. Dressler, Ty	Yea
Rep. Johnston, Daniel	Yea
Rep. Frelich, Kathy	Yea
Sen. Hogan, Kathy	Yea
Sen. Rummel, Dean	Yea
Sen. Cory, Claire	Yea

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED HB 1053**

Your conference committee (Sens. Hogan, Rummel, Cory and Reps. Dressler, D. Johnston, Frelich) recommends the **SENATE REJECT** its amendments ([25.8041.02001](#)) to Engrossed HB 1053.

Engrossed HB 1053 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.