

Issued as of 9:30 a.m.

February 26, 2012

Media Contact:
NDDOT Communications 701-400-0278

Travel Alert lifted for western ND, remains in effect for central and eastern ND

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and North Dakota Highway Patrol have LIFTED the **Travel Alert** for western North Dakota, but it **REMAINS IN EFFECT for central and eastern North Dakota** due to heavy snow accumulations and winds creating hazardous travel conditions. Motorists should be aware they may encounter areas of blowing snow creating snow drifts, reduced visibility and snow covered roadways. Motorists are encouraged to reduce speeds and drive according to the conditions.

Cities and surrounding areas in the Travel Alert include: Minot, Bismarck, Jamestown, Valley City, Devils Lake, Grand Forks, Fargo and Wahpeton.

Winds may increase later in the day creating blowing snow and reduced visibility. Motorists should be aware of possibly encountering snow drifts at structures and sheltered areas.

A **Travel Alert** means motorists can still travel but may encounter areas of challenging winter weather driving conditions on roadways.

All travelers are encouraged to monitor road conditions, reduce traffic speeds as weather conditions occur and use caution while traveling. For road information, call 511 from any type of phone or go to the website: www.dot.nd.gov If you become stranded in your vehicle, please call 911.

NDDOT releases information to inform the public about travel conditions throughout the state. The three categories are as follows:

TRAVEL ALERT – Motorists can still travel but may encounter areas of challenging winter weather driving conditions on roadways. Motorists should allow extra time to reach their destination and be alert to conditions that may make travel difficult, change rapidly, or cause travel delays. A TRAVEL ALERT has the potential to change to a NO TRAVEL ADVISED if conditions deteriorate.

NO TRAVEL ADVISED – Motorists should not travel due to hazardous conditions which may make it unsafe to travel. Snow plows may be pulled from the roads during severe conditions. Motorists should take NO TRAVEL ADVISED seriously as those motorists who choose to travel at their own risk may become stranded and emergency responders may not be able to reach them safely. A NO TRAVEL ADVISED has the potential to change to a ROAD CLOSED OR BLOCKED if conditions deteriorate.

ROAD CLOSED OR BLOCKED – Motorists are not allowed to travel on a closed road due to life threatening conditions. The road may be impassible or blocked. Motorists who drive past a road closure device may be fined up to \$250.

###