

Burgum appoints Panos as Director of NDDOT

Governor Burgum recently appointed former Wyoming Department of Transportation director William T. Panos to lead the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Panos began his duties on Monday, September 23. Burgum cited Panos' extensive leadership experience and long history of managing major infrastructure projects and large organizations as a factor in his appointment.



William T. Panos Director

Director Panos is traveling across the state meeting with members of North Dakota's Legislative body. He is willing to travel to your District in order to accomplish this.

If you are interested in scheduling such a meeting with Director Panos, please contact Sondra at 328-2581 for scheduling options.

Panos served as Wyoming's DOT director from 2015 to 2019 and served as director of the Wyoming Department of School Facilities from 2013 to 2015. Prior to that, he served as director for the City and Port of West Sacramento, California for six years and as construction executive for the state of Washington for five years, controlling and managing over 220 large-scale construction projects annually.

"It is an honor to lead the North Dakota Department of Transportation. I appreciate Governor Burgum's confidence and the opportunity to serve the people of North Dakota," Panos said. "In this role, I look forward to improving our infrastructure, the use of innovative technology, and improving our state's economy through enhanced transportation systems."

NDDOT winter storm report

NDDOT snow fighters worked around the clock to clear snow from the recent blizzard in central and eastern North Dakota, which left more than 20 inches in the Ellendale area from December 29-30.

A mid-January storm brought more snow and challenges for the NDDOT. The crews battled high winds and several inches of snow from January 17-19 in much of the eastern portion of the state.

The mixture of heavy snow fall and high winds created potentially hazardous conditions. Portions of the interstate and several state highways were closed to help keep motorists safe.

Crews provided 24-hour coverage in the metropolitan area of Fargo to keep interstates and interchanges open for emergency vehicles to access the public hospitals, Regional VA, and international airport.



Plow operators clearing snow near Lynchburg

NDDOT Storm Stats

- **244 plow trucks**
- **30 tractors/blowers/graders**
- **257 team members working**
- **1,005 tons of salt and sand**
- **46,400 gallons of brine**

**** Moved equipment and operators from western ND to help out in the eastern part of the state.**

NDDOT announces action plan to improve Drivers License services

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) has announced a comprehensive effort called “Drive ND” to improve driver’s license customer service and reduce wait times. The “Drive ND” blueprint renovates driver services through expansion and modernization of various driver’s license operations.

“The demand for driver license services continues to grow in North Dakota due to the impending REAL ID deadline and increases in population,” says Bill Panos, NDDOT Director. “We need to act now to meet customer needs and reduce wait times. Drive ND has already improved customer service as we upgrade driver’s license processes across the state.”

Drive ND will focus on seven steps geared to improve driver’s license renewal and testing processes:

- 1. Increase staff numbers in Fargo, Bismarck and Williston.** NDDOT has hired temporary staff to reduce wait times for those seeking driver’s licenses and REAL IDs at the state’s three busiest locations.
- 2. Expand REAL ID Saturdays.** NDDOT has added more designated REAL ID Saturdays, starting in January. Customers can make appointments for REAL IDs in Fargo and Bismarck.
- 3. Relocate Fargo Driver’s License office.** In December, the Fargo Driver’s License office was relocated temporary location at Village West Mall on 13th Ave. S. in Fargo as a one year remodeling process takes place in the current building.
- 4. Work with public schools and private businesses to provide more driver’s license testing for Class D driver’s license.** This will save customers time by not having to schedule a road test with Driver’s License offices after training is complete at a public or private driving school.
- 5. Obtain additional private sector support for commercial driver’s license (CDL) testing.** NDDOT is working with private businesses that provide CDL training to include testing as part of their program. This will reduce wait times for truck driver licensing.
- 6. Modernize operations.** Review and implement additional changes to driver’s license process for faster operations throughout North Dakota.
- 7. Renovate Minot and Williston offices.** Renovate and relocate Minot and Williston Driver’s License offices to larger spaces improving customer service in those areas of the state.



Robin Rehborg

Rehborg named Deputy Director for Driver Safety

Robin Rehborg has been named the new Deputy Director for Driver Safety. She will be replacing Mark Nelson, Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicle Services, who will be retiring next month. The Office of Driver and Vehicle Services name has been changed to Driver Safety.

As Deputy Director for Driver Safety, Robin will oversee Drivers License, Motor Vehicle, Safety, State Fleet Services and Aviation Services. Robin has worked as State Fleet Services Division Director for seven years.

ND ranked #1 in cost-effectiveness

In the Reason Foundation’s 24th Annual Highway Report, North Dakota was named as the top-ranked state on performance and cost-effectiveness for the second year in a row. North Dakota’s rural and urban Interstate pavement conditions both rank in the top 10 as the state has kept its per-mile costs down and also ranked well on the Rural Interstate mileage in poor condition coming in at #9.

On the flip side, North Dakota ranks 43rd in structurally deficient bridges. This means North Dakota is in the bottom 10 of all states for structurally deficient bridges, even compared to nearby states.

* This report is based on data that states submitted to the federal government, ranks each state’s highway system in 13 different including traffic fatalities, pavement condition, congestion, spending per mile, administrative costs and more.

NDDOT launches new website

The Department of Transportation redesigned its homepage to make it more visually appealing and user friendly. The update will be live Thursday, January 16. This redesign will feature a fresh, modern look and still contain all the same great information as before. Please take some time to get familiar with the new layout, as some things may have moved.



Key changes include a user friendly interface, navigation bar with drop down menus, quick links section moved to the bottom of the page and winter travel links added to bottom of the page.

The new site is compatible with all platforms including mobile devices and tablets. To view the website, click here: <http://www.dot.nd.gov>

Miller-Bowley named Deputy Director for Administration



Terra Miller-Bowley

Terra Miller-Bowley has been named the new Deputy Director for Administration, effective December 16, replacing Mark Nelson, who served as Deputy Director for Business Support and Driver & Vehicle Services, and is retiring this month. The office of Business Support name has been changed to Administration. As Deputy Director for Administration, Terra will oversee Financial Management, Audit Services, Legal, Human Resources and Communications Divisions.

Terra has worked for NDDOT as Audit Services Division Director for two years. Prior to joining the Department, Terra was Audit Services supervisor at ND Retirement & Investment Office. Terra spent much of her early career in the property and casualty insurance industry.

Terra has a Bachelor's Degree from University of Minnesota Morris and Master's Degree from Central Michigan University, she currently holds several industry certifications including Certified Internal Auditor & Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designations.

Construction Update

Fargo

Completion of the first phase of the Main Avenue reconstruction was celebrated in October. Main Avenue operates as a three-lane arterial road with upgraded city-wide underground utilities, wider pedestrian facilities and 78 on-street parallel parking spaces were added between Red River and Broadway. A two-lane roundabout was built at Main Avenue and 2nd Street South intersection, a first of its kind in North Dakota.

Completion of the reconstruction of I-94 and Sheyenne Street interchange, along with the Sheyenne Street corridor from 13th Avenue W. to 40th Avenue W. Pedestrian connectivity is now complete with multiuse paths from 13th Avenue W. to 40th Avenue W., along with additional driving lanes from north to south in West Fargo. A pedestrian underpass was also constructed on the southside of the Sheyenne Street and 32nd Avenue W. intersection to further support the walkability of the corridor and increase safety.



State and local officials celebrate the completion of the Sheyenne Street Interchange and Corridor

New Town

NDDOT and city of New Town celebrated the completion of the Northwest Truck Reliever Route north of New Town in November. The truck route is the final portion of the truck reliever route around New Town and diverts traffic from 1804 to ND 23 west of New Town.