

Highway Tax Fund revenue income lower than projected

When preparing the Department budget for this biennium, revenue numbers were projected based on several factors, including the amount of traffic traveling through the state. While traffic numbers have decreased, including truck traffic, the numbers continue to be higher than 2010 levels. This has resulted in a decrease in revenues to the State Highway Tax Distribution Fund and the State Highway Fund. Consequently, NDDOT collections for the 2015-17 Biennium are approximately 13% behind projections. Due to the reductions in revenue, the Department has revised revenue projections based on current trends. The charts below illustrate impacts as a result of revised revenue projections.

NDDOT Revenue Changes for 2015-2017 Biennium

Revenue Source	2015-17 Enrolled	2015-17 Revised	Difference
NDDOT Share of State Highway Tax Distribution Fund	\$ 382.4 M	\$ 332.8 M	\$ 49.6 M
Other State Highway Fund Revenues	\$ 154.8 M	\$ 135.2 M	\$ 19.6 M
TOTAL	\$ 537.2 M	\$ 468.0 M	\$ 69.2 M

State Highway Tax Distribution Fund-Non State Agency Comparison

	Enrolled 15-17	Revised 15-17	Difference
County	\$137.2 M	\$119.4 M	\$17.8 M
City	\$78 M	\$67.9 M	\$10.1 M
Township	\$16.8 M	\$14.7 M	\$2.1 M
Transit	\$9.4 M	\$8.1 M	\$1.3 M

The Department is presently working on making adjustments to its budget.

Federal transportation bill passed

On December 4, 2015, the President signed into law the federal transportation bill titled: Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, or “FAST Act.” It is the first law enacted in over ten years that provides long-term funding certainty for surface transportation, meaning States and local governments can move forward with transportation projects.

Five year bill - approximate Apportionment levels

Funding	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
North Dakota*	\$251.83 M	\$257.03 M	\$262.59 M	\$268.51 M	\$274.94 M

* This is not necessarily the funding NDDOT will receive. In addition to Apportionment, we need Obligational Authority.

Federal Funding continued...

Some of the highlights from the bill are:

- Funding is predominantly distributed by formula.
- North Dakota maintained our portion of the existing formula.
- Funding is slightly higher than current levels plus adjusted for future inflation.
- Transit Funding is slightly higher than current levels plus adjusted for future inflation.
- Bill does not require states to collect inventory data on unpaved roadways.
- The 24-7 sobriety program is now considered an acceptable means of satisfying the repeat offender statute (23 USC 164) providing the state's penalty regime for repeat offenders meets statutory tests.
- Bill contains a \$7.569 Billion Rescission. This will mean a loss of about \$47 Million in Unspent Apportionment Balances to North Dakota in 2020.

The bill was funded through Offsets. The conference report transfers \$70 billion from the general fund to the Highway Trust Fund immediately: \$51.9 billion to the Highway Account and \$18.1 billion to the Mass Transit Account.

North Dakota traffic fatalities lowest in five years

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) reports that 2015 traffic fatalities are the lowest in five years. Based on preliminary crash data, 131 motor vehicle fatalities occurred in 2015, the lowest number of traffic fatalities since 2010 when there were 105.

Preliminary crash data from 2015 also shows that 35 percent of motor vehicle fatalities in 2015 were single vehicle rollovers (excludes motorcycles and ATVs). Nearly 80 percent of fatalities in the single vehicle rollovers were unbelted and nearly 70 percent of those unbelted fatalities were totally or partially ejected.

Traffic Fatality Contributing Factor	2015 ND Percentage	2014 ND Percentage
Unbelted	62%	69%
Alcohol-Related	41%	47%
Speed-Related/Too fast for conditions	28%	34%

Sitz named Business and Risk Analysis Program Manager

Linda Sitz has taken on a new role at the Department as NDDOT Business and Risk Analysis Program Manager. She has been with the Department for 8.5 years and previously served as Motor Vehicle Division Director. We recognize that many state legislators have worked with Linda on items related to Motor Vehicle. If you have any Motor Vehicle questions at this time, please contact Mark Nelson, Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicle Services at 701-328-2727.

Video shows safety tips for sharing the road with snow plows

NDDOT created a short video to provide quick reminders for travelers on how to safely share the road with snow plows during the winter. The video has received over 3,000 views on social media. Click on this link to watch the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=qW_zwbdhvk

