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**Bismarck Celebrates Completion of North Washington Street Reconstruction Project**

BISMARCK, ND – Today Bismarck Mayor Mike Seminary, Bismarck City Engineer, Gabe Schell and North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Director, Grant Levi along with other city and local government leaders joined to celebrate the dedication of the major reconstruction project along North Washington Street that converted a rural two-lane roadway to a four-lane urban roadway with trails, sidewalks and street lighting. Together, the group celebrated the completed project at a community ribbon cutting event.

Cost of the entire project which includes construction, utilities, right-of-way and engineering is approximately \$15.7 million. Construction costs were \$14.3 million of which \$10 million was funded with federal funding; the remainder of the costs were paid by the city. The project began March 30, 2016 with the majority of the work project scheduled for completion by November 16. “We’re ahead of the estimated completion date thanks to the combined efforts of the prime contractor, Northern Improvement Company of Bismarck, and their subcontractors,” said Gabe Schell, City Engineer. “We’re pleased to dedicate this important arterial route, a vital transportation corridor in our community,” said Schell. Remaining work scheduled for 2017 includes landscaping, plantings, and painting.

Bismarck Mayor Mike Seminary said the substantial completion of this project marks a major milestone in the collaborative efforts to improve the quality of life for Bismarck drivers, residents and businesses, and visitors. “We started planning for this critical transportation improvement project years ago and during that required planning process we’ve seen our city experience tremendous growth. Now, this updated corridor meets urban standards and should continue to spur economic growth by providing safe and efficient community access. We are pleased to share the important benefits of North Washington Street with the community,” he said.

“Bismarck and communities across our state have experienced impressive growth over the past several years, resulting in significant investments in infrastructure like roadways,” said Gov. Jack Dalrymple. “This new enhancement to north Washington Street will be an important asset to Bismarck, creating a safer and more expansive roadway system that will meet the community’s growing needs for many years to come.”

“Completion of this project enhances traffic flow and safety for motorists in northwest Bismarck,” said NDDOT Director Grant Levi. “The NDDOT appreciates its partnership with the city of Bismarck and leadership city officials have provided.”

Average daily traffic volume on Washington Street in 2001 was 2,700 vehicles per day. Prior to the start of the North Washington Street project, traffic volume increased to 8200 vehicles per day in 2014. By 2040 traffic volume is anticipated to be 24,200 vehicles per day, nearly triple current usage. “It was necessary to upgrade the roadway to provide additional capacity for increased traffic, to bring the roadway to current design standards, provide pedestrian facilities, and enhance safety,” said Schell.

For more information visit [www.bismarcknd.gov](http://www.bismarcknd.gov).

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