



NORTH DAKOTA'S 2050 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

JULY 2026

Fellow North Dakotans,

Transportation Connection 2050 is the update of North Dakota's Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan, the flagship plan setting the direction for our overall Family of Strategic Plans. This collaborative endeavor was led by the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and includes the perspectives of numerous stakeholders: the general public, business associations, state agencies, elected officials, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), local governments, and Tribal Nations. This Plan represents the diverse voices of North Dakotans across the state who have been involved throughout the planning process.

Transportation Connection 2050 presents our shared vision for a safe, customer-focused, and connected transportation future. This vision is driven by input shared by North Dakotans like you through pop-up events, surveys, public meetings, and more. Across the state, we heard from people of all ages, backgrounds, and outlooks about the value of current NDDOT services and what they want to see in the coming years.

NDDOT is preparing for a dynamic future by managing our strategic goal areas with a flexible framework to respond to emerging opportunities and risks. North Dakota continues toward making Vision Zero a reality on an integrated multimodal system. Modernizing and encouraging greater use of new ways to access services more efficiently, such as the online scheduling system for North Dakota's Driver and Motor Vehicle service sites, will save North Dakotans time. Maintaining roads and bridges in good condition and expanding access to safe and reliable alternative transportation modes will help easily connect North Dakotans to jobs, education, medical care, recreation, and groceries. No matter what the future holds, NDDOT is positioned to make smart and responsible investments in our transportation system to meet its mission of "Safely Moving People and Goods."

This plan sets the strategic direction for NDDOT and our planning partners to make decisions, investments, and improvements to transportation infrastructure and programs over the next 25 years. As a living document, NDDOT may periodically update *Transportation Connection 2050* to both inform and reflect other statewide planning efforts. *Transportation Connection 2050* offers a touchstone for coordination and outreach activities with state, regional, Tribal, and local partners, both public and private sector. We invite you to join NDDOT in shaping and delivering an efficient transportation system that "Safely Moves People and Goods."

Sincerely,



Ronald J. Henke, P.E.
Director, North Dakota Department of Transportation



Transportation Connection 2050 is the State of North Dakota's long-range transportation plan. It sets the stage for new and updated policies and programs, strategic investments, and improvements to our transportation system over the next 25 years. This plan fulfills all federal requirements for state long-range transportation plans, such as integrating with other transportation planning efforts throughout North Dakota.

This plan builds upon extensive collaboration with North Dakotans, across our Tribal, federal, state, regional, and local agencies, and public and private stakeholders and civic partners. Public input remains central to our process; we distributed surveys and hosted engagement events across the state to define priorities—including how transportation infrastructure and services are delivered, maintained, and funded. Through this input and coordination, we ensured our vision reflects the diverse needs and priorities of residents, businesses, and visitors statewide.

Through data-driven analysis and public input, we examined how trends such as demographic shifts, economic changes, technological innovation, and evolving travel behaviors may shape our future. This approach allows us to plan with flexibility amid the uncertainty of tomorrow. As part of the implementation effort for Transportation Connection 2050, NDDOT will establish a performance management framework that aligns with federal requirements and is informed by the needs and priorities that stakeholders shared as a part of the engagement process. This framework will use measurable goals for safety, system condition, mobility, and freight movement, along with NDDOT-led priorities for system maintenance activities and functional capacity. Regular monitoring and reporting will track these indicators over time, enabling NDDOT and its partners to adjust strategies as conditions change and to keep the plan responsive to emerging needs.

The result is a comprehensive implementation plan and an adaptive strategic framework designed to guide and shape North Dakota's transportation system through 2050. Transportation Connection 2050 serves as the foundation of NDDOT's Family of Plans, helping us thoughtfully align investments, embrace innovation, and deliver a transportation system that supports North Dakota's evolving needs.

Take a look through
Transportation
Connection and
visit our webpage
to learn more, track
our progress, and
let us know how
transportation can
connect you.

www.DOT.ND.gov

5-Year Progress Update

Transportation Connection 2045 was adopted in 2021 by NDDOT to strategically guide transportation decisions and investments through 2045. That plan provided a foundation for NDDOT to deliver and maintain a transportation system that enhances safety, connectivity, and economic vitality for all North Dakotans. This previous plan emphasized the need to maintain and preserve core infrastructure while improving flexibility and responsiveness, using a scenario planning framework of different economic and demographic outcomes to inform an array of possible transportation futures. The goals, scenarios, and strategies of Transportation Connection 2045 have been incorporated into other NDDOT planning efforts over the past five years.



I-94 at sunset near Tower City

Over the past five years, NDDOT has made numerous improvements to how we conduct our business and how the transportation system benefits North Dakota residents, businesses, and visitors. Though one life lost is too many, paramount among NDDOT's improvements are our collaborative efforts with local and regional partners, through the Vision Zero Plan, to reduce fatalities to levels not seen in more than a quarter century.

NDDOT has embraced new technologies to improve system operations.



E-Ticketing across I-94, ND-1, and US-85

Improves real-time field-to-office data flow for payment and records.



Video-based AI traffic count and classification system at 17 sites statewide

Strengthens planning, design, and maintenance decisions with higher-quality traffic data.



Traveler information and field operations tools and technologies

Provides real-time conditions and disruption alerts through camera coverage and dynamic message signs.

NDDOT's programs and plans also ensure the state's transportation infrastructure will evolve to meet the needs of a changing economy.



State Freight and Rail Plan completed in 2023

Establishes long-term freight and rail vision and goals, measures trends in performance, and identifies the state's freight-driven needs and opportunities. NDDOT anticipates embarking on an internal refresh to this plan in 2026 to complete by 2027.



Expansion of Minot Intermodal Facility

Supports connections to global markets for agriculture and energy products.

NDDOT has supported all forms of transportation across communities in recent years.



Statewide network of 30 transit programs (five urban, 23 rural, and two Tribal)

Provides access to work, education, healthcare, and other essential services.



Mapping active transportation infrastructure on all state-owned roadways

Supports closing gaps in walking and biking networks in both urban and rural communities.



Flexible Transportation Fund (Flex Fund)

Legislature-approved state funding for cities and counties to reduce long-term costs while improving safety, efficiency, and interconnectedness.

Transportation is how we reach our everyday destinations: whether it's work, school, the grocery store, medical appointments, state parks, visiting family and friends...no matter how you choose to get around, transportation moves North Dakota.

Point to Point Park in Medora



Transportation by the Numbers

The transportation system is the backbone of our society, shaping how people and goods move throughout North Dakota. NDDOT continues to work hard to provide a safe, reliable system that meets customers' needs and promotes the state's economic vitality.

799,358

North Dakotans relied on highways, local roads, airports, transit services, sidewalks, and bike paths for everyday travel in 2025.

\$1.6 billion

in economic activity was generated by the state's airports which connect businesses and visitors across the globe.

10 billion

vehicle miles were driven on North Dakota's roadways in 2024.

1.2 million

airport arrivals and **282,000** Canadian border arrivals entered North Dakota in 2024.

25.6 million

visitors traveled to and through North Dakota in 2025 and generated about **\$3.4 billion** in visitor spending in local economies across the state.

55 million

tons of freight goods moved along North Dakota's railroads in 2023, driven largely by agricultural and energy commodities. In 2025, agriculture generated about **\$10 billion** in labor income, compared to **\$5.1 billion** in labor income from the oil and gas sector.

41,000

workers were employed in transportation-related occupations in North Dakota in 2024, representing nearly **10%** of all jobs statewide. This is a higher-than-average concentration compared to the national workforce.

\$3.3 billion

was spent on travel in North Dakota in 2023, which includes spending on outdoor recreation and agritourism.

Transportation Matters to North Dakota

What We Heard

After engaging more than 600 attendees and collecting over 1,300 comments from public engagement events, along with more than 230 comments through our interactive funding tool, here's what North Dakotans said about NDDOT's strengths and their top transportation priorities:

NDDOT's Strengths:



Timely Winter Clearing

Efficient snow removal keeps roads safe and clear.



Reliable Weather Response

Quick alerts during extreme weather events.



Efficient DMV Services

Easy license applications and renewals through appointment system.



Fix Roads & Bridges

Prioritize maintenance and repair of roads, bridges, and key transit routes.



Safer Walking & Biking

Expand paths, lighting, and trail maintenance on Tribal roads and statewide.



Better Multimodal Access for All

Improve mobility for seniors, visually impaired, and wheelchair users; expand reliable, low-cost multimodal options in urban and rural areas.



Carpooling & Ride Share Options

Expand access to carpooling, ride share, and safe/sober ride programs to increase mobility and reduce impaired driving.



Smarter Project Planning

Coordinate roadwork to minimize overlap, delays, and disruptions.



Youth & Safety Programs

Support Vision Zero, youth driver education, and traffic safety statewide.



Driver Education & Traffic Law Compliance

Strengthen statewide driver education to raise awareness of traffic laws and promote safer driving behaviors.

Transportation Connects Us – These are our stories

These six profiles represent composite personas created from feedback collected during outreach for Transportation Connection 2050.



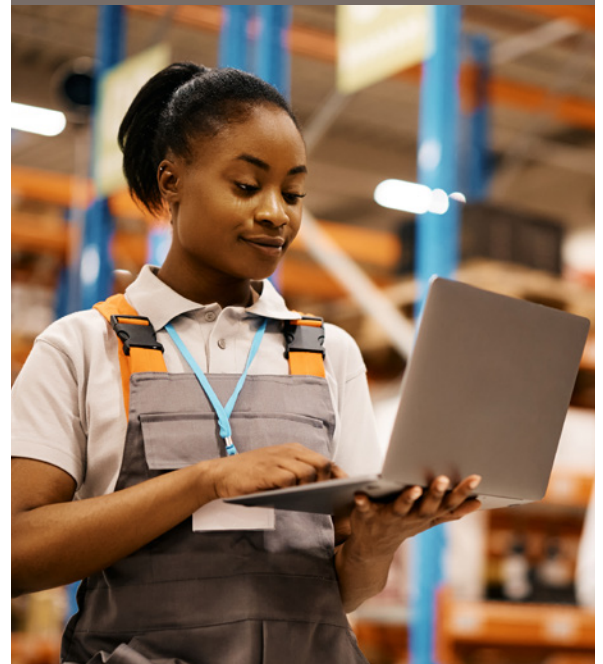
Luke teaches high school math in Mott. Each day he commutes from Elgin, the small town he lives in with his family. His drive to work is roughly 20 minutes along ND-21. As he clicks his seatbelt into place each morning, Luke is grateful that the road is safe with visible lane striping and clear space along

the road to pull over in the event of an emergency. These safeguards allow him to follow his passion providing education to teenagers in rural communities and then return home to his family safe and sound each evening. Supporting the condition and safety of rural connectors is critical to maintain and improve interregional connectivity across North Dakota.

Erin, a recent University of North Dakota graduate and pilot at Grand Forks International Airport, is eager to begin her career with a major commercial airline. She looks forward to connecting North Dakotans to communities worldwide and knows this is only possible thanks to advanced air traffic control systems at North Dakota airports, well-maintained runways and facilities, and reliable ground transportation. Providing reliable access to our commercial and general aviation airports is necessary to keep up with the growing demand for air travel.



Alyssa oversees operations at a distribution center in Fargo, helping transport vital goods across the state. By checking the NDDOT “ND Roads” app to monitor weather and road conditions, she knows that transportation will be safe and reliable today, and that the drivers she works with will be able to access rest stops and find available truck parking. Providing travel services and trip planning resources to our freight operators allows communities to receive vital goods and resources, thereby keeping shelves stocked, businesses and municipalities supported, and the state’s economy thriving. Maintaining and innovating customer tools to ensure that they are useful, accessible, and dependable is essential to make travel easier for goods and people alike.





Finn, a wheelchair user who resides in Bismarck, feels confident traveling safely and independently throughout the city. He uses Bis-Man Transit's paratransit services to go to work, the grocery store, the library, and his medical appointments. He appreciates the curb ramps, accessible sidewalks, well-marked crosswalks and availability of paratransit. Ensuring transit, sidewalks, and other alternative transportation facilities and services are widely accessible to all users is critical to maintaining a strong community, a healthy population, and a robust economy.

Barry lives in Larimore but travels each week to Grand Forks for medical care not offered in his town. Without a personal vehicle, he relies on North Dakota's demand-response (call-ahead) transportation services, which provide cars, buses, or vans to pick up passengers in rural communities and connect them to nearby areas. He uses the nearly 40-minute trip to rest and feels fortunate that he can access this service. Reliable public transportation is a critical part of North Dakota's healthcare system. Maintaining and investing in these services helps to keep North Dakotans healthy.



Noah is an elected Tribal Council member for a Tribe located in North Dakota. He meets his constituents from all backgrounds and with varying transportation needs at Tribal Council Meetings and at his district community meetings. He collaborates with the State of North Dakota to ensure highways on the reservation are kept in a state of good repair. Noah recognizes that, for his people, the transportation system is not just a road—it is a lifeline that provides his Tribe access to resources it needs to maintain Tribal sovereignty, to provide cultural resilience and connection, and to ensure economic opportunity, health care, education, and recreation for years to come. He is happy to be a voice for his people and for the ability to work together with the State of North Dakota to maintain infrastructure in a manner that meets the needs of his community. Tribal transportation networks and transit services play essential roles in community participation and development. Maintaining and investing in these services and networks help Tribal authorities to grow and thrive.





18,400 miles of trails 

1,100 state bridges



Thousands
of miles of sidewalks



North Dakota's Transportation System

No matter where we're going or how we're getting there, we all rely on a transportation system of multiple, interconnected modes for our travel. Our state's transportation system includes Interstates, State Highways, County Roads, City streets, Tribal roads, sidewalks, trails, bus routes, train tracks and air routes. NDDOT is directly responsible for the State Highway System, including state routes, Interstates, and highways. The state system carries approximately 60 percent of all daily traffic, but accounts for less than 7% of the roadway miles in North Dakota.

Imagine if these systems were not as easily connected. What if your local street ended before the main road, or if you couldn't ride the bus to the airport, or if you couldn't get on the Interstate? North Dakota's transportation system works together to get you where you want to go.

This system carries a lot of people and goods every day of every year, including:



An aerial photograph of Grand Forks, North Dakota, taken from a high vantage point. The image shows a dense urban area with numerous buildings, mostly multi-story brick structures. A large green park area is visible in the foreground, with a winding path and several trees. To the right, the Red River flows through the city, and a large steel truss bridge spans the river. The background shows a vast expanse of water, likely Lake of the Clouds, under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is a mix of urban development and natural beauty.

Aerial view of Grand Forks

The future can be difficult to predict.

NDDOT monitors future trends, makes strategic investments, and responds quickly to changes, ensuring that North Dakotans can travel safely and reliably on transportation modes that are in good condition in order to access the goods and services they need.

North Dakota is facing a period of significant change, from technological advancements to shifts in the global economy. At a time of uncertainty, NDDOT is helping to ensure that North Dakota's transportation system can prepare for whatever may come next.

Key Trends NDDOT is Watching

Technology

- Drones and automated agricultural vehicles are being deployed across North Dakota. *What might this mean for agriculture and other freight industries, and how will these new vehicles use the transportation system?*
- North Dakotans' personal vehicles are getting over-the-air software upgrades for more automated driving that allows the vehicles to operate with varying degrees of human input. *How advanced will these automated driving systems get, how will these upgrades impact safety, and what do NDDOT and local communities need to do to allow North Dakotans to take full advantage of these opportunities?*
- Artificial intelligence (AI) is advancing automated data collection, changing the way that we work, and increasing the demand for data center construction, resulting in changing land use patterns. NDDOT has already started using AI for traffic counting and pavement condition data collection. *How else can NDDOT leverage AI for its projects and respond to broader workforce needs related to AI?*



Oil rig operating in Bakken oil field

Energy

- Falling oil prices could slow down oil production in Western North Dakota, which generates oil and gas production revenues that have come to make up an important share of state and local government revenue. *How can state government ensure that even parts of the state that may lose population still have safe and efficient transportation, while potentially having less money to invest?*
- New federal policies could promote additional development of energy resources in North Dakota. *How can NDDOT ensure a state of good repair for infrastructure with heavier freight vehicles using it?*

Natural Disasters

- North Dakota has experienced severe weather events, like droughts, wildfires, blizzards, tornadoes, and floods, which have devastated agriculture and disrupted our transportation networks. *How can NDDOT ensure that the transportation system continues to function and be safe for North Dakotans during these events?*
- NDDOT is investing in projects, like grade raises, to make the transportation system more robust during flooding and heavy rainfalls. This could make more land developable for residents and businesses, while increasing both demand for roads and bridges in these areas and the risk of flooding on that infrastructure, since more development can increase stormwater runoff. *How can NDDOT efficiently use existing resources to continue to ensure the safety and reliability of the transportation system across the state during flooding events, as the population grows?*



Grade raise construction west of Medina to support flood mitigation efforts

Trade

- Farms, food processors, manufacturers, and other industries in North Dakota are still dealing with rapidly-changing global supply chains. *How might freight traffic flows in North Dakota change as supply chains are reconfigured, and how might this impact market access needs for businesses?*
- Trade policy is in flux around the world. *How can the state work with local and regional businesses to ensure that North Dakota's transportation system remains responsive to their needs and enables them to reach consumer markets?*

Alternative Future Scenarios

RURAL RENAISSANCE



Rural areas become communities of choice

CITIES & CENTERS



Urban areas grow quickly and become the centers of the state

SMART & CONNECTED



Innovation accelerates and we live in a tech-driven future

GHOST TOWNS



Economic downturns greatly reduce quality of life for North Dakotans

Planning for Uncertainty

We cannot know what the future will bring, but we recognize that North Dakota is changing. Between now and 2050, we may see shifts in the places we live, the jobs we work and the ways we can choose to get around. Innovations in transportation will change our vehicles, our infrastructure, our information, and NDDOT’s business model. Changes in global trade or energy markets could change how North Dakota uses and invests in our transportation system.

Through this planning process, we explored different alternative futures for North Dakota. These scenarios looked at what might happen should the future bring renewed opportunities for rural communities, continued growth in city centers, or rapid technological transformations in our daily lives. This plan addresses the strategies that best support North Dakotans, regardless of which future scenario might play out.

What is happening in North Dakota already?



Young adults moving in, and aging in place



Evolving commute patterns



Cars and farm equipment becoming more automated



Global trade in flux



Shifting energy markets



E-commerce growing

Transportation Connection 2050 provides a flexible framework to guide transportation decisions and investments that will shape North Dakota over the coming decades. NDDOT and our transportation planning partners will remain nimble, modernize how we operate, and invest in our data and our organizations in order to deliver a safe, customer-focused, and connected future.



Our Transportation Vision

**Delivering a safe,
customer-focused,
and connected future**

Crow Flies High State Recreation Area at Lake Sakakawea

Engagement by the Numbers (To Date)



600+
attendees during
in-person events

1,300+
comments from in-person
interactive activities and
comment forms



188,000+
views and interactions
on social media

2,800+
unique webpage visitors



11
project newsletters,
reaching an average of
136 recipients per month

400+
online survey
respondents

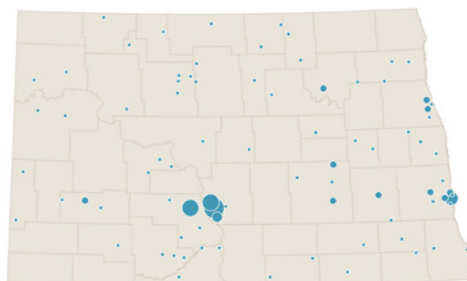


575+
interactive funding
tool participants

Updating Transportation Connection 2050

NDDOT led the development of Transportation Connection 2050 throughout 2025 and early 2026. In-person and virtual input opportunities resulted in thousands of residents from every corner of the state participating in this planning process. Through online surveys, in-person and digital interactive activities, and social media, you made your voices heard and let us know what you expect as everyday travelers and as customers of NDDOT.

Your input and ideas led directly to the vision, goals, and strategies described in Transportation Connection 2050. This is North Dakota's plan for our shared transportation future. As we work together to take action, NDDOT will continue



*Total online responses by primary county
based on ZIP code, 2025-2026*

listening to residents to understand expectations, priorities, and key issues. NDDOT will also report on its progress on key customer-focused metrics that show how your transportation system is performing and how NDDOT is managing the system for residents, businesses, and visitors. We are working to deliver a transportation system that works for you.

What are today's most pressing challenges?

North Dakota's transportation system is complex and our resources are constrained. We are focused on taking care of the system we have today and making that system safer for all travelers. You told us we should keep prioritizing those focus areas as well as making it easier and convenient to get around, whether by walking, rolling, biking, taking a bus, or driving.

26%

**Fixing
what we
have**

23%

**Being
safe**

18%

**Getting
around**

15%

**Paying for
transportation**

10%

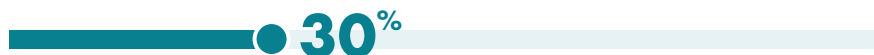
**Building
communities**

8%

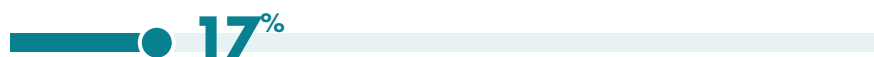
**Supporting
economies**

What transportation resources would you find the most useful?

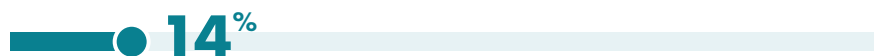
We heard from residents about what they rely on most when traveling. Your input helped us understand which infrastructural support makes the biggest difference in your daily trips. These insights will guide how Transportation Connection 2050 improves the information and resources available to you over the next 25 years.



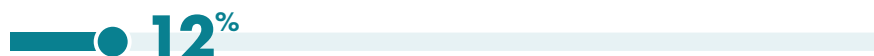
More maintenance of existing infrastructure



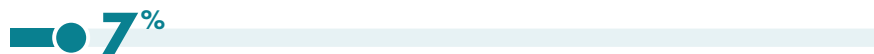
Investments in improving conditions of roads and bridges in rural areas



Improvements to the public transportation system and transit options



Investments in new projects



Investments in traffic calming measures



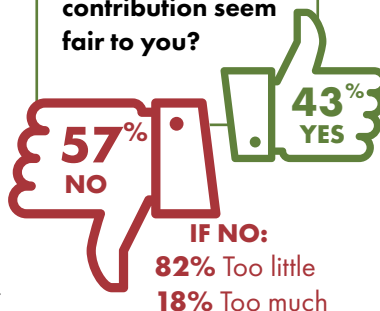
Other: Additional comments focused on traffic law compliance, stronger safety policies, and continued investment in well maintained roads.

How do we pay for transportation?

On average, we each pay \$28 every month to support North Dakota's transportation system – far less than most of us spend on internet service or electricity. Since 2005, construction costs have risen by 415% and total vehicle miles traveled on North Dakota roads have increased by nearly 35%. These trends mean that transportation funding does not stretch as far as it used to even as there is more demand for transportation infrastructure and service. Most residents understand our funding challenges and support finding ways to sustainably and responsibly fund transportation for the next generation.

QUESTION:

Compared to what you get in return, does your monthly contribution seem fair to you?



Youth Opinions

The next generation of drivers in 2050 have not yet been born. How the transportation of tomorrow will look and work may be very different than today. Hearing from our youngest drivers is important. We surveyed students at one Vision Zero event and on several college campuses across the state to understand what transportation opportunities excite youth the most. What our state's newest travelers value most will help us design a safer, more accessible, and future ready transportation system for tomorrow.

QUESTION:

What future transportation challenges in North Dakota concern you the most?*

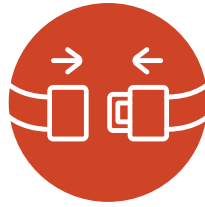
- Safer environments for walking, biking, and driving: **38%**
- Safe ride/sober ride programs: **34%**
- Self-driving vehicles: **16%**
- Expanded walking/biking paths: **14%**
- Electric vehicles: **10%**
- Expanded public transit: **10%**

*Because survey respondents could select more than one option; totals exceed 100%.

Your Action Plan

Transportation Connection 2050 provides North Dakota with the roadmap to guide us toward our future transportation vision.

This framework enables NDDOT and our partners at the state, Tribal, regional, and local levels to move in the right direction while allowing us to change pace, shift lanes, or take another path in response to emerging opportunities.



KEEPING YOU SAFE

Safety is reflected in everything we do.

We are continually innovating and improving what we do to make sure you are safe and secure whether driving, biking, walking, or rolling.

- Improve safety for all users through data-driven and proven safety improvements
- Incorporate a Safe System Approach into infrastructure design to reduce the risk of human error and to reduce the risk of serious injury and fatality when crashes occur
- Enhance safety across bridges, roads, intersections, sidewalks, and transit facilities at high-risk locations
- Provide safety education and public awareness programs for all travelers
- Address highway-rail crossing issues and other intermodal safety needs
- Mitigate risks through design, speed management, and technology
- Support effective emergency response and disaster mitigation efforts



CARING FOR WHAT WE HAVE

Fixing what we have is our priority.

We are investing in our existing infrastructure to maintain good conditions for roads, bridges, and culverts across the state to save money down the road and keep the system working for you.

- Preserve the condition of transportation infrastructure to serve critical functions and accommodate growth
- Prioritize preventive and routine maintenance activities aligned with customer expectations
- Enhance durability and disaster preparedness for roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure
- Leverage new technology for the design and construction of North Dakota's transportation assets to ensure they stay usable for longer



CONNECTING NORTH DAKOTA

***Transportation
matters.***

We are leveraging transportation investments to enhance economic competitiveness and improve the quality of life in communities across the state.

- Provide more travel options within and between communities to reach critical destinations
- Connect both urban and rural communities to markets and essential services
- Improve intercity travel options
- Make freight movement more efficient and more reliable to support economic development
- Enhance access to North Dakota's natural resources and recreational facilities for residents and visitors



HELPING YOU GET THERE

***Transportation
should be easy.***

We are helping make it more convenient for you to get where you want to go.

- Complete maintenance and construction projects more quickly
- Improve traffic management with infrastructure and technology solutions to reduce delay and improve travel time reliability throughout the transportation system
- Leverage new technology for trip planning and travel time savings
- Increase the availability of travel information to help people figure out when, where, and how to travel



INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

***We work
for you.***

We are making smart investments in how we deliver services and are looking for responsible ways to fund our transportation system well into the future.

- Improve interagency collaboration, resource sharing, and workforce capacity at state, regional, and local levels
- Invest in future transportation workforce, data, and technology
- Focus on the customer experience by modernizing services, roadway amenities, travel information, and business functions
- Coordinate on project timing and delivery with regional and local partners
- Pursue data-driven investments for increased efficiency and maximum returns
- Pursue sustainable and responsible funding for future transportation improvements, including the pursuit of federal discretionary grants
- Prioritize workforce development and community development

Performance Management and Implementation

As NDDOT implements Transportation Connection 2050, it is critical for NDDOT to show progress on advancing the Goal Areas and demonstrate the value that the transportation system creates for residents, businesses, and visitors. NDDOT collects data and reports to the United State Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on asset performance for highway safety, highway infrastructure condition, and highway reliability as well as to the USDOT's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on operating statistics and vehicle data for rural transit operators.

NDDOT establishes performance targets for highways in its Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) as part of the federal requirement for Transportation Performance Management (TPM). The TAMP establishes targets to inform decisions for investment and build goals for long-term management. NDDOT updates its TAMP every four years to meet federal requirements; it is currently being updated. NDDOT uses its Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and its Transit Asset Management (Transit AM) Plan to set targets related to transit safety and conditions for transit assets, respectively. Although NDDOT does not operate transit service, the Department distributes federal funds to transit providers and so reports on these metrics to demonstrate how funds are used. The PTASP was updated in 2025, while the Transit AM Plan was updated in 2022.

As part of TAMP development, NDDOT documents existing conditions against performance targets and forecasts pavement and bridge performance for physical condition and functional capacity for both freight and personal mobility. Performance targets for pavement focus on achieving percentages of North Dakota's National Highway System (NHS) roadways in good condition (a minimum threshold) or poor condition (a maximum threshold). Similar targets for good condition and poor condition are established for bridges on the NHS.

Functional capacity performance assesses physical and operational characteristics of roadways and structures that may hinder the movement of people and goods, such as width and height clearances or load-carrying capacity limitations. While the TAMP does not set a short-term target for functional capacity, the data informs target-setting efforts for another federal metric, the truck travel time reliability index. The index compares the difference between extremely long travel times to the median travel time for trucks along the NHS network. A lower index represents less variation between the two values, meaning that freight operators can reduce variation in their delivery schedules, and businesses and consumers can enjoy more reliable delivery times.

Performance measures for transit safety in the PTASP focus on fatalities, injuries, safety events, and system reliability that occur on transit vehicles across all transit providers in North Dakota. The Transit AM Plan includes performance measures related to asset condition for transit vehicles, equipment, and facilities.

As part of the implementation effort for Transportation Connection 2050, NDDOT will identify additional performance metrics for sharing data and information on transportation system conditions and NDDOT services with North Dakotans. These metrics will be incorporated into a revised NDDOT Performance Dashboard, providing a clear overview of the services that NDDOT delivers and the results of these efforts. For now, citizens and stakeholders may reference ND's performance on FHWA's website [here](#). NDDOT will work across its Divisions and with external stakeholders to identify metrics for each of the Transportation Connection 2050 Goal Areas in a wide array of topics.



Keeping You Safe

Safety Trends
Safety Infrastructure



Caring for What We Have

Conditions of Roads and Bridges
Maintenance Project Delivery
Resilience and Durability



Connecting North Dakota

Supporting Freight Movement
Supporting Interregional Connectivity



Helping You Get There

Transit Access
Traffic Management

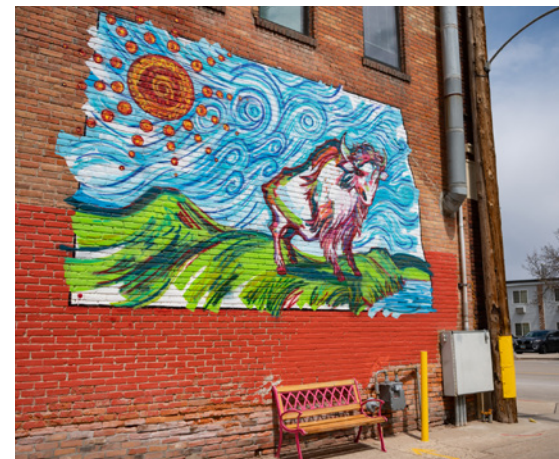


Investing for the Future

Motor Vehicle Services
Highway Rest Areas
Securing Funding

With the adoption of Transportation Connection 2050, NDDOT will focus on delivering policy strategies in each of the goal areas, while ensuring internal alignment across planning processes and investment decisions. NDDOT's commitment to the Transportation Connection 2050 vision will be reflected in our implementation actions, including a detailed internal implementation plan that identifies actions and owners to advance the policies in Transportation Connection 2050. These efforts will include:

- Developing internal policies and procedures for integration of Transportation Connection 2050 with NDDOT planning processes under the Family of Plans framework, including alignment with the modal plans (e.g., State Freight and Rail Plan and Active Transportation Plan) and the Transportation Asset Management Plan.
- Developing internal policies and procedures to link Transportation Connection 2050 to other NDDOT initiatives and programs, including efforts to demonstrate the value that NDDOT activities create for residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Identifying performance metrics and updating internal performance monitoring efforts related to travel, asset conditions, economic performance, and other conditions that demonstrate success and inform refinement of the Transportation Connection 2050 scenarios.
- Coordinating with other state agencies to align strategies and programs for improving the well-being of North Dakotans and the strength of our economy.
- Providing guidance to external stakeholders to align Transportation Connection 2050 strategies with regional and local planning efforts, including long-range transportation plans, transit plans, active transportation plans, and freight plans.
- Defining strategies for ongoing coordination and communication with statewide stakeholders and engagement with the public during plan implementation.



*Urban alley mural off First Avenue
in downtown Jamestown*

A photograph of two elementary school students riding their bicycles on a paved shared use trail. The boy in the foreground is wearing a red shirt, black shorts, a black helmet, and a black backpack with a graphic design. The girl behind him is wearing a pink helmet, a white shirt with a colorful pattern, and a black backpack with white polka dots and a large gold star. They are riding away from the camera on a light-colored paved path that runs alongside a grassy field. In the background, there is a road with a speed limit sign of 25, a traffic light, and a large, modern building with a tan and white facade. The sky is clear and blue.

Elementary school students ride bikes on a shared use trail to school as part of NDDOT's Safe Routes to School program

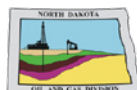
Our Legacy

Today's transportation system is built upon a foundation of hard work, innovation, and investments from our parents and grandparents. We must continue to evolve through proven successes and emerging solutions, leaving a better transportation legacy for the generations to come.

Thank You

NDDOT thanks the thousands of residents, businesses, and visitors who lent their voices to Transportation Connection 2050. The logos below represent member organizations of the Director's Advisory Council, a group of public, civic, and private sector partners who provided guidance to update Transportation Connection 2050. Our partners will continue to coordinate on critical transportation issues and opportunities for North Dakota. In addition, NDDOT is grateful for the contributions of planning partners including the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, North Dakota Aeronautics Commission, our four Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and our five Tribal nations.

Together we can connect North Dakota.



Kildeer Mountain Four Bears Scenic Byway

Transportation Connection 2050 is a plan that will guide future transportation decision-making, investment decisions, and performance targets across North Dakota. NDDOT and our partners will implement this plan through a continual and comprehensive planning process and commitment to assessing performance. Information on performance and implementation support activities can be found at www.dot.nd.gov

Cover image: ND Highway 1804 at Apple Creek

Delivering a **safe,**
customer-focused,
and **connected** future

NORTH
Dakota | Transportation
Be Legendary.

dot.nd.gov/transportation-connection

