

**Interim Transportation Committee
Thursday, November 12, 2015 - Roughrider Room**

Transportation Networks/ Transit Study/State Rail Plan

**North Dakota Department of Transportation
Ron Henke, P.E. – Deputy Director for Engineering**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee - I'm Ron Henke, Deputy Director for Engineering for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT or Department). I am here to provide information as requested.

Transportation Network Companies:

In the 64th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota, an act was passed to create and enact Chapters 26.1-40.1 and 39-34 of the North Dakota Century Code (HB 1144 – Uber Bill) relating to insurance coverage of motor vehicles participating in transportation network company services, priority of coverage, and minimum limits.

Section 39-34-04 (transportation networking company reporting requirements) required the transportation network company to report the following information to the Department of Transportation on June 15 and December 15 of each year for the previous six calendar months. The Department's first report is shown below:

The time period covers May 14, 2015, (first day of operations) to June 15, 2015

1. A list of political subdivisions in which the transportation network company operates:
Fargo, West Fargo, Prairie Rose, Frontier, Mapleton, and Reile's Acres.
2. The number of accidents that were reported to the transportation network company during the passenger on-board stage: *None*
3. The number and types of traffic violations and any other violations that were reported to the transportation network company during the passenger on-board stage: *None*

State Aid Funding Distributions & Allocations to Public Transportation Providers Study

In accordance with HB 1012, the Department is working on a study researching state aid funding distributions and allocations to public transportation providers. The Department has decided to conduct the study in-house, since it already has all the transit related data.

The study includes all State Aid transit funds and all Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awarded funds for the last two bienniums (FY2011 – FY2015). The study will also include:

- History of the Transit State Aid and FTA Federal Aid programs
- Review of distributions and allocation, including contingent funding provided
- Review of distribution and allocation formulas
- Public transportation providers' use of the funds received from the distributions, allocations, and contingent funding

- Turn back of any unused funds
- Use of funds for operating costs and capital asset purchases.

The intent of this study is not for the Department to make a recommendation on formula change.

A letter was recently mailed to all state Transit Providers discussing the intent of the study as well as letting them know they may be contacted to provide information as needed. The study will be completed and submitted to Legislative Management by June 30, 2016.

ND State Rail Plan Update

In 2014 the NDDOT began working in partnership with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC), North Dakota Department of Commerce (NDDOC), the North Dakota Department of Emergency Service (NDDDES), the North Dakota Pipeline Authority, and the Upper Great Plain Transportation Institute (UGPTI) on updating the State Rail Plan.

The existing state rail plan was last completed in 2007. Since that time the demands and concerns associated with North Dakota's rail system have changed significantly.

The intent is to develop an updated North Dakota State Rail Plan to provide guidance for the rail systems and services utilized by the North Dakota passengers and freight shippers. The plan will provide an assessment of the rail system offering recommendations for policies, programs, processes, and projects that will improve rail-related safety and service. Parsons Brinckerhoff Inc. is the consultant selected to work on the plan.

The state rail plan is being developed in three phases with all phases anticipated for completion by the fall of 2016. Currently the plan is in Phase I of the development phase. Following is a more detailed understanding of the work elements associated with each phase of the project:

- Phase I – Generally this phase will establish the current rail System baseline. The purpose of this phase is to collect information that will provide an understanding of the existing rail system and stakeholder requirements to provide a comprehensive assessment of issues to be addressed in the plan. This work is currently underway and is expected to wrap up in early 2016.
- Phase II – This phase will refine the scope of work to address input from stakeholders and the public, and identify the state's rail needs and opportunities. This phase will start in 2016 and is targeting spring 2016 for completion.
- Phase III – This phase will generally provide recommendations for the state rail system to address identified needs, safety concerns and opportunities in alignment with the rail plan's established vision, goals, and objectives. The final phase of the plan development is anticipated for completion by fall of 2016.

Public outreach will occur in a variety of forms including but not limited to: public meetings, a project webpage (<http://railplan.dot.nd.gov>), individual and collective stakeholder meetings, and surveys.

Thank you for the opportunity to present information to you today.