



Department of Public Works

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**Testimony of the City of West Fargo
 FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR FUNCTIONALLY CLASSIFIED ROADWAYS
 Before the Transportation committee
 Thursday, July 21, 2016**

Chairman Ruby and members of the Committee. I'm Chris Brungardt, the Public Works Director for the City and with me today is Tina Fisk our City Administrator. I'm here to discuss need for additional funding sources for major transportation projects.

The West Fargo and Fargo metropolitan area has seen tremendous and sustained growth over the last 25 years. West Fargo alone has grown 173% in the last 25 years. Further, West Fargo has grown 30% in the last 5 years. Our population has gone from 14,940 in 2000, to 33,597 in 2015. We expect the growth to continue into the future. This continued growth is demonstrated by the issuing of 600 permits as of July 18th this year. And the expectation of 1,000 permits by years end. In fact, demographers expect the metro area to grow to over 250,000 people in the next 15 to 20 years.

This growth has placed incredible burden upon the citizens of West Fargo. We have spent over \$340 million of local funds in the last 10 years. Most of this in the form of special assessments. This sum only accounts for the impacts related to infrastructure. It is not the full measure of effects our citizens endure from growth. Other obligations arise from additional cost to provide basic services such as police, fire, and schools. Our school district has been gaining roughly 500 students per year. An illustration of this is the average special assessment to a new home. It is currently between \$40,000 and \$65,000. The question is how much more can our home owners and businesses tolerate?

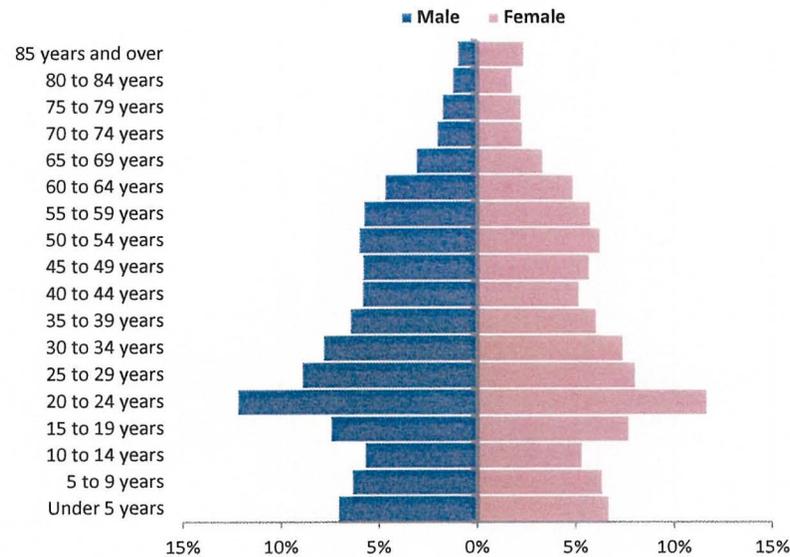
An example of needed funding is Sheyenne Street. Sheyenne/CR 17 is a regional road which serves Cass County, West Fargo, Horace, Fargo, and Harwood. The southern portion is over burdened by traffic and needs to be expanded. Current cost is \$36 million in 2015 dollars. A large sum on its own. However, we have already spent \$48 million in local dollars to improve our transportation network to support area growth and to provide alternate routes to Sheyenne. I have brought a short video to explain this project. This video may be found on our webpage at westfargond.gov.

Table 1. Fargo-Moorhead MSA Estimated and Projected Populations

Jurisdiction	Population				Population Change		Population Projections					
	1990	2000	2010	2015	1990-00	2000-10	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Fargo	74,111	90,599	105,549	118,523	22.20%	16.50%	113,540	122,050	130,370	139,030	147,260	154,170
Moorhead	32,295	32,177	38,065	42,005	-0.40%	18.20%	43,715	46,551	49,444	52,187	54,819	56,982
West Fargo	12,287	14,940	25,830	33,597	21.60%	72.80%	30,010	35,020	38,290	41,020	43,450	45,190
Dilworth	2,562	3,001	4,024	4,366	17.10%	34%	4,360	4,650	4,890	5,130	5,380	5,600
Horace	662	915	2,430	2,545	38.22%	165.57%	2,590	2,690	2,850	2,880	2,920	2,940
Urban Total	121,917	141,632	175,898	201,036	16.17%	24.19%	194,215	210,961	225,844	240,247	253,829	264,882
Urban Cass	87,060	106,454	133,809	154,665	22.28%	25.70%	146,140	159,760	171,510	182,930	193,630	202,300
Rural Cass	15,814	16,684	15,969	16,847	5.50%	-4.29%	17,000	14,580	13,170	10,770	7,560	14,400
Cass Total	102,874	123,138	149,778	171,512	19.70%	21.63%	163,140	174,340	184,680	193,700	201,190	216,700
Urban Clay	34,857	35,178	42,089	46,371	0.92%	19.65%	48,075	51,201	54,334	57,317	60,199	62,582
Rural Clay	15,585	16,051	16,910	15,953	2.99%	5.35%	15,305	16,339	17,176	17,964	18,401	18,788
Clay Total	50,442	51,229	58,999	62,324	1.56%	15.17%	63,380	67,540	71,510	75,280	78,600	81,370
MSA Total	153,269	174,367	208,777	233,836	13.77%	19.73%	226,520	241,880	256,190	268,980	279,790	298,070

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau: 1990 - 2010 Decennial Censuses and 2015 Population Estimate; McKibben Demographic Research, 2012

Figure 2. Age and Sex Distribution for the Fargo-Moorhead MSA



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey

Table 2. Metro COG Projected Percent Change by Age Group, 2010 to 2040

Age Group	% Change	Age Group	% Change	Age Group	% Change
Under 5	13.41%	30-34	40.71%	60-64	70.10%
5-9	39.56%	35-39	63.84%	65-69	79.90%
10-14	47.23%	40-44	90.73%	70-74	100.10%
15-19	26.21%	45-49	53.34%	75-79	105.22%
20-24	9.35%	50-54	44.17%	80-84	96.79%
25-29	15.00%	55-59	45.99%	85 & Over	79.96%

Source: Demographic Forecast for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area (2012)