

Infrastructure Funding & Highway Administration

➤ **Operation Prairie Dog I & II (HB1066) – Passed House (80-12)**

- This bill was passed much as it was introduced, except for moving \$400 million in SIIF funding ahead of the non-oil buckets – resulting in a delay in this money flowing to counties and cities until very likely the of the next biennium.
- It may very well be passed by the Senate in this form to avoid a conference committee.
- A key point for both GPT revenues to counties and the non-oil allocations is that they are a standing, continuing appropriation and therefore no longer have a “sunset”, and the funding will continue as proposed if no action is taken by the Legislature.

➤ **Operation Prairie Dog III – Infrastructure Financing (SB2275) – Passed Senate (45-0)**



- This bill would allow the Bank of ND to bond for up to \$500 million to create a low interest loan fund for city and county infrastructure projects
- Bond payback from Legacy earnings
- The maximum loan would be \$25 million
- The limitations on county borrowing were amended to allow counties to borrow for up to 20 years (currently 5) without a vote

➤ **Corridors of Commerce (SB2268) – Passed (47-0)**

- Like the local infrastructure financing bill, this measure would allow the Bank of ND to bond for up to \$100 million for improvements to “corridors of commerce” which are defined as “highways that improve freight transportation and facilitate commerce.”

➤ **Highway Distribution Fund Revenues**

- Motor Fuels Tax Increase (SB2288 & HB1301) – Both Defeated (18-26 & 15-77)
As the Prairie Dog funding does nothing for the NDDOT budget, there was serious consideration for moving the fuel tax rate from 23-cents/gallon to 30-cents. Ultimately the bills were defeated, but there remains considerable interest when examining the next bill.
- Drivers' license fee increase (SB2244) – Passed Senate (40-6) although not a large contribution to the highway distribution fund, this increase, if enacted, would stop the fund from subsidizing the cost of issuance



➤ **NDDOT Budget (HB1012) – Passed House (71-22)**

- This bill for the operation of the NDDOT required an infusion of \$13 million in general funds in order to fund the necessary match for federal funds. This has made some second-guess the defeat of the fuel tax earlier.
- This bill also contains language requiring the reopening of several state “section shops” during the winter, which were closed last biennium

➤ **Counties can directly purchase used equipment at auction & from state surplus (HB1432) Passed House (92-1)**

➤ **Traffic Safety**

- Primary seatbelt enforcement (SB2060) – Passed Senate (24-23) on reconsideration
- Increased traffic fines (HB1239) – Failed in House (31-59)
- Sobriety checkpoints prohibited (HB1442) – Passed House (79-14)
- Speed limit increase (HB1264) – Failed House (46-46)

