

County Roads Conference **What's Ahead in 2026**



NORTH
Dakota | Transportation
Be Legendary.

January 30, 2026

VISION ZERO

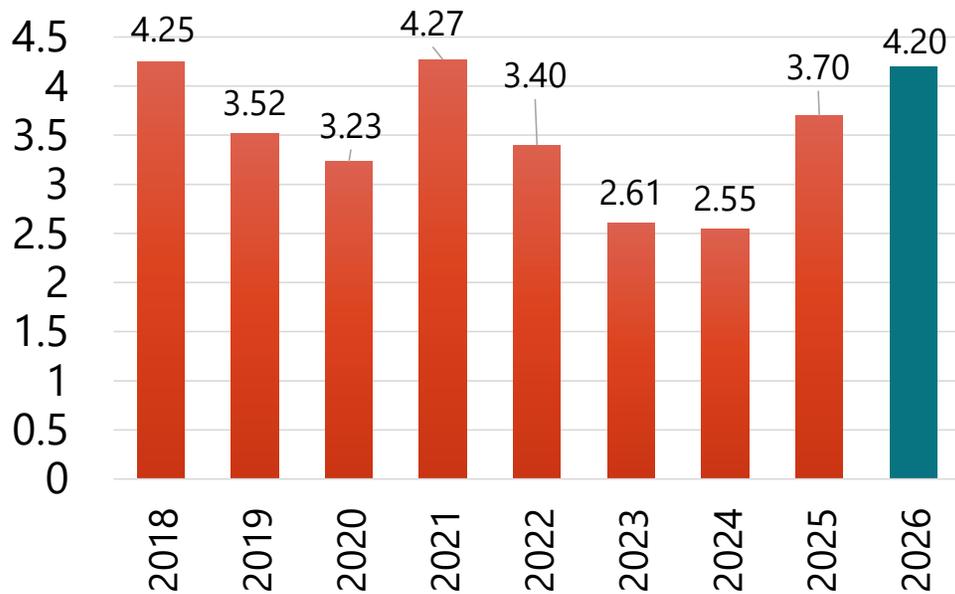
Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

- **Mission:** Eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roadways.
- 2025: **85 fatalities**
2024: 89 fatalities
2023: 106 fatalities
- 2026: **2 fatalities** (through Jan. 21)
2025: 2 fatalities (through Jan. 21)
2024: 4 fatalities (through Jan. 21)
- Motor vehicle crashes are largely preventable if everyone takes personal responsibility.

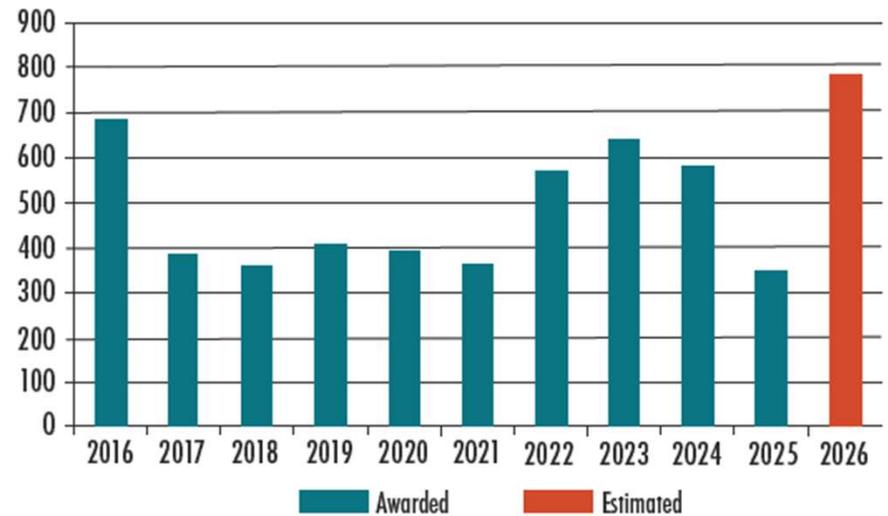


CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Average Bidders Per Job



NDDOT Construction Program (\$\$ Millions)



FY2026 increase is mainly due to a few large federal discretionary grant projects that have received their funding allocation from the federal agency and the state match from the legislature.

2026 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTION

Estimated bid for the 2026 construction program: \$745 to \$810 million

- An increase from the \$345 million bid in 2025

The increase of the construction program in 2026 is due to:

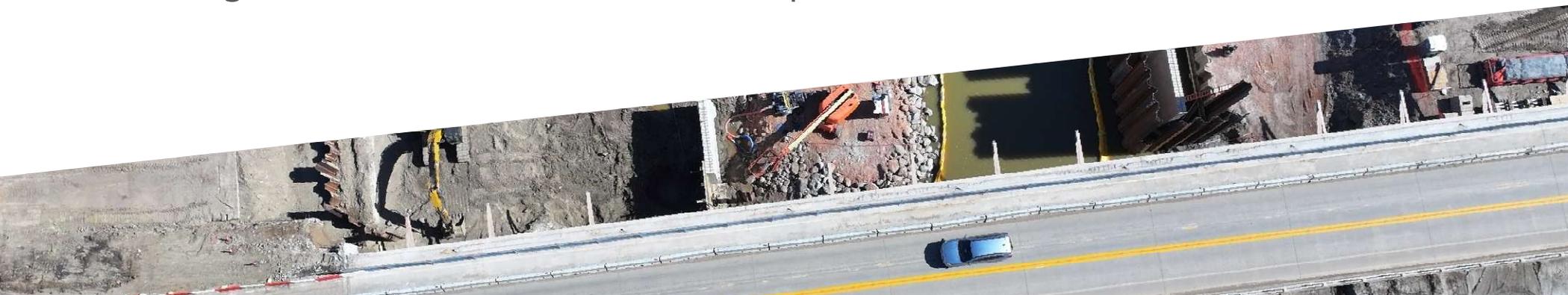
- A few large federal discretionary grant projects that have now received their funding allocation. The grant projects that make up the \$400 million increase.
- The remaining half of the estimated 2026 construction program is our core federal funding.



2026 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTION CONT.

Projected NDDOT 2026 Construction Program includes:

- 75 miles of concrete pavement repair (~4000 SY concrete)
- 20 miles of concrete reconstruction (~375,000 SY concrete)
- 450 miles of asphalt roadway reconstruction /rehabilitation (1.3M tons HMA)
- 750 miles of seal coats
- 35 box culvert rehabilitations or replacements
- 60 bridge removals, rehabilitations or replacements



BUY AMERICA

Standard Special Provision 11 (SSP 11) titled "Domestic Material Procurement Preference" began with the Dec. 12 bid opening.

- Major change is the removal of the federal waiver for manufactured products.
- For projects with this version of the SSP, items classified as manufactured products must have their final assembly occur in the US.

Another revision to this SSP will be made in the winter of 2026.

- Requiring manufactured products to be composed of 55% domestically sourced components (by cost).

WORK ZONE SAFETY



- **Dec. 2, 2024** - Updated federal rule on work zone safety and mobility in effect.
- **Dec. 31, 2025** – Completion of guidelines on selection of positive protection devices for work zones with high anticipated operating speeds that provide no means of escape to conform to Subpart K of the final rule.
- **Dec. 31, 2026** - Work Zone Safety and Mobility Policy is anticipated to be updated to conform to Subpart J of the final rule, which changes it from a process review to more of a programmatic review.

FEDERAL UPDATE

- Last construction year of the current federal transportation bill (IIJA/BIL).
- Congressional staff is working on the reauthorization process and the NDDOT continues to support the process.
 - Formula funds
 - Reduced regulations
 - Increased flexibility



DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM

- USDOT removed race and gender based presumptions for certification eligibility.
- NDDOT must reevaluate all North Dakota-based DBEs.
- Once reevaluations are largely complete, NDDOT will update its DBE Program documents and recalculate its overall goal.
- A timeline for completing the reevaluation process and reactivating the program is not yet available.



FLEXIBLE TRANSPORTATION FUND

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT [DOT.ND.GOV/FLEXFUND](https://dot.nd.gov/flexfund)

BIENNIUM COMPARISON

2023-2025 BIENNIUM | \$222.5M

Set Aside
(Non-oil Counties &
Townships)

• \$43 million
estimated

Partner Allocation
(Cities, Oil Counties,
Tribes, & Townships)

• \$44.1 million
estimated

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

TRACI SLETMOE | tsletmoe@nd.gov

BEN SAMPICA | bsampica@nd.gov

2025-2027 BIENNIUM | \$230M

Grants for Non-Oil
Townships

• \$31.1 million estimated

Grants for Non-Oil
Counties & Cities

• \$44.85 million estimated

Grants for Bridges

• \$40.25 million estimated

Formula:
Townships

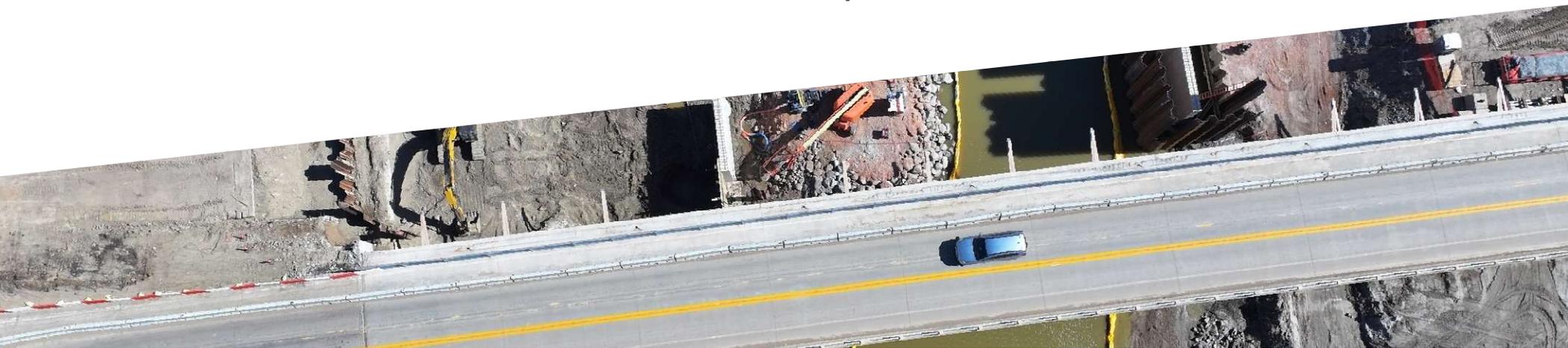
• \$20.7 million estimated

Formula: Non-Oil
Counties & Cities

• \$44.85 million estimated

PRAIRIE DOG FUNDING | \$160M

- \$40M to non-oil cities (*Treasurer Admin*)
- \$40M to non-oil counties & townships (*Treasurer Admin*)
- \$40M to non-oil cities (*DOT Admin*)
- \$40M to non-oil counties & townships (*DOT Admin*)



PROJECT SELECTION

*Applies to Flex Fund and
Prairie Dog grant programs.*



**Preliminary
Scoring**

NDDOT
Guidance
Criteria



**Committee
Ranking**



**Final
Approval**

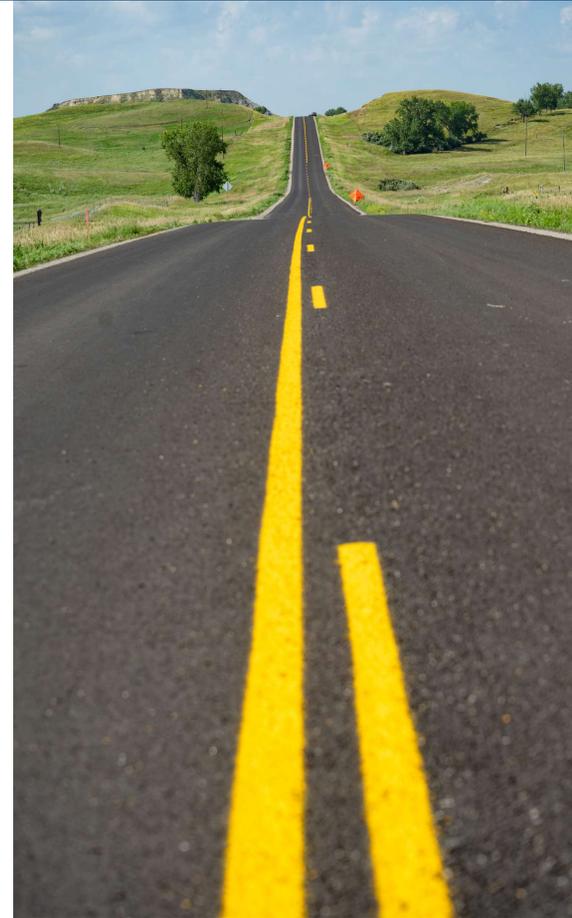
NDDOT
Director



CONNECTED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

TIERED LOCAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

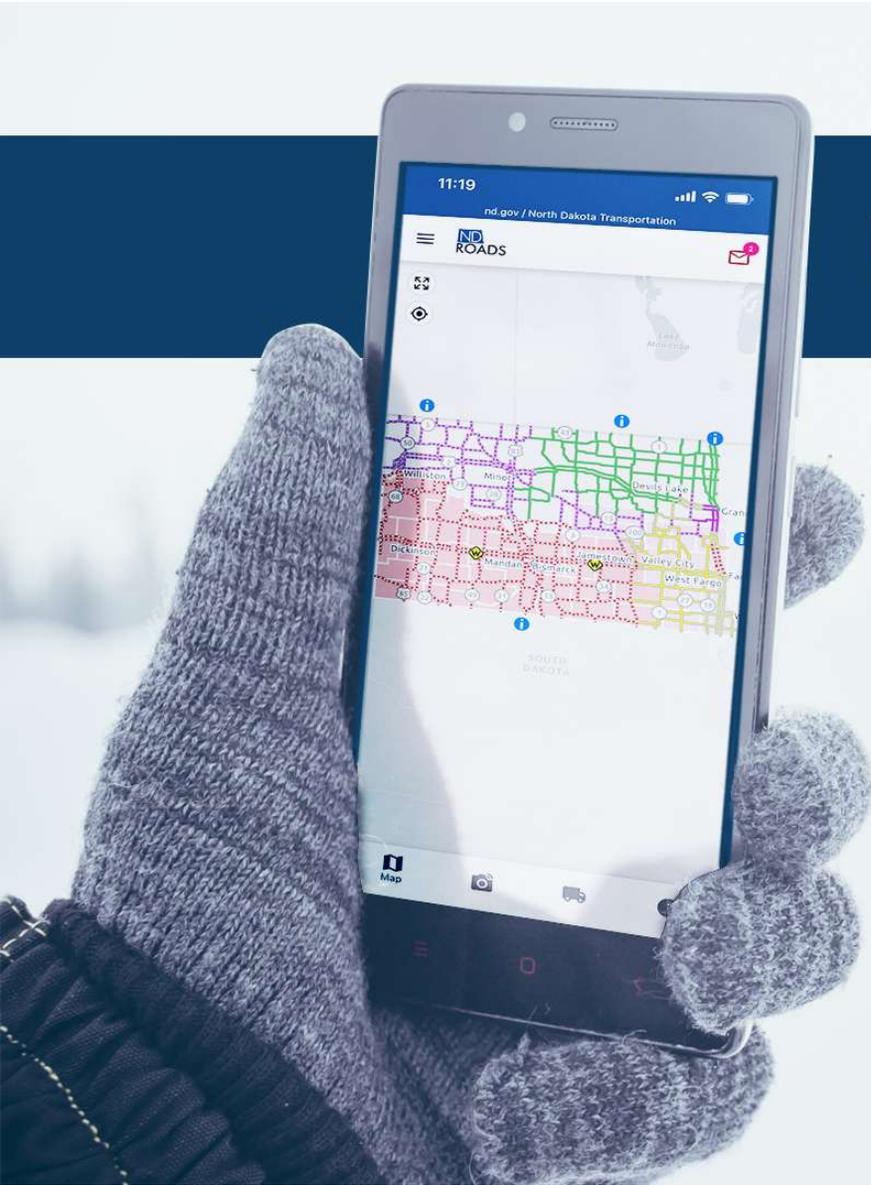
- County Major Collector (CMC) routes: highest level, federally eligible.
- Framework guides investment and maintenance strategies.
- Defines service levels, including snow and ice control.



ND TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE 2026



MARCH 10-11 | BISMARCK EVENT CENTER
dot.nd.gov/NDTranspoConference



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO.



**Download the
ND Roads app!**



AVAILABLE ON GOOGLE PLAY AND THE APPLE APP STORE.

travel.dot.nd.gov

NORTH
Dakota | Transportation
Be Legendary.

THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?

Chad M. Orn
Deputy Director for Engineering
corn@nd.gov | 328-4587

NORTH
Dakota | Transportation
Be Legendary.