

# Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Advisory Council Meeting Program Updates and Activities

October 6, 2022

# Agenda

- Advanced Traffic Analysis Center (ATAC) and NDDOT Support Center (DOTSC) – Brad
- Transportation Learning Network (TLN) – Chris
- Small Urban and Rural Center on Mobility (SURCOM) – Jill
- Rural Transportation Safety and Security Center (RTSSC) – Kim
- ND Local Technical Assistance Program (NDLTAP) – Dale
- Western ND Transportation Liaison program – Dale
- Township Transportation Funding Program – Dale
- Assessment of County, Township and Tribal Roads and Bridges Infrastructure Needs - Al
- Center for Surface Mobility Applications and Real-time Simulation environments (SMARTSe) – Raj
- Infrastructure Management and Safety Research – Pan
- Commercial Vehicle Safety Center (CVSC) – Brenda

# ***Advanced Traffic Analysis Center NDDOT Support Center***

Bradley Wentz, P.E. – Program Director

- Hire students to gain real world transportation experience providing the industry high tech services and potential future employees
  - Primarily funded by NDDOT - SPR
  - Also MPO's and MN LRRB and Counties
  - Continue to look for other sources

## *Advanced Traffic Analysis Center*

- Focus Areas and Staff
  - Traffic Operations and Data Collection
    - Kshitij Sharma, M.S., EIT
  - Travel Demand Modeling
    - Diomo Motuba, Ph.D
  - Intelligent Transportation Systems
    - Sharijad Hasan, Ph.D, EIT
  - 3 to 6 students

# Traffic Operations

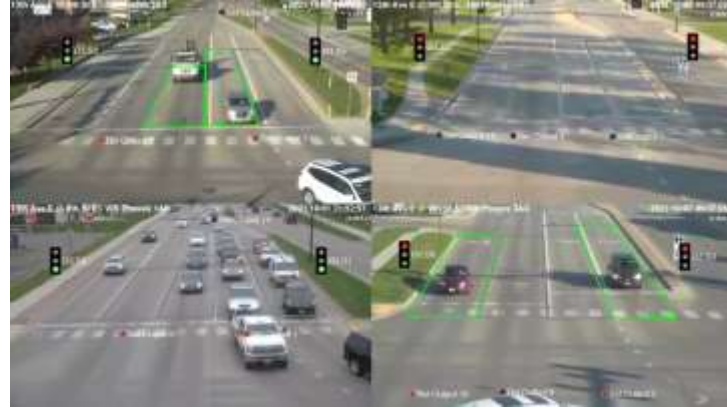
- Automated Traffic Signal Perf. Measures
  - NDDOT - 17 signals now (+5)
  - Fargo - 32 signals
  - Proactive Maint.
  - Optimization
  - Plans to expand
    - Bismarck
    - West Fargo



# Traffic Data Collection

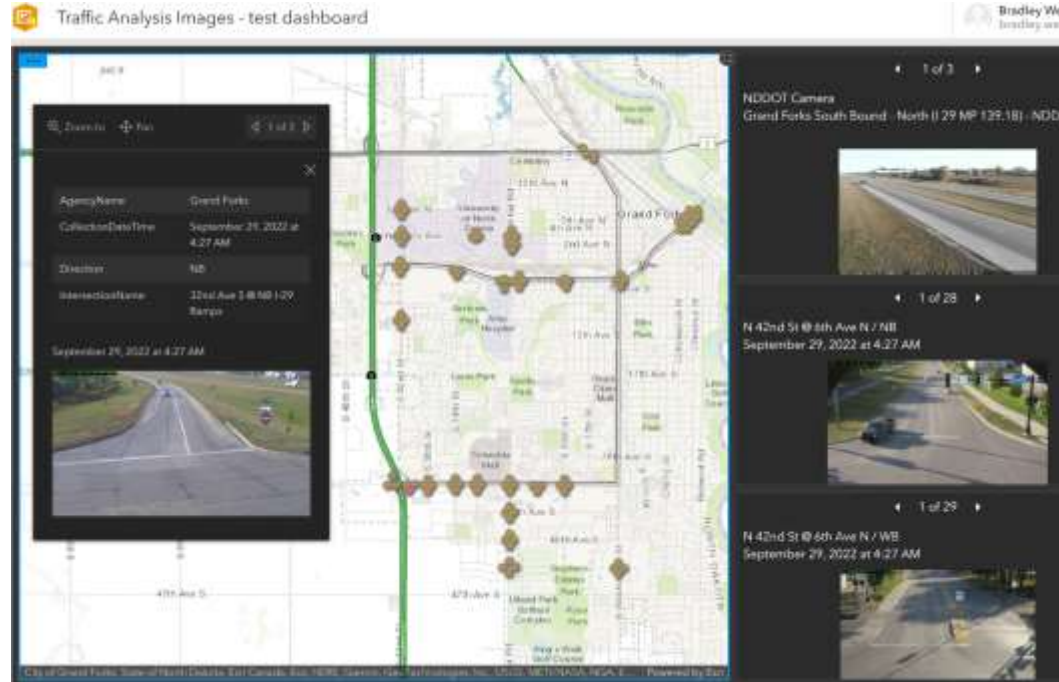


- 100 signals now!
- 50 more soon!
  - Fargo West Fargo
  - Bismarck
  - Moorhead
- Video & Loop
- Needs Study – data collection
  - Researching AI/video collection



# Intersection Image Snapshots

- 117 GF Cameras so far
- TMC
- AI/ML



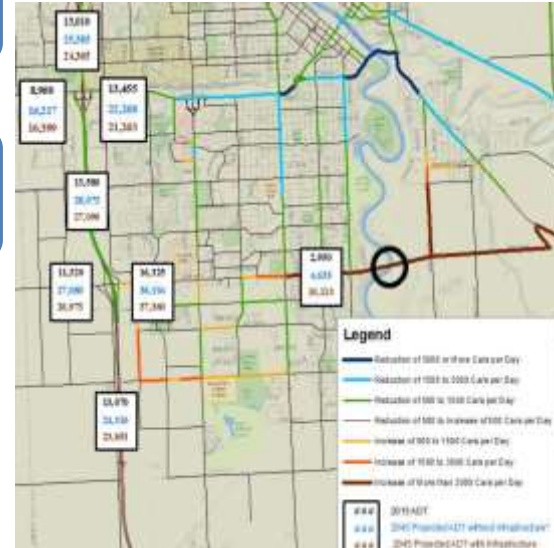
# Travel Demand Modeling

Models updates for all 3 MPOs are in progress

- Data collection process

Improvements to models

- Dynamic traffic assignment model for FM Metro COG – will be expanded to other MPOs
- Being used for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Staging
- Freight modeling as part of models
- Transit mode added to all models
- COVID and AV impacts on transportation systems





# Travel Demand Modeling

- Forecasting ADTs - NDDOT
  - Developed model that improves capability of predicting 20yr traffic volumes
- Developing on-line tools
  - Webmap/dashboard
  - GRIT tool to add traffic data
    - UGPTI, Counties, MPO's Cites...
  - Import tool for population and jobs information



# Intelligent Transportation Systems

- Regional ITS Architecture
  - National ITS Architecture versions 9.0
  - Finishing FMCOG Architecture
- Attenuator Truck Performance Measures
  - ATMA deployment and Report due January



# Intelligent Transportation Systems

- Transportation Management Center (TMC)
  - Traveler Information System
  - Roadway and Weather Management
  - Traffic Control and Incident Management
- Transportation Data Analytics Center
  - Data critical to all aspects of Transportation
  - Develop and implement the AI tools to collect

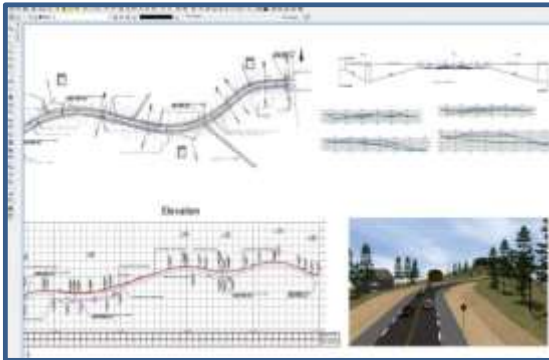


# *DOT Support Center*

## *DOTSC*

- Focus Areas and Staff
  - Design Section
    - Aaron Murra, P.E. NDDOT – [Moving on – Fargo DE!](#)
    - Brady Haussler, P.E. NDDOT
    - 10 – 12 Engineering students
  - IT Section
    - Sowmya Gudise, M.S.
    - 3 to 6 Computer Science students
  - Engineering Support
    - Special projects with engineers in UGPTI

## ***DOTSC Design Section***



**Grading for High Mast Lights I-29 - Fargo**

**ND 24 & BIA Retrofit Roundabout - Fort Yates**

**I-29 Land Slide Repair – Grand Forks**

**I-94 Business Loop West Land Slide Repair - Valley City**

**US 2 Intersection Improvements - Williston**

**Traffic Control E Bis. Expwy RR Bridge - Bismarck**

**Traffic Control Memorial Bridge - Bismarck**

**13<sup>th</sup> Ave S and I-29 NE Ramp Median Mods - Fargo**

**Various Technical Support Projects for Local Gov't**

**47<sup>th</sup> Ave S Interchange Alternatives - Grand Forks**

**Pedestrian Path Improvements - Lidgerwood**

**I-94 Business Loop East Land Slide Repair - Valley City**

**Auxiliary Lane from I-29 to 25<sup>th</sup> St Interchange - Fargo**

**Concrete Overlay US 2**

**I-29 & I-94 Concrete Barriers - Fargo**

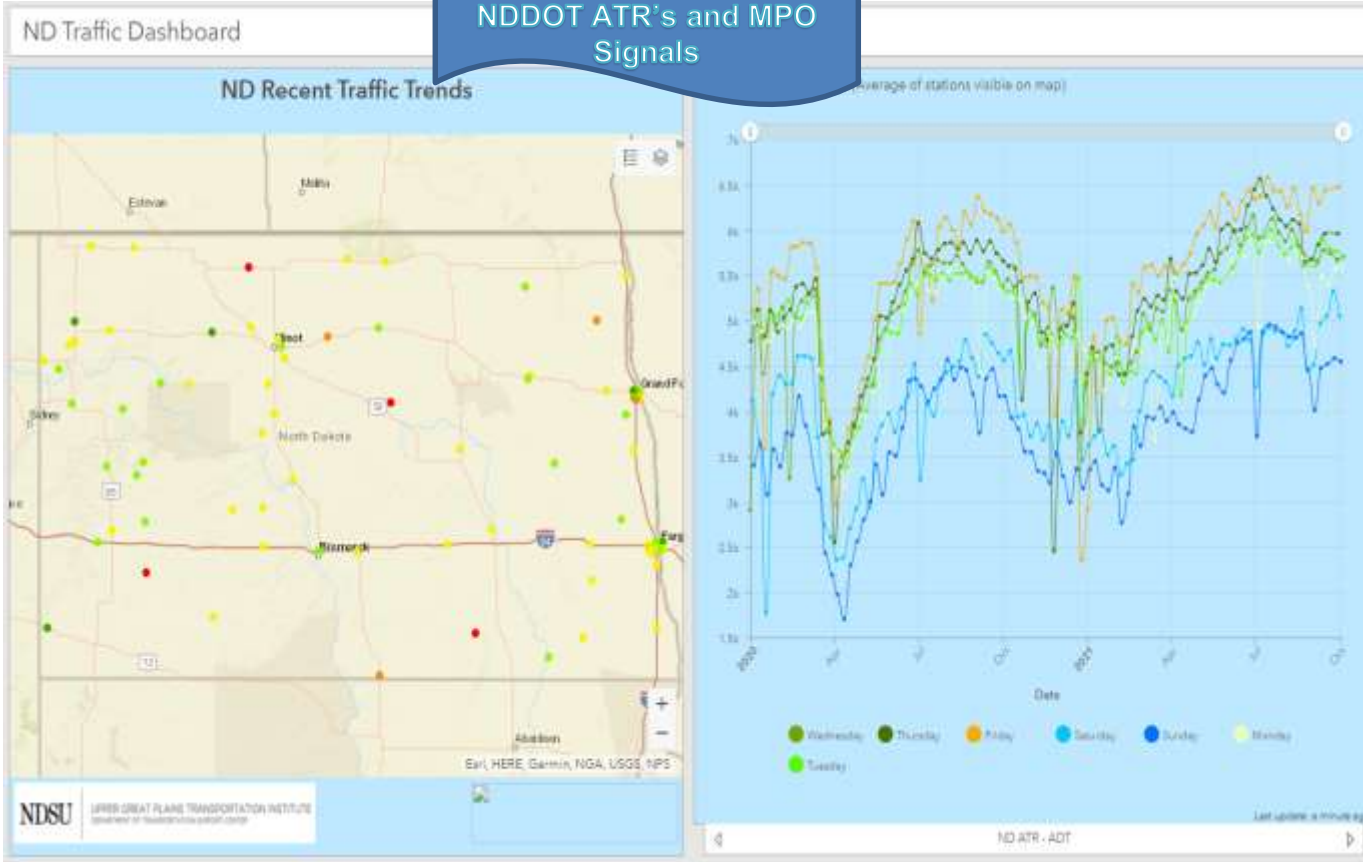
**194 & 810 Concrete Barriers - Bismarck**

**Various Wetland Creation Mitigation Projects**

## ***DOTSC IT Section Application Development***

- NDDOT Certification and Materials Testing Reporting
- ★ Traffic Analysis – Added all NDDOT ATR's and Dashboard
- Maintenance Performance Measure Dashboard - NDDOT
- ★ Asset Management – GRIT
  - Pavement Performance Forecasting - Dashboards
  - Planning and detour routes
  - Sign inventory
- Surface Selection Tool – Proposal to integrate with GRIT
- Truck Weight Calculator – Updates to 129,900
- Safety Applications – Crash reporting
- ★ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Traffic Dashboard  
NDDOT ATR's and MPO  
Signals



# GRIT

New – Detour Routes

Layers

Griggs County

Construction Planning

Location Project Info Public Impacts Finance Detour

Actual Construction Start  
2022-09-02

Actual Construction End  
YYYY-MM-DD

Public Impact  
Road Closed

Width Restrictions (ft)  
10

Impact Notice  
2022-09-02

Detour Length (miles)  
2-3

New Save Delete Cancel





# GRIT Sign Inventory

Layers

Griggs County

Sign Layer: Inventory

Location Search Panel Condition Photo Gallery

Sign Type #	Description
R1-1	Stop

Facing Direction: East

Material: Engineer Grade

Height (in.): 30      Width (in.): 30

Bar Code: Text input

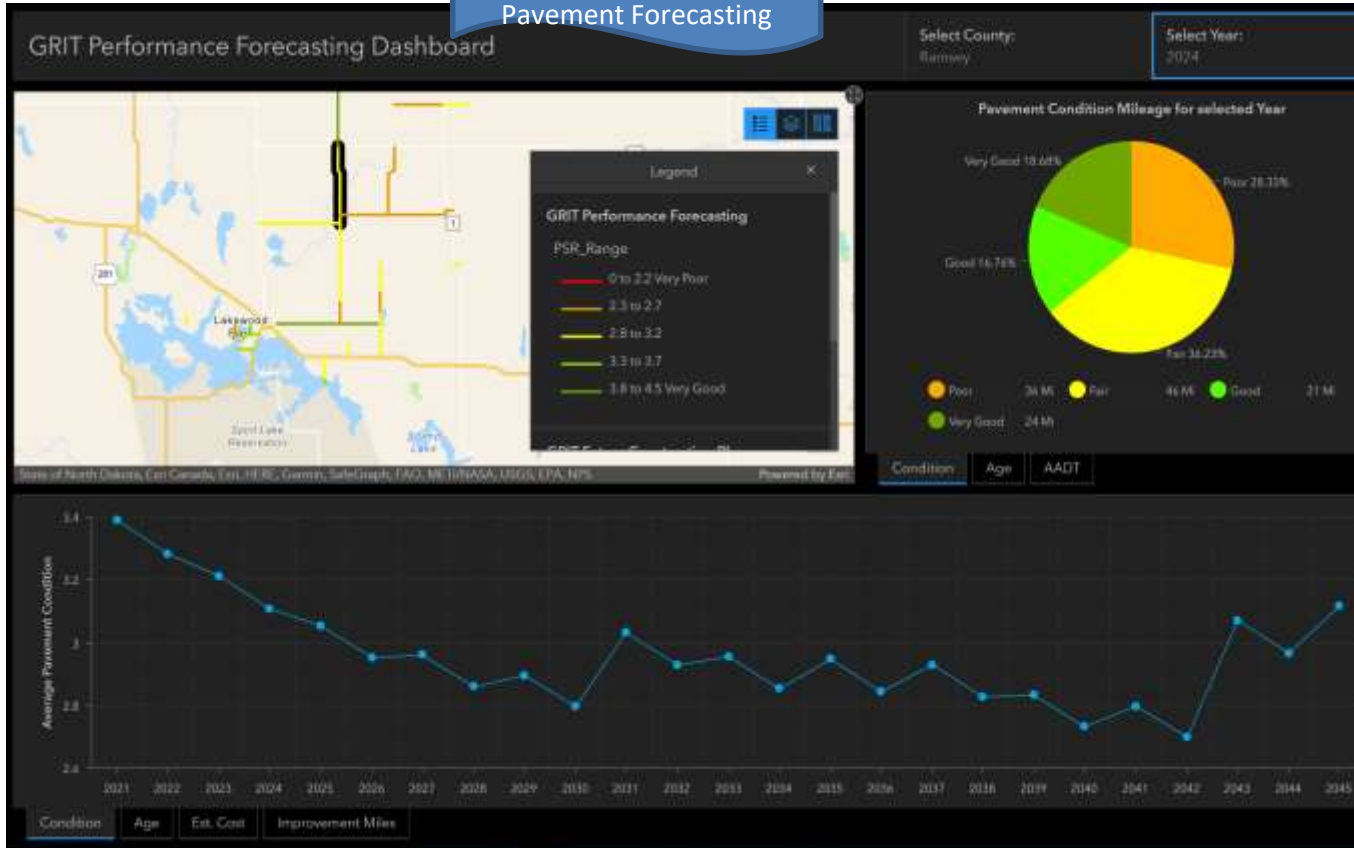
Installed Date: 2022-09-01

New Save Delete Cancel

Map Satellite

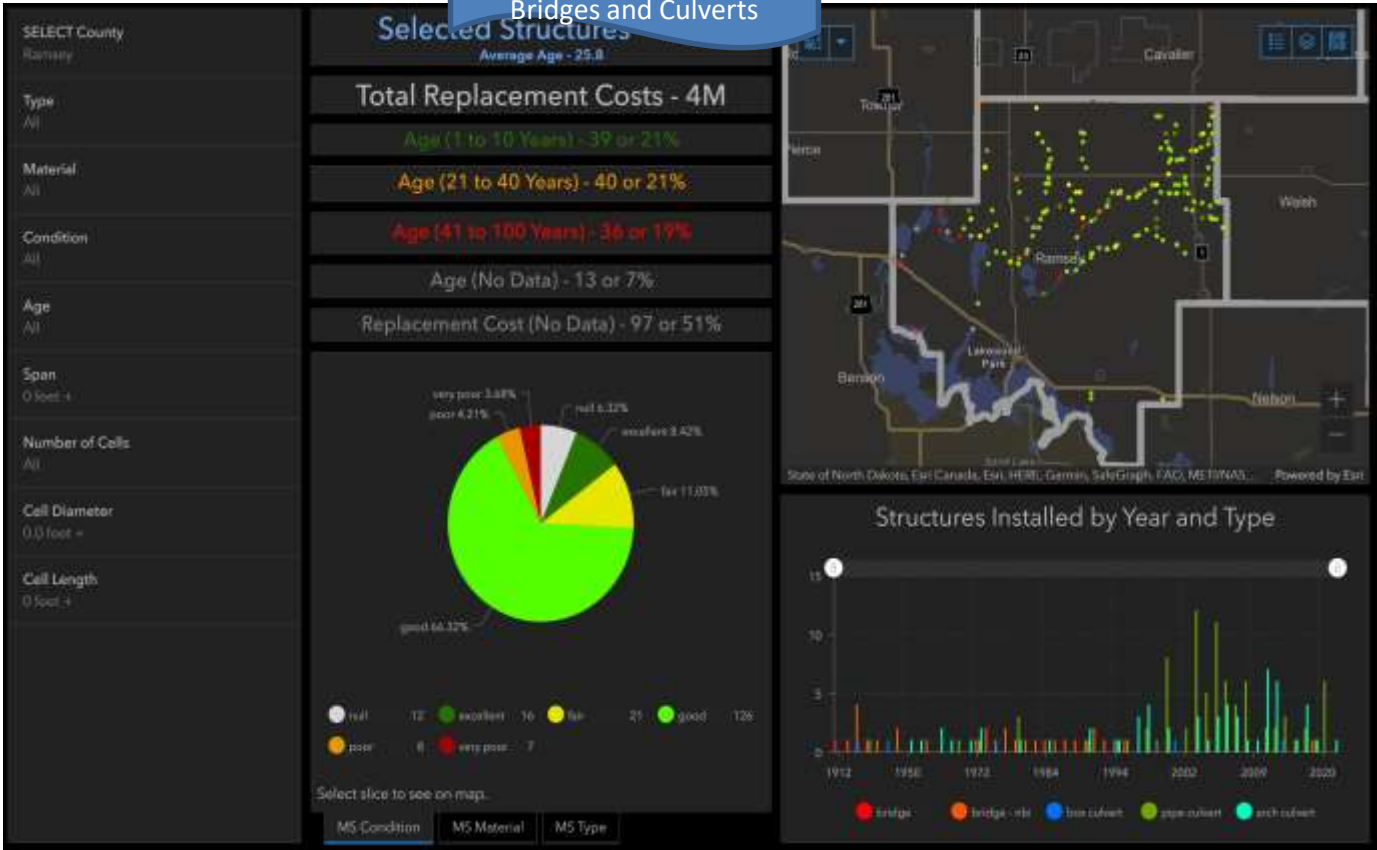
# Dashboards

## Pavement Forecasting



# Dashboards

## Bridges and Culverts



# Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning

- Major advancements in all industries
- Many low cost sensors for Transportation
- AI/ML will allow continuous monitoring and information extraction in real-time
  - Volume, classification and Speed
  - Crashes and stopped veh
  - Road condition
  - Construction/maint
  - Pedestrians
- Training AI models
- Apps to run on cams



# **TRANSPORTATION LEARNING NETWORK**

*A DYNAMIC LEARNING  
PARTNERSHIP*

**TLN**

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# **MOUNTAIN PLAINS CONSORTIUM**

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TRANSPORTATION  
CURRICULUM  
COORDINATION  
COUNCIL



national  
highway  
institute



NDSU

UPPER GREAT PLAINS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE  
NORTH DAKOTA LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# PARTNERS

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Commercial  
Vehicle Safety  
Center





# TEAM

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A photograph of a business meeting in progress. Several people in professional attire are gathered around a table. One person is holding a tablet displaying a document with charts and text. Another person is holding a coffee cup. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an office environment. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text 'TLN PLANNING COMMITTEE' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the text.

# **TLN PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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# **TLN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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# **DISTANCE BASED LEARNING**

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An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road winding through a dense forest. The trees are in various stages of autumn, with some showing vibrant yellows and oranges, while others are bare or have turned a pale, greyish-brown. The road has white dashed lines in the center and solid lines on the edges. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the text 'TRAINING SEASON' in white, bold, uppercase letters. A thin blue horizontal line is positioned below the text.

# TRAINING SEASON

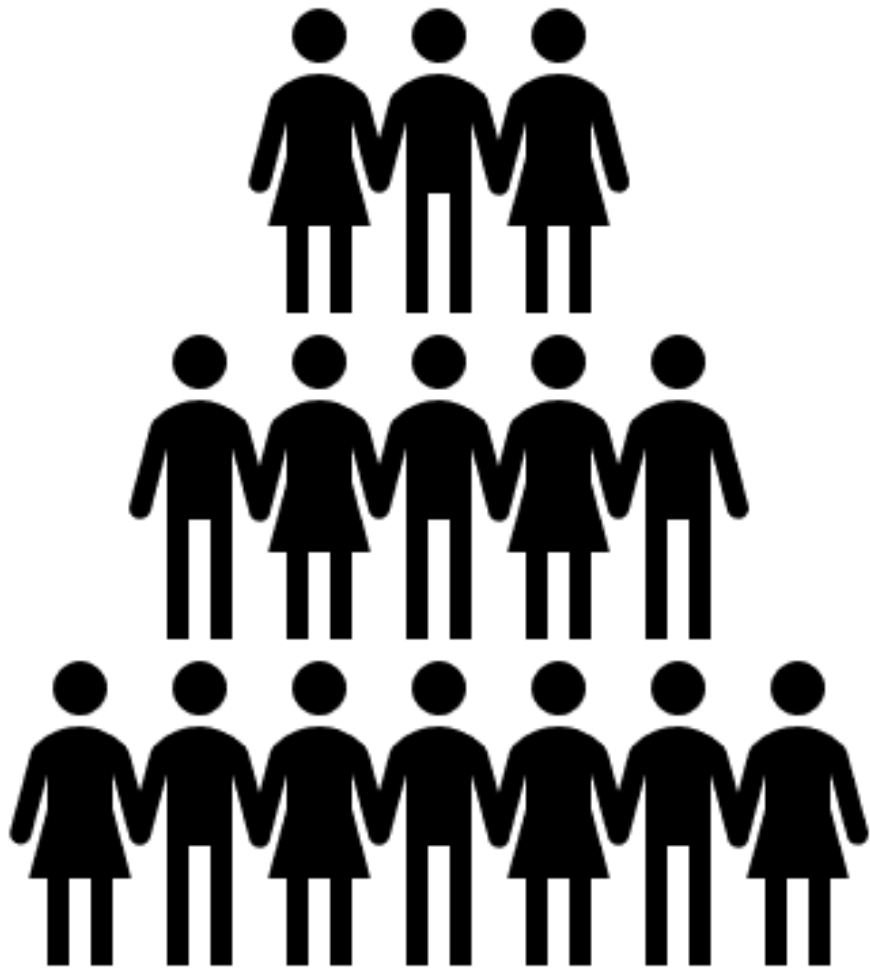
# 42

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EVENTS

# 37





**3700**

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PARTICIPANTS

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**LMS**

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DO SOMETHING GREAT

A neon sign with the text "DO SOMETHING GREAT" in white, segmented letters on a dark background. The sign is composed of four rectangular panels, each containing a portion of the text. The letters are made of thin, glowing neon tubes. The background is black, making the white neon stand out. The sign is mounted on a dark surface, and the overall appearance is that of a classic neon sign.

***DON'T  
FORGET TO  
BE AWESOME!***

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**NDSU** | UPPER GREAT PLAINS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

# Small Urban and Rural Center on Mobility (SURCOM)

UGPTI Advisory Council Meeting -  
October 6, 2022

Jill Hough, Program Director

**Vision:** To be an internationally distinguished center for providing research and education for improving mobility in small urban and rural communities.

**Mission:** To be an innovative research, education, and outreach center providing mobility solutions to small urban and rural communities.

# Team Members

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Jill Hough, Ph.D. – Program Director

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Hamad Al Qublan, Ph.D. – Post Doc Research Specialist

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Ranjit Godavarthy, Ph.D. – Associate Professor

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Jeremy Mattson, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor

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Dilip Mistry, Ph.D. - Data Scientist

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Del Peterson - Associate Research Fellow

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Zhila Dehdari – Graduate Research Assistant

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Antonio Molina - Graduate Research Assistant

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Mohsen Momenitabar - Graduate Research Assistant

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Bright Quayson - Graduate Research Assistant

# Current Partners

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UTC – Small Urban, Rural Tribal Center on Mobility (SURTCOM) in partnership with Montana State University (lead) and Eastern Washington University

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North Dakota Department of Transportation

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Minnesota Department of Transportation

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National Rural Transit Assistance Program (NRTAP) – in-kind match

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Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) – in-kind match

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KFH for NCHRP Project

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Various State Transit Associations and DOTs

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# Recently Completed Reports

SURTCOM 22-11

Rural Transit Fact Book | 2022



Prepared by:  
Jeremy Walford  
City Mobility  
North Dakota State University  
Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute  
Small Area and Rural Center on Mobility  
Fargo, ND

- An Analysis of NHTS Travel Behavior Data for Transportation-Disadvantaged and Rural Populations
- Veteran Mobility and COVID-19
- Rural Transit Fact Book 2022
- Food Access and Food Delivery Service an Exploratory Study for the Role of Public Transportation During the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020-2021
- Book Chapter - Public Transportation Ridership Patterns: Past, Present, and Possible Future Trends
- Pedestrian User Experience at Roundabouts



# Draft Reports

- Understanding How Bicycle Facility Characteristics and the Built Environment Influence Bicycle Use in a Small Urban Areas: Case Study of Fargo-Moorhead
- Interest of Shared Mobility and Emerging Vehicle Technologies in Rural America



# Current Tribal Related Projects

Improving Public Transportation in Rural Areas and Tribal Communities (NCHRP)

Impact of Transportation Service on Food Access for Native American Tribes in North Dakota (MPC)

Shared Use Mobility for Tribal Areas (UTC - SURTCOM)



# Current Research Projects



Comparing Public Transportation Service for Rural States (NDDOT)



Impacts of Transit on Health in Rural & Small Urban Areas



Utilizing Public Transportation to End Food Insecurity in the Rural and Small Urban Area by Providing Better Access: A Case Study of Rural Counties in North Dakota



Designing an Electric Transit Bus Network



Workforce Development & Succession Planning

# eTool and Web App

## Rural Transit eTool

Purpose of this eTool is to serve as a national resource for statistics and information on rural transit in America.

This Transit eTool can be used by agency managers, local decision makers, state directors, the FTA, and lawmakers to assist in policy making, planning, managing operations, and evaluating performance.

<https://www.ugpti.org/surcom/resources/transit-etool.php>

## State of Good Repair

This application will determine the current conditions of the revenue vehicles, predict when they need to be replaced, and determine the funding needed to replace them in a future year to maintain the state of good repair.

<https://www.ugpti.org/surcom/resources/sgr.php>

# Outreach



- Reports are posted on the Website [www.ugpti.org/surcom](http://www.ugpti.org/surcom) and include
  - Executive Summary
  - Final Report
  - YouTube video
  - Blog post
  - Social Media



# Training

## Advanced Transit Professional Certificate

- Transit I – The Foundations
- Transit II – The Pillars

In 2020 we moved to more eLearning

10 courses hosted at [elearning.nationalrtap.org](http://elearning.nationalrtap.org)

- ✓ *Performance Appraisals*
- ✓ *Onboarding*
- ✓ *Employee Recognition*
- ✓ *Transit Interview Questions*
- ✓ *Financial Management Basics*
- ✓ *FTA 101 – An Introduction to the Federal Transit Administration*
- ✓ *Strategic Planning*
- ✓ *Crisis Management*
- ✓ *Grant Writing*
- ✓ *Customer Service*

Questions?

Thank you!!!!

Contact: [jill.hough@ndsu.edu](mailto:jill.hough@ndsu.edu)

# Rural Transportation Safety and Security Center (RTSSC)

## Highlights

Kimberly Vachal



# RTSSC Scope



[Photo](#) Unknown Author licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

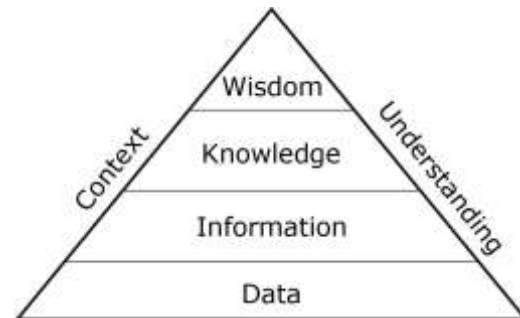
- Research and Outreach
  - Program evaluation
  - Data quantity/quality and decision-maker support
  - Exploratory analysis, POC/pilot, risk modeling
- Human behavior with engineering/environmental factors
- Evidence-based and innovative strategies
- Leverage support/funding to conduct research

# RTSSC Emphasis Areas

- Lane Departure
- Intersections
- Alcohol and/or Drug Related
- Unbelted Vehicle Occupants
- Speeding/Aggressive Driving
- Young/Aging Drivers



...Local Roads!



# RTSSC Team & Projects

- *Team: Seguy, Jaclyn, Judge John, Satpal, Kelly, GRAs*
- **Assessment**
  - Observed & Self-Reported Surveys
  - Impaired Driving Investigations
  - High-Risk Driver Groups
- **Research**
  - Novice Drivers, Recidivism Risk, Lane Departure
  - Local/Rural Road Safety
  - Large Truck Safety
- **Education/Outreach**



[Photo](#) Facebook, Traffic Safety

# Questions/Comments



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)


# NDLTAP - Dale

- ND Local Technical Assistance Program (NDLTAP)
- Western ND Transportation Liaison program
- Township Transportation Funding Program

## North Dakota Local Technical Assistance Program (NDLTAP)

# NDLTAP Update

UGPTI Advisory Council Meeting  
October 6, 2022



Dale C. Heglund, North Dakota LTAP Director  
701-318-6893 – [dale.heglund@ndsu.edu](mailto:dale.heglund@ndsu.edu)

NDSU UPPER GREAT PLAINS  
TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

Better Gravel = Better Roads =  
**SAFER ROADS**



[www.ndltap.org/resources/](http://www.ndltap.org/resources/)

VISION  
ZERO

NDSU

UPPER GREAT PLAINS  
TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE  
NORTH DAKOTA LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

53 counties

1,360 organized townships

355 communities









**Scotty Satermo**, MHA

NDLTAP Advisory Board Member







Figure 19. Survey Responses to Gravel Specifications

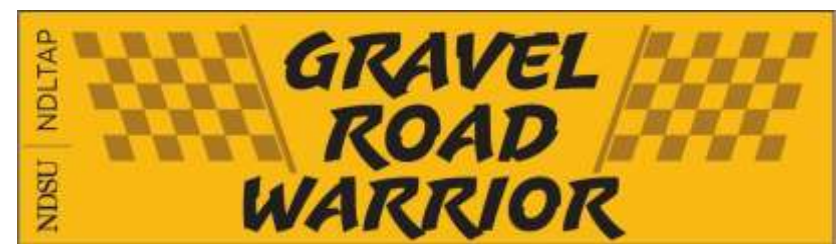


Figure 20. Survey Responses to Gravel Testing





# Greetings from the NDLTAP Team

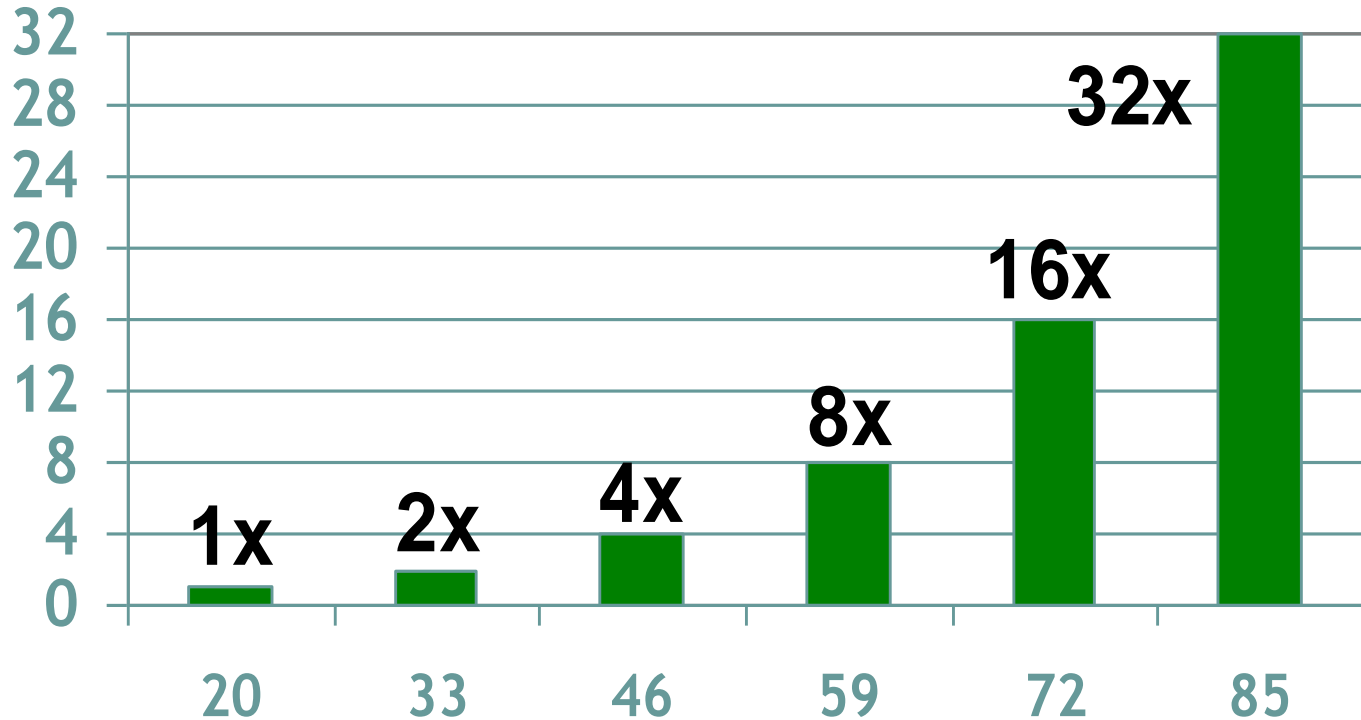


# Learn – Implement Calls to Action – Creating Change





# Older Driver Vision





Age  
60

Age  
80

Age  
30







## My Favorite Quote

***“Cracks need to  
be sealed,  
because where I  
come from water  
can’t jump.”***

Tom Wood, Astech



**VISION**

**ZERO** 

Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.








TRUCK  
OUTE



2021 CONTEST  
**INNOVATION  
CHAMPIONS**

**ROAD TO  
INNOVATION**





# Road Scholar 2023



NORTH DAKOTA LOCAL TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NDLTAP)**2022 PROGRAM OVERVIEW, WORK  
PLAN, AND BUDGET**

FY 2022 (February 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023)



## Funding Update

- FHWA \$150k
- NDDOT \$150k

## 2023 Increases!

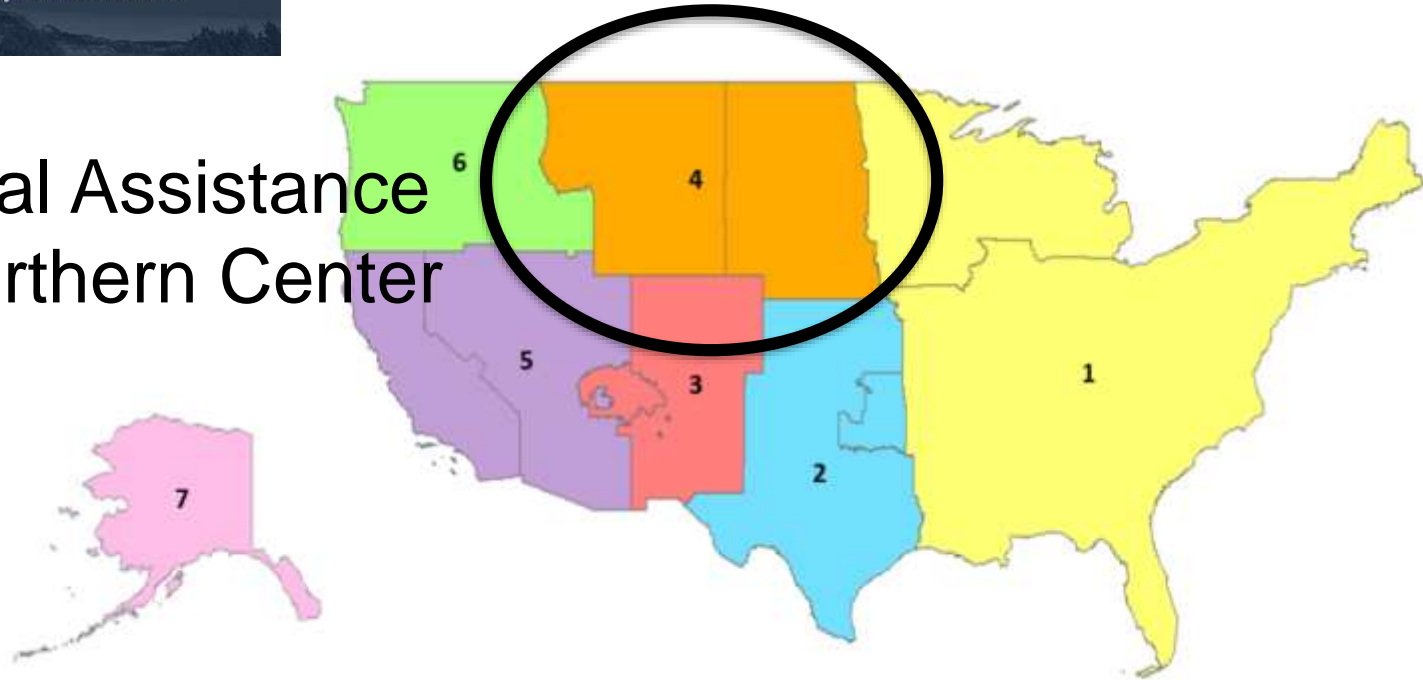
- FHWA \$210k
- NDDOT \$210k

GRANT

KEVIN  CRAMER

U.S. SENATOR for NORTH DAKOTA

# Tribal Technical Assistance Program – Northern Center

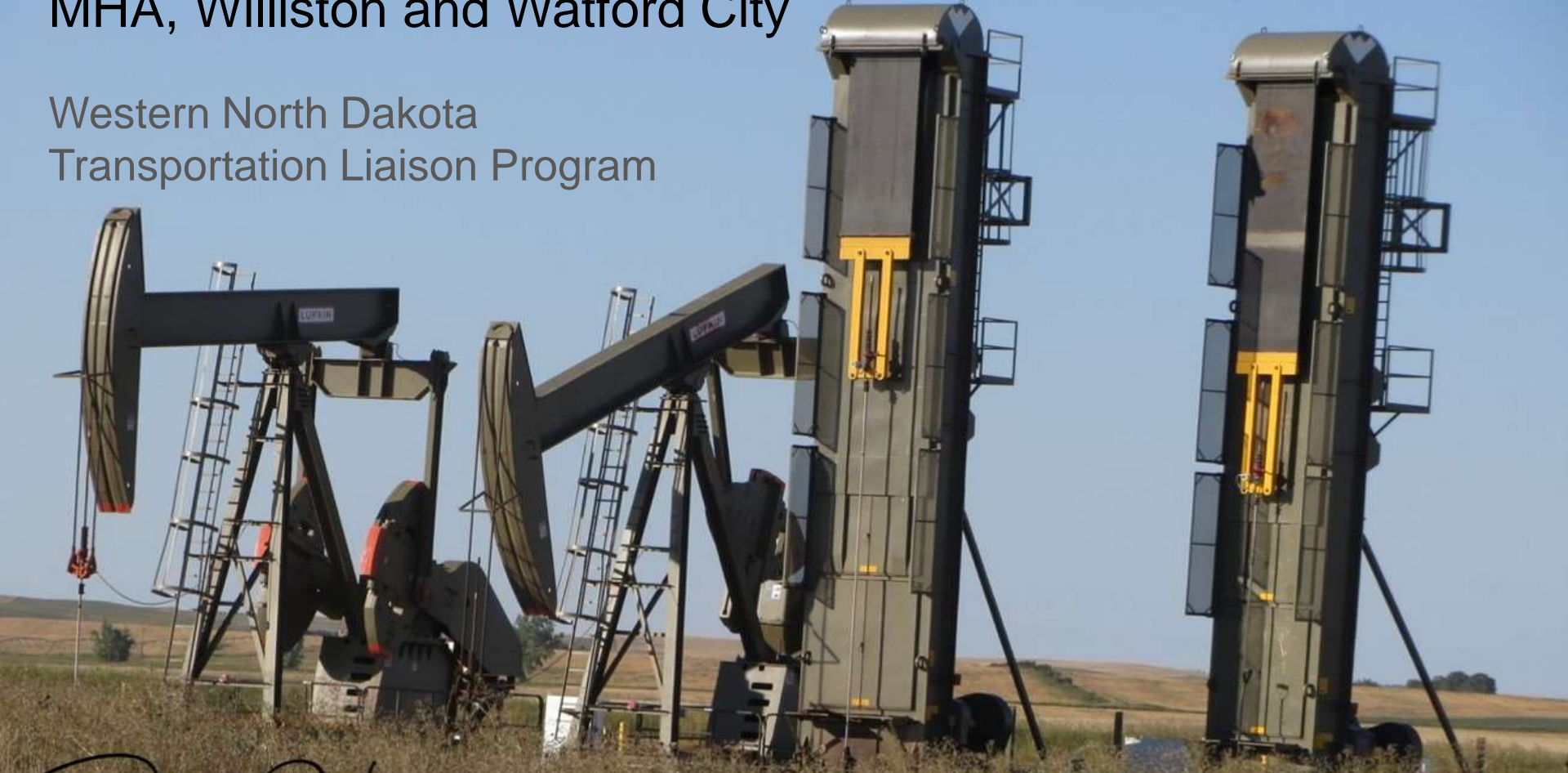


4. Northern TTAP Center	Rocky Mountain	5 States: MT, NE, ND, SD, WY	<i>North Dakota State University (NDSU)</i>
	Great Plains		



# Oil Country – Mountrail, Dunn, McKenzie, Williams, MHA, Williston and Watford City

Western North Dakota  
Transportation Liaison Program





## UGPTI Transportation Liaison Staff Added in ND Oil Patch

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*Posted: Sep 25, 2020*

Two transportation experts were recently added to the staff of NDSU's Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute to assist with local transportation planning and investments in Dunn, McKenzie, and Williams Counties and with the Mandan Hidatasa Arikara Nation. Matthew Johnson and Ed Ryen will be located in Williston and affiliated with UGPTI's ND Local Technical Assistance Program in Bismarck.

Matthew Johnson is the Western ND Transportation Liaison. He has more than 26 years of experience in the transportation industry, serving as a project engineer with Wold Engineering in Bottineau. He operated his own construction engineering firm, MJ Consulting from 2018 to 2020. Johnson will help local officials plan and enhance their regional efforts and transportation investments.

Ed Ryen is the Western Transportation Liaison. He has more than 40 years in transportation engineering, bringing valuable knowledge in construction, bridge inspections, planning, emergency operations and highway technology. In his role he will assist in further implementation of the Wise Road Weather station and the Toward 365 project. He will also assist with project and regional planning, help with the Geographic Roadway Inventory Tool (GRIT) data entry, and share best practices with local governments in the region.



*Pictured: Matthew Johnson(left), Ed Ryen(right)*

# Western Objectives

- Advance Transportation Planning
- Network Connectivity
- Nurture Multi-jurisdictional Project Development
- Tribal Assistance
- Asset Management Development

# Key Success

Enhanced collaboration *between county, tribe, township, city and state*

## One Roadway Network



Adams, Matthew



Curt Han... (partially visible)



Ryan, Thom



O'Brien, Thomas



Hart, Will





# Matt Johnson, PE Service Award



# New Weather Stations Proactively Tackle Disruption in the Industry



*This weather station was installed last fall at Antelope Creek in McKenzie County during phase two of the project.*

## WISE ROADS







**An Automated Permit and Routing System for Oversize and Overweight Vehicles/Loads traveling on ND County, Township and City Roads.**

(by Leanna Emmer, NDLTAP)

LoadPass Permits (aka ND Uniform County Permit System) is an automated permit and routing program used by ND counties and cities. It is used to regulate the movement of oversize and overweight vehicles and loads traveling on ND county, township, and city roads.



\*Effective 1/25/2022



# Township Transportation Funding Program HB 1015



Kenneth Steiner



Les Noehre



# Township Transportation Funding Program

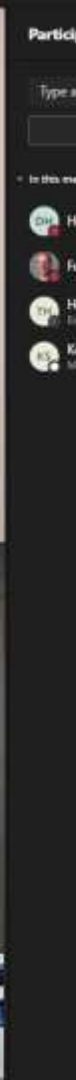
- Legislative Foundation – **HB 1015**
  - \$10 million in State Funds



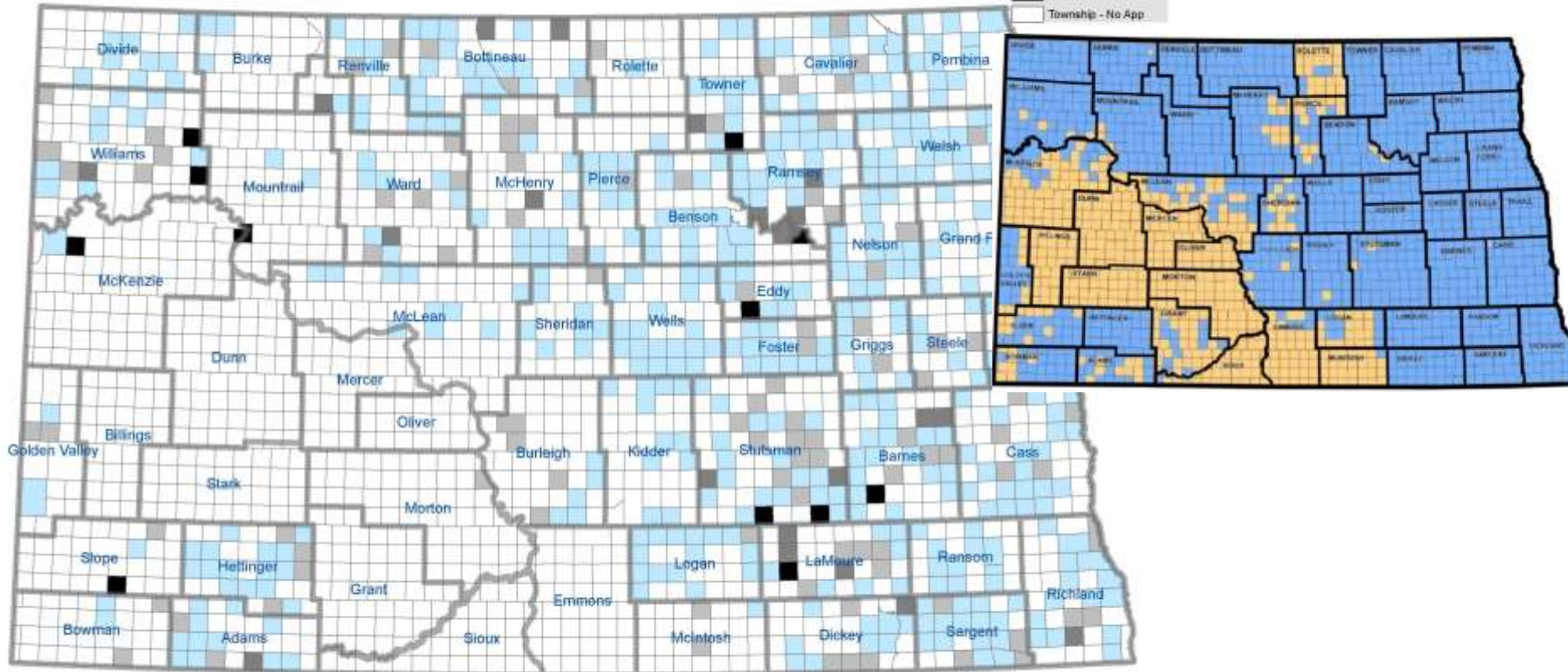
# Township Transportation Funding Program

- **Preliminary Concepts/Eligible Projects**
  - Multi-township-based **corridor improvements** such as gravel improvements of structural nature
    - Need to be in excess of 3.0 inches thick with engineered and tested gravel meeting NDDOT specifications for surfacing gravel.
  - **Bundling of minor structure improvements** across a multi-township area.
  - **Roadway flood resiliency improvements** so the roadway meets the logical design “Q” of the pipes along the corridor.
  - **Signing improvement** projects for elevating safety across a multi-township region.

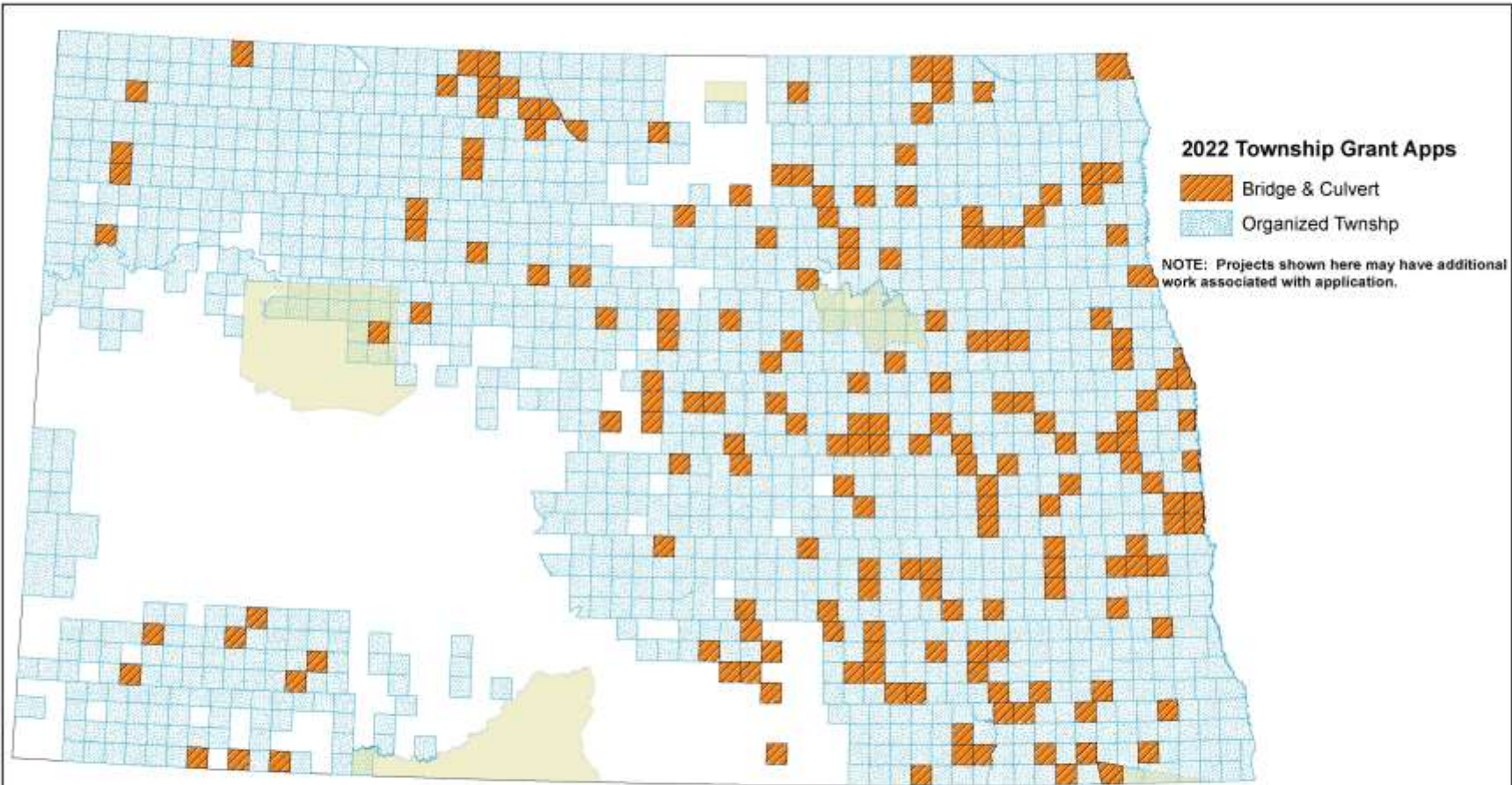




# ND Township Grant Funding Applications 2022











STATE NEWS

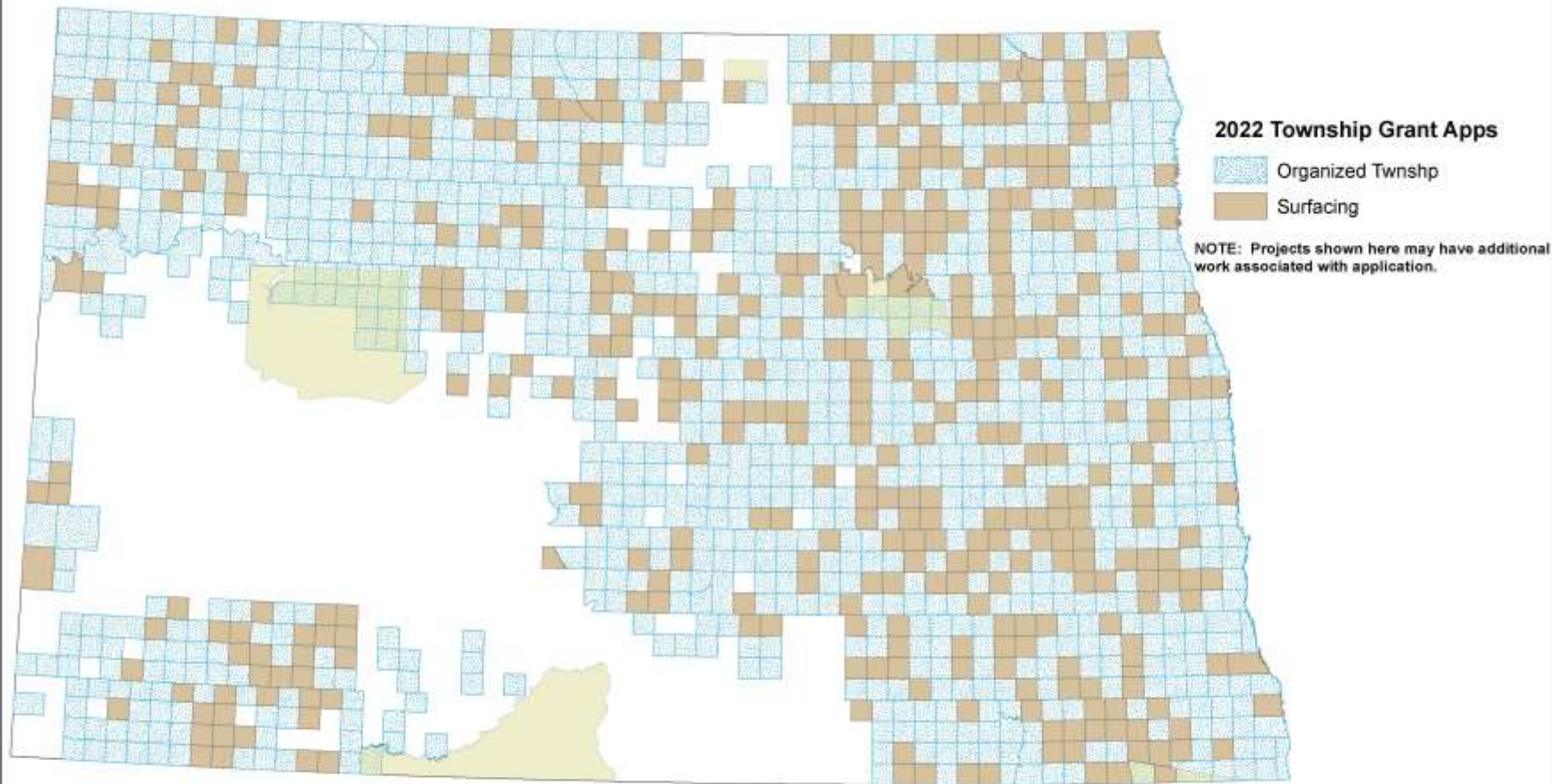
# Oklahoma couple dies after trying to cross Cannonball River in truck

by: [Brooke Williams](#)

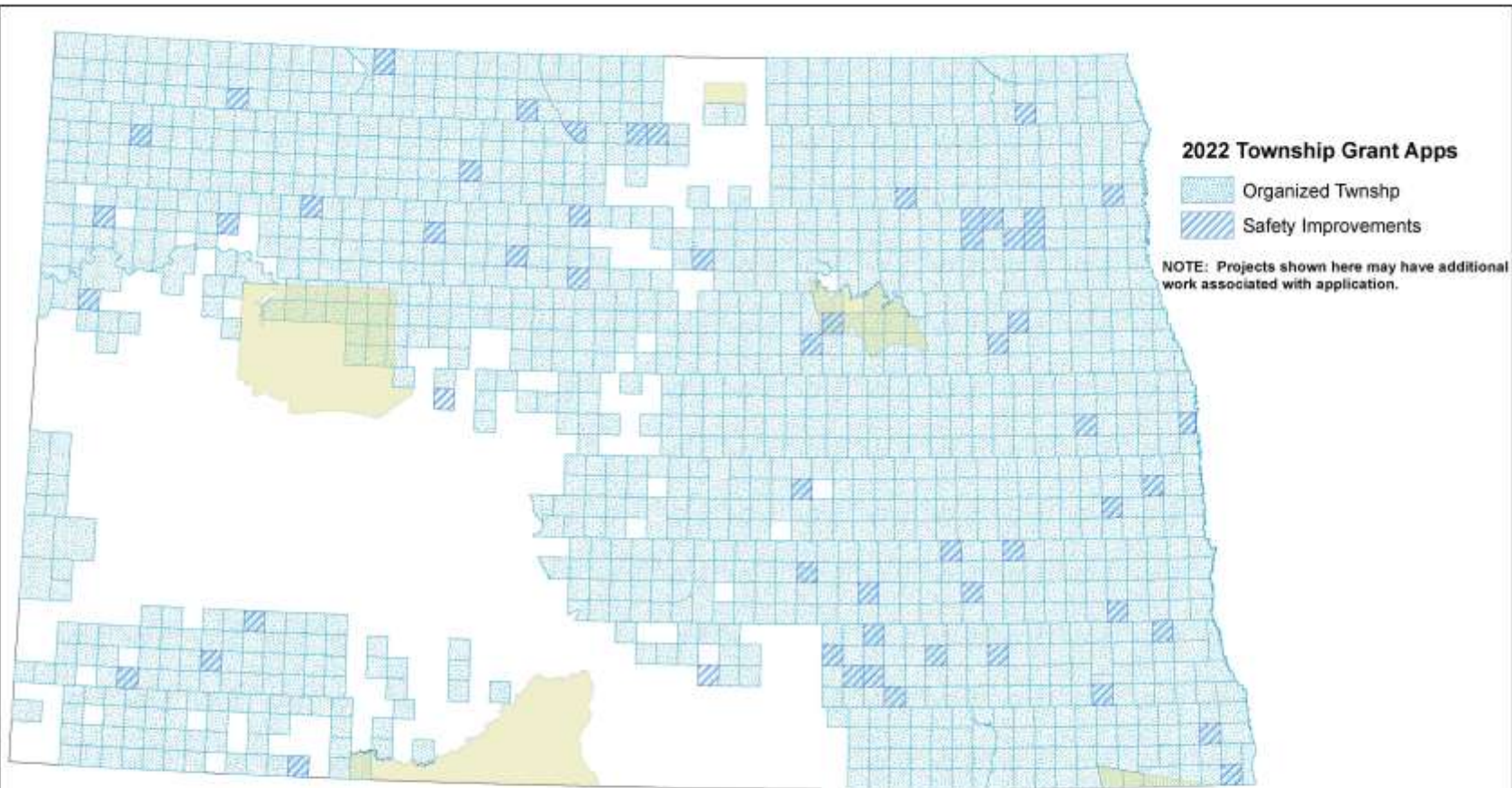
Posted: May 2, 2022 / 05:18 PM CDT

Updated: May 2, 2022 / 05:19 PM CDT













# Infrastructure Needs: County, Township and Tribal Roads and Bridges: 2022-2041

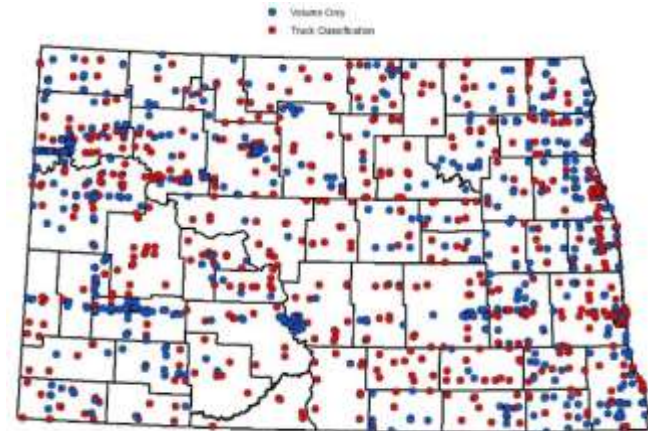
Alan Dybing  
Advanced Research Fellow

# Study Objective

- Estimate the funding needs to maintain the existing road system over the next 20 years

# Study Components

- Traffic Model
  - Key component for modeling pavement and gravel needs
    - Gravel – higher traffic results in more frequent maintenance
    - Paved – design is based on ESALs, higher traffic results in thicker pavements and accelerates deterioration
  - Based upon traffic generators, destinations
    - Agricultural Traffic
    - Oil Related Traffic
  - Calibrated using traffic counts



# Study Components

- Unpaved Roads Costing
  - Statewide county and township survey
    - Component Costs
    - Practices at different traffic levels
    - Blading
    - Regravelling thickness and frequency
    - Dust suppressant and base stabilization
  - Establish annual per-mile costs by traffic category, county and jurisdiction

# Study Components

- Pavement Model and Cost Projection
  - Data Collection
    - Pavement condition
    - GRIT – county entered data
    - Existing roadbed strength
  - Analysis (AASHTO 93)
    - Forecast pavement deterioration and improvement timing
      - Overlay
      - Reconstruction
      - Widening

# Study Components

- Bridge Model and Cost Projection
  - Utilizes National Bridge Inventory System (NBIS) data
  - Development of Bridge Needs Target (BNT) to evaluate bridge condition to estimate improvement and maintenance costs
  - Developed with the assistance of a panel of county engineers

# Study Results

Period	Unpaved (\$M)	Paved (\$M)	Bridges (\$M)	Total (\$M)
<b>2022-2023</b>	\$ 660.35	\$ 557.10	\$139.42	\$1,356.87
<b>2024-2025</b>	\$ 650.79	\$ 515.00	\$139.42	\$1,305.21
<b>2026-2027</b>	\$ 665.91	\$ 371.50	\$139.42	\$1,176.83
<b>2028-2029</b>	\$ 665.55	\$ 344.90	\$139.42	\$1,149.87
<b>2030-2031</b>	\$ 651.44	\$ 274.30	\$139.42	\$1,065.16
<b>2032-2041</b>	\$ 3,251.62	\$ 1,186.00	\$18.45	\$4,456.07
<b>2022-2041</b>	<b>\$ 6,545.66</b>	<b>\$ 3,248.80</b>	<b>\$715.57</b>	<b>\$10,510.01</b>

Category	2020-2039 (\$M)	2022-2041 (\$M)	% Change
Unpaved	\$6,056.34	\$6,545.66	<b>8.07%</b>
Paved	\$2,668.49	\$3,248.80	<b>21.75%</b>
Bridges	\$498.81	\$715.57	<b>43.46%</b>
Total	\$9,223.64	\$10,510.01	<b>13.95%</b>

# Upcoming Study

- Focus on model maintenance rather than redevelopment during each biennium
- Centralized data hub
  - Traffic counts from multiple sources
    - Traffic model output
    - Traffic prediction model
  - GRIT data
  - Cost and condition data



# Upcoming Study

- Model maintenance (continued)
  - Streamline trip generation data updates
  - Automate traffic updating and network processing
  - Scenario analysis
- County road superintendent meetings
  - Verify jurisdiction/ownership/maintenance responsibilities
  - Identify county-specific issues and determine regional impacts
  - Identify traffic generators
    - Recent changes and potential facility location

# Questions?

Alan Dybing

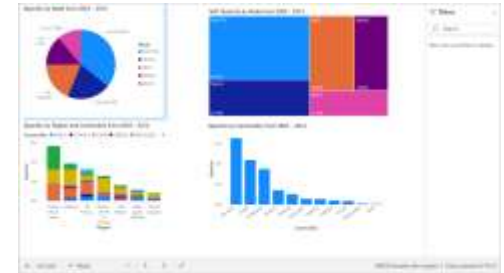
[alan.dybing@ndsu.edu](mailto:alan.dybing@ndsu.edu)

701.231.5988

[https://www.ugpti.org/downloads/road\\_needs/](https://www.ugpti.org/downloads/road_needs/)

# Agricultural Activities

- ND Ag Producer Support in Transport/Logistics
  - ND Grain Movement Database (Jaclyn/Patrick)
  - Annual Elevator Transportation Survey
  - Rail Market Information
  - Market Developments and Trends
  - Containerized Grain Investigation
- USDA (AI/Megan/Bev)
  - Basis map & periodic rail grain market (adding tariffs)
  - *Quarterly grain truck market survey*
- *Central Region Farm Truck Survey (AI)*



# Transport Technology Research

Surface Mobility Applications and Real-Time Simulation Environments (SMARTSe)

Raj Bridgelall

Co-PI: Denver Tolliver

Collaborations: CVSC, SURCOM, ATAC

Editing: Tom Jirik, Patrick Nichols

## Graduate Research Assistants



Bhavana Bhardwaj, Ph.D.  
Graduated Summer 2022



Neeraj Dhingra, Ph.D.  
Graduated Summer 2022



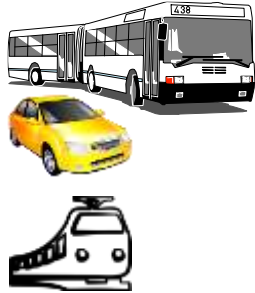
Taraneh Askarzadeh  
MPC 665 (Drones/AI)



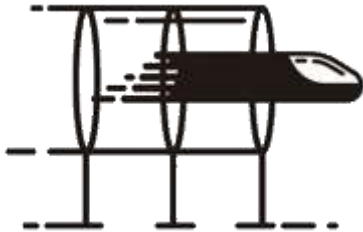
Seguy Tchakounte-Wakem  
MPC 666 (Drones/Logistics)

# Emerging Transportation Technologies

Passenger Vehicles



Hyperloops



Vehicle  
Automation

Electric  
Vehicles

Converge

Connected  
Vehicles

Shared  
Mobility

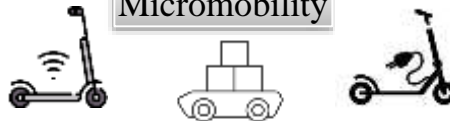
Freight Vehicles



Passenger  
& Delivery Drones



Micromobility



# Research Questions



Source: FHWA (2022)

## Safety

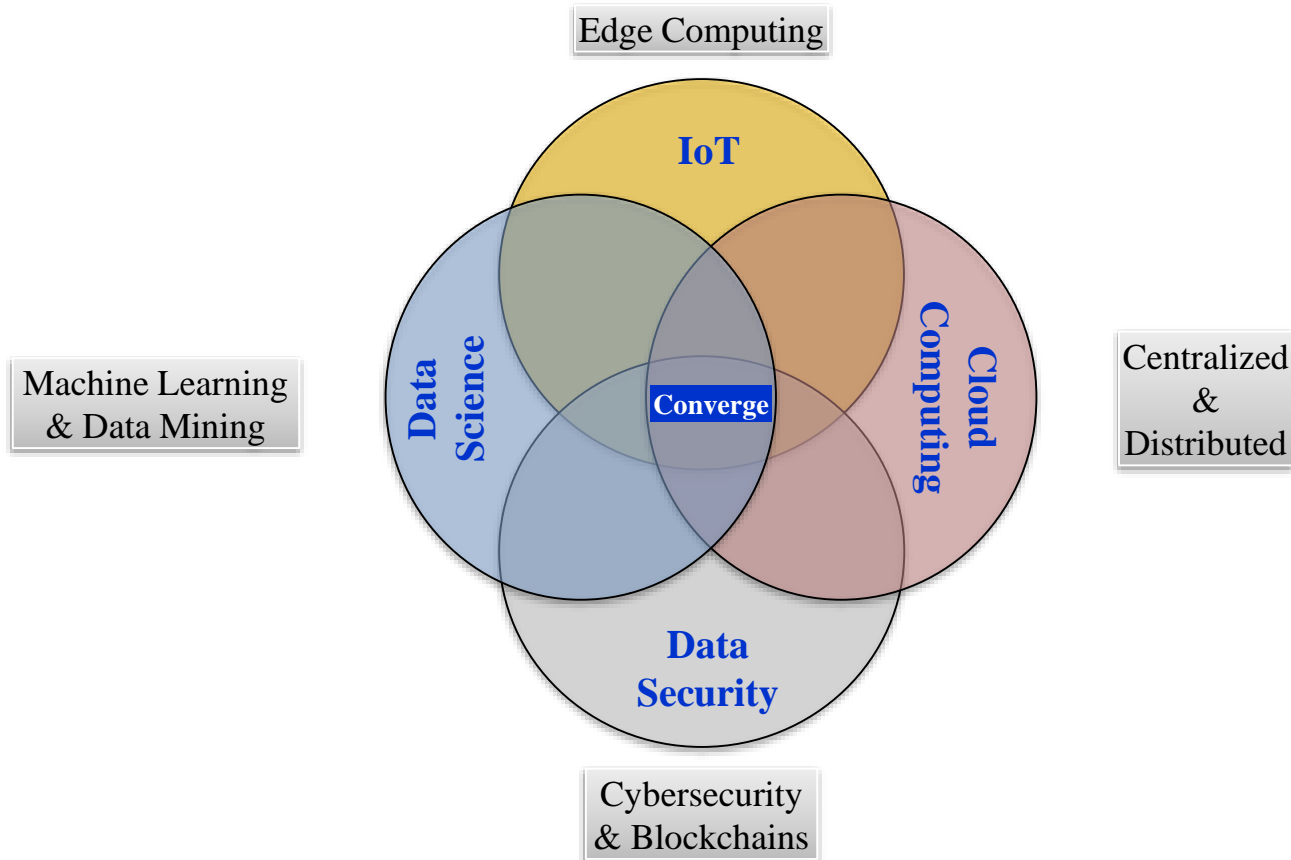
- What must be in place for connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs) to eliminate accidents?
- How safe is vehicle platooning?
- How safe is mixed levels of vehicle automation?



## Mobility

- Will CAVs eliminate or cause more congestion?
- Should AVs have their own lane?
- Will autonomous trucks reduce cost?
- How practical is truck electrification?

# Emerging Information Technologies



# Drone Opportunities and Challenges



[Source:](#) DHL (2022). Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Logistics.



[Source:](#) Unmanned Systems Technology (2022). Nordic Unmanned partnered with BNSF to test the Staaker Railway Drone for infrastructure inspection and general data acquisition.



# Sample of Research Products

## Transportation Technology & Planning

- Introducing an Efficiency Index to Evaluate eVTOL Designs. *Technology Forecasting and Social Change*.
- Characterizing Ride Quality with a Composite Roughness Index. *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transp. Systems*.
- Budgeting the Adoption of Sensors on Connected Trains. *Transportation Planning and Technology*.
- Forecasting the Effects of Autonomous Vehicles on Land Use. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*.
- Model Contrast of Autonomous Vehicle Impacts on Traffic. *Journal of Advanced Transportation*.
- Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis of Traffic Forecasting: A Case Study. *Sustainability*.
- A Cognitive Framework to Plan for the Future of Transportation. *Transportation Planning and Technology*.

## Transportation Security

- An Application of Natural Language Processing to Classify what Terrorists Say They Want. *Social Sciences*.
- Using Artificial Intelligence to Derive a Public Transit Risk Index. *Journal of Public Transportation*.
- Applying Artificial Intelligence to Identify Factors Associated with Terrorist Attack Locations. *Security Journal*.
- Applying Unsupervised Machine Learning to Counterterrorism. *Journal of Computational Social Science*.
- Attack Risk Modelling for the San Diego Maritime Facilities. *Marine Policy*.

## Transportation Safety

- Railroad Reliability Engineering by Natural Language Processing. *Reliability Engineering & System Safety*.
- Railroad Accident Analysis Using Extreme Gradient Boosting. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*.
- Detecting Pavement Anomalies by Ensemble Connected Vehicle Signals. *International Journal of Pavement Engineering*.
- Signal Feature Extraction and Combination to Enhance the Detection and Localization of Railroad Track Irregularities. *IEEE Sensors*.
- Calibration of Smartphone Sensors to Evaluate the Ride Quality of Paved and Unpaved Roads. *International Journal of Pavement Engineering*.

# Questions?

## Contact

raj.bridgelall@ndsu.edu  
408-607-3214

# Research Updates and Activities

## Infrastructure Management and Safety

### Pan Lu

Mountain-Plains Consortium  
Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute  
North Dakota State University  
[Pan.Lu@ndsu.edu](mailto:Pan.Lu@ndsu.edu)

# People and Partners

- **Pan Lu, Ph.D. (PI):** Associate Research Fellow / Associate Professor
- **People at UGPTI and NDSU (5 CO-PIs):** Dr. Denver Tolliver, Dr. Raj Bridgelall, Dr. Ying Huang, Dr. Alan Dybing, and Tim Horner
- **Graduate Research Assistants (11):** Jiahui Chong (UndG), Cybele Lemuh (UndG), Hailun Wang (MS), Salman Ahmad (MS), Leonard Chia (PhD), Heshani Manaweera (PhD), Yihao Ren (PhD), Xinyi Yang (PhD), Asad Ali (PhD), Awuku Bright (PhD), and Gul Badin (PhD),
- **Post-Doc Researchers (2):** Jingnan Zhao (Rutgers), and Jianbang Du (Texas Southern)
- **Faculties at other Universities (Federal Proposal Writing):** the Texas Southern University, the Rutgers University, the University of Houston, the University of Utah, the Oklahoma State University, the University of Maryland, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and the University of Wyoming.
- **Sponsors:** Mountain Plains Consortium (UTC regional center, major financial sponsor), NDDOT (in kind support), National Academy Sciences (NCHRP, financial), Various Universities (collaborators), Minnesota DOT (in kind), Red River Valley and Western Railroad Company (in kind), and Northern Plains Railroad (in kind).

# Scope and Focal Areas

- Research and Outreach

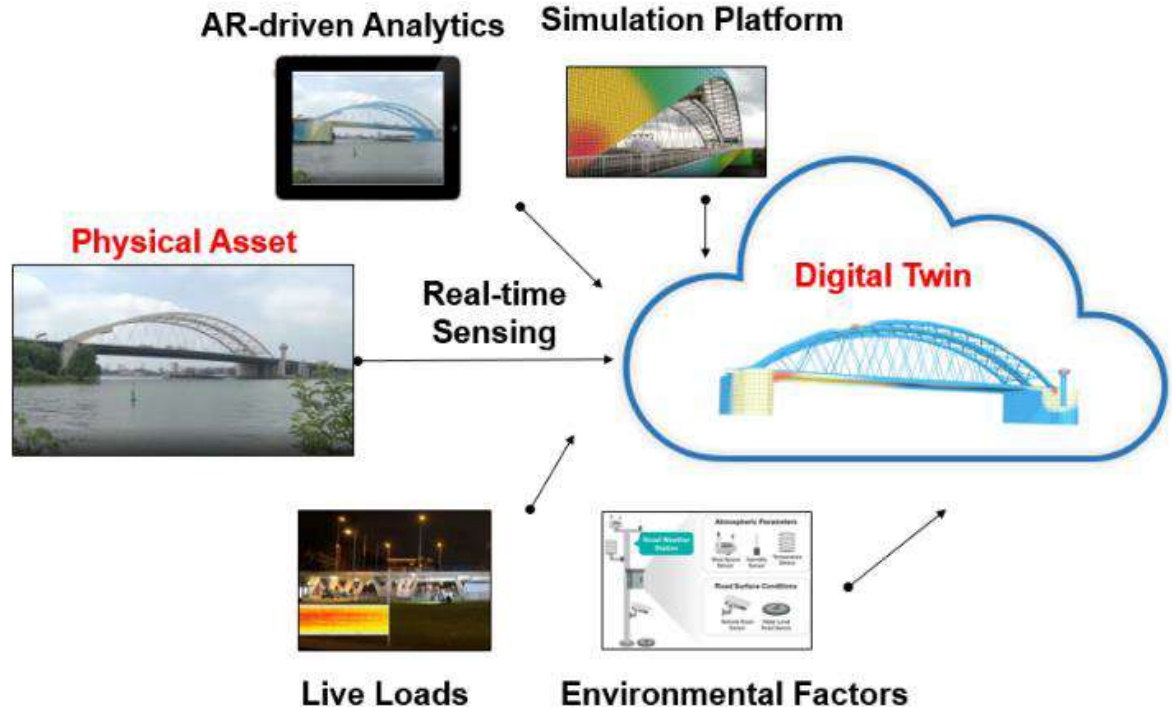
- Exploratory analysis
  - Data-driven decision-maker support
  - Innovative technology application pilot study

- Focal Area

- Means
  - Big Data Analytics
  - Operation Research
  - Smart Transportation and Infrastructure Health Monitoring with Sensor Applications
- Area
  - Transportation Safety
  - Asset Management System
  - Smart Transportation

# Smart Transportation and Asset Management System

- Describes a real physical asset through sensing technologies
- Generates actionable data-driven management improvement plan through AI model
- Research focus on future asset management using digital technologies and data-driven analytics



# Transportation Safety

- Understand
  - Identify contributor factors
  - Quantify effectiveness of various countermeasures
- Improve Safety Performance/ Reduce Crashes
  - Prioritize hazard locations
  - Improvement Decision Support



Roadside Crash



At-Grade Crossing Safety



Hazmat Involved Crash



Commercial Truck Involved Crash



Work Zone Safety



Pedestrian/Cyclist Safety

# List of Current Active Projects

1. Safety Support System for Highway-Rail Grade Crossing (MPC/UTC)
2. Knowledge-Based Machine Learning for Freeway COVID-19 Traffic Impact Analysis and Traffic Incident Management (MPC/UTC)
3. Sensitivity and Accuracy Assessment of Vehicle Weight-in-Motion System Measurement Errors using In-Pavement Strain-Based Sensors (MPC/UTC)
4. Multimodal, Multistate Corridor Modeling for Long-Distance Movements of Food and Containerized Goods (MPC/UTC)
  - Risk Assessment of Hazardous Materials Transported by Rail
5. MPC Regional Emergency Evacuation Analysis in Traffic with Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (MPC/UTC)
6. Low-Cost Lidar Applications in Rail Track Condition Monitoring (UGPTI)
7. Assessing Safety Effectiveness of Treatments and Technologies at Highway-Rail Grade Crossing (NCHRP/NAS, new)



# Deliverables

In year 2022:

## Journal Publications

1. Neeraj Dhingra, Raj Bridgelall, Pan Lu, Joseph Szmerekovsky, and Bhavana Bhardwaj. "*Ranking Risk Factors in Financial Losses from Railroad Incidents: A Machine Learning Approach*", **Transportation Research Record**, 2022 (Accepted 8/18/2022) (B)
2. Yihao Ren, Zhenyu Dai, Pan Lu, Chengbo Ai, Ying Huang, and Denver Tolliver. "*Rail Gage-Based Risk Detection using iPhone 12 Pro*". *Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Part F: Journal of Rail and Rapid Transit*, 2022 (accepted at July 8)
3. Xingju Wang, Jiayu Liu, Fenjie Long, Pan Lu, Yihao Ren, and Jinjie Chen. "*A Life-Cycle Cost Model of High-Speed Railway Considering Carbon Emissions*", **Journal of Infrastructures Systems**, (accepted at June/23), 2022
4. Lu Gao, Ke Yu, and Pan Lu. "*Missing Pavement Performance Data Imputation Using Graph Neural Networks*", **Transportation Research Record**, 2022 <https://doi.org/10.1177/03611981221095511> (B)
5. Yihao Ren, Chengbo Ai, Pan Lu, Zhenyu Dai, and Hao Wang. "*An automated rail extraction framework for low-density LiDAR data without sensor configuration information*", **IEEE Sensors Journal**, 2022 [10.1109/JSEN.2022.3177698](https://doi.org/10.1109/JSEN.2022.3177698) (A)
6. Jianbang Du, Fengxiang Qiao, Pan Lu, and Lei Yu. "*Forecasting ground-level ozone concentration levels using machine learning*", **Resources, Conservation, and Recycling**, Volume 184, September 2022, 106380. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2022.106380> (A)
7. Qiang Li, Wenyao Liu, Xue Yang, Pan Lu, and Kelvin Wang. "*Statistical safety performance models considering pavement and roadway characteristics*", **Journal of advanced Transportation**. Volume 2022, Article ID 5871601, 12 pages. 2022 <https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/5871601> (A)
8. Bridgelall, Raj, Bhavana Bhardwaj, Pan Lu, Denver Tolliver, Neeraj Dhingra, "*Detecting Sources of Ride Roughness by Ensemble-Connected Vehicle Signals*", **International Journal of Pavement Engineering**, 2022 <https://doi.org/10.1080/10298436.2022.2069243> (B)
9. Hafiz Ahmed, Ying Huang, Pan Lu, and Raj Bridgelall. "*Technology Developments and Impacts of Connected and Autonomous Vehicles: An Overview*", **smart cities**, 5, 382-404, 2022 <https://doi.org/10.3390/smartcities5010022>
10. Arshid, Asif, Ying Huang, Pan Lu, and Denver Tolliver. "*Validation of a Numerical Model (Adytrack) Against Existing Simulation Tools and Field Measurements*". **International Journal of Civil Engineering** 20 (2), 115-123 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40999-021-00673-1>
11. Jingnan Zhao, Hao Wang, Pan Lu, and Jiaqi Chen. "*Mechanistic-Empirical Analysis of Pavement Performance Considering Dynamic Axle Load Spectra Due to Longitudinal Unevenness*", **Applied Sciences**. 12 (5), 2600, 2022 <https://doi.org/10.3390/app12052600>

## APP Developed

1. Amin K., Pan L., and Denver T., HRGC countermeasure effectiveness visualization tool for state of ND, [https://kmtgis.shinyapps.io/ak\\_plot/](https://kmtgis.shinyapps.io/ak_plot/)

## Conference Presentations and Publications

We published and presented 10 conference presentations and proceedings at **Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting 2022**, **SPIE Sensor and Smart Structure Technologies for Civil, Mechanical, and Aerospace System 2022**, and **ASCE International Conference on Transportation and Development 2022**.

## Graduate Research Assistant Graduated with Degree

Three PhD students, two M.S. students, and one undergraduate student are trained through our research projects and graduated in 2022.

# Acknowledgement



**MOUNTAIN  
PLAINS  
CONSORTIUM**

**NDSU | UGP  
TI**

- ❑ Thanks for MPC/UGPTI for the great research opportunities!
- ❑ Thanks for all the team researchers, our collaborators, and our industrial supporters!



**Thanks !!**

# Questions/Comments

Thank You

# Commercial Vehicle Safety Center Highlights and Activities

Brenda Lantz

Advisory Council Meeting –  
October 6, 2022

# *Commercial Vehicle Safety Center*

- Established fall 2017 through a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) grant
- Goal to improve Commercial Vehicle Safety and Commercial Driver License (CDL) Compliance through University Partnerships
  - [www.ugpti.org/outreach/cvsc/](http://www.ugpti.org/outreach/cvsc/)
  - Commercial Vehicle Safety Summits & Technical Assistance
    - Point of contact for universities, law enforcement, and driver licensing agencies to establish partnerships

# Commercial Vehicle Safety Center (continued)

- We are in the third FMCSA grant to continue work
  - The 2017-2019 grant had a CDL focus
  - The 2019-2021 grant had a data quality focus
  - The current 2021-2023 grant has a focus on work zone safety and distracted driving
- Post resources and host webinars in the following areas –
  - Commercial Driver Licensing
  - Connected and Autonomous Vehicles
  - FMCSA Rulemakings and Programs
  - Research and Partnerships

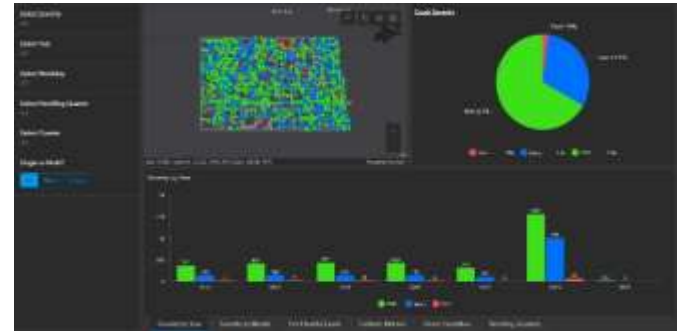
# 2022 Commercial Vehicle Safety Summit

- FMCSA Program Updates
- State Best Practices
  - State operations, campaigns, techniques, and programs to reduce distracted driving and improve work zone safety
- Resources and Tools
  - Tools, resources, education, and training available
- Research and Partnerships
  - Select projects conducted in partnership with state and federal agencies
- Cross-Agency Efforts
  - NTSB, CVSA, FHWA, NHTSA
- Roundtable Discussions of State Issues and Topics of Interest



# Additional Projects

- ND Highway Patrol
- Update Program Plan/Top Level Design for FMCSA Innovative Technology Deployment (ITD) Program Core Compliance
  - With Seguy, Sharijad, Kim, Brad, and Ed
  - Created a management framework and system architecture to guide ITD deployment in the areas of safety information exchange, credentials administration, and electronic screening
- CMV Traffic Safety Dashboard
  - Kim is PI, Satpal is senior developer, with Brad, Sowmya, Sharma, Seguy, and graduate students contributing





## *Additional Projects (continued)*

- FMCSA Research & Technology
  - Investigating the Safety of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operation by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Drivers
    - With toXcel, ATRI, and SMEs in ASL linguistics and audiology
  - Effectiveness of Third-Party Testing and Minimum Standards for CDL Knowledge and Skills Tests
    - With toXcel and eScience Technology & Solutions
  - Automated CMV Inspection Demonstrations and Evaluations
    - With toXcel, eScience Technology & Solutions, JFL Solutions, QS-2, ATRI, and PrePass Safety Alliance
- National CDL Program Assessment
  - With UC, UCLA, and eScience Technology & Solutions

# Questions / Discussion

- Contact –
  - Brenda Lantz
  - [brenda.lantz@ndsu.edu](mailto:brenda.lantz@ndsu.edu), 720-470-1871