



CONCEPT RENDERING

NORTHERN TIER CORRIDOR

ELECTRON SUPERHIGHWAY ELECTRICAL INTERTIE
NORTH DAKOTA HIGH-SPEED RAIL LINE

Near South Heart - Belfield, N.D.

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Revenue & Transportation Committee
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Exhibit #9

4 FOR 2

TALKING POINTS

- 1) 4 for 2 - Building for the 21st Century
- 2) 4 for 2 - The Highway of the Future
- 3) Economic Viability in the Highway #2 Corridor:

4 for 2 is necessary to improve and maintain the economic viability of the corridor. Regional economic viability is defined as the utilization and availability of resources and infrastructures that allow the communities and the region to maintain its competitive standing in relation to similar surrounding communities or regions. Attributes of an area that contribute to its economic viability include adequate transportation in and out of the communities and the region, as well as public services, energy, water supplies and skilled labor. A good, safe, and efficient highway system is especially important in the #2 corridor, as rural areas are almost solely dependent upon the highway system to meet the needs for agriculture, industry, commerce and tourism, which is the basis of the overall well-being of the area.

4 for 2 would make communities eligible for site consideration by the vast majority of companies in the manufacturing and processing industries as these companies look to locate or relocate. Naturally there are other considerations as well, however, 4 for 2 is the first step.

- 4) 4 for 2 - the first step in revitalizing the economy in the corridor.
- 5) 4 for 2 - better and safer highways for agriculture, fewer loading terminals on the mail rail means more grain haulers on the highway and more miles traveled. Machinery movement would be safer and easier, adding value to ag production and distribution to markets by truck and rail. This would also create competition in freight movement.
- 6) NAFTA - the North American Free Trade Agreement. The U.S. and Canada are the largest trading partners in the world, doing over ½ billion dollars every day in business and that will continue to grow.
- 7) 4 for 2 will dramatically increase Canadian traffic. It is cheaper to travel in the U.S. and they love many of our liberties that they don't have. As the Canadian currency gains in value on the U.S. dollar, Canadians will travel south of the border more frequently.
- 8) The Oil and Gas Industry is booming. Northern Montana is rich in both. Sandy Straehl, Montana DOT stated that the reasons for building a four lane highway on #2 in North Dakota is because of the booming gas and oil industry which requires better access to market. What's good for North Dakota is good for Montana.

TALKING POINTS

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- 9) Homeland Security - Highway #2 transverses the largest border in the United States. The numbers of Emigration Officers and Border Patrol has increased dramatically thus more traffic is created.
- 10) Economic Corridor - the intent is to create an economic corridor between Minneapolis and Seattle. That in itself will create economic development in the corridor.
- 11) Tourism - there are many activities and points of interest in the corridor. With 4 for 2 and more advertising the tourist travel will increase. With an improved highway it is possible that the American Automobile Association would probably recommend Highway #2 as a highway to travel in their literature.
- 12) Safety - that alone is reason enough for 4 for 2. We are driving 21st century cars on a 20th century highway.
- 13) The politicians have been promising to help revitalize rural America. The first step is a four lane highway.
- 14) Indian Communities - there are four reservations in the corridor. There is high unemployment. With education and job opportunities that would change. There is a huge labor force that is available. With training in the many colleges in the corridor, that is an enticement for businesses to locate within the corridor.
- 15) The reservations have vast natural resources and ag related potential.
- 16) Electrical generating and transmission - Northern Montana has vast coal reserves. Coal fired generating plants could be built. Electrical transmission facilities could be built in the corridor and in conjunction with North and South Dakota the area would have a huge market in western states.
- 17) With 4 for 2 and as a result economic development, the whole state benefits. The tax base in the corridor has for years paid its share of taxes that support the School Equalization Program. The more economic development the revenue would be there to help fund the essentials of government.
- 18) Geographical Fairness - it is considered in other states in project planning. If it had been part of Montana DOT's criteria, 4 for 2 would have started thirty years ago. The corridor has waited and waited but nothing happens. It's our turn and it's up to us to make it happen.