



Minot to host legislators to discuss hub city funding formula

Members of the North Dakota Legislature's Energy Development and Transmission Committee will visit Minot in late November as part of the committee's tour of North Dakota cities to discuss



"Hub City" funding, oil-impacted development and infrastructure needs. Minot will make its presentation to the legislative committee on Nov. 29-30. The two-day presentation will include tours of various energy sector businesses throughout the city, as well as public infrastructure locations.

Minot City Manager Tom Barry said the city's plan is to demonstrate to the committee that Minot continues to be a Hub City directly affected by oil and gas production and distribution. Barry and other City department heads will be providing sound data and examples of Minot's growth. Through the boom, Minot has become a gateway to activity in the Bakken formation and home to many energy industry companies and support companies.

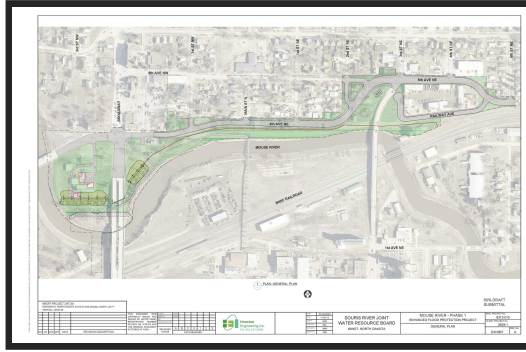
Minot, Williston, and Dickinson have been identified as Hub Cities, and have been awarded money from the state to help offset infrastructure investments and other costs incurred during the rapid growth brought on by the oil boom.

Bids opened for first phases of flood protection project; Phase 1 to be rebid

The first phase of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project, which includes floodwalls along Fourth Avenue NE and a major pump station, will be rebid in November due to legal concerns.

At the bid opening in late October, there was an apparent low general bid and a low combined bid from different contractors,

but there was no bid on the mechanical portion of the project. State law does not allow the low combined bidder to obtain the contract unless the low combined bid is less than the sum of the total separate bids, which means there was no definitive low bidder. As a result, the phase will be rebid, with the second round of bids scheduled to be opened on November 29.



Bids were also opened for Phase 2 and Phase 3 in early November, with Wagner Construction submitting the apparent low bid of \$35.7 million. The bid was about 14 percent below the engineer’s estimate on the two phases. Phases 2 and 3 include work from the U.S. Highway 83 Bypass to Third Avenue Southwest on the north side of the Souris River. It includes earthen levees, a roadway closure structure at 16th Street SW, and a large storm water pump station.

The Souris River Joint Board will review the bids and meet with state and local funding agencies. The contracts should be awarded before the end of the year, and construction is anticipated to begin in early 2018. The design engineers expect the project to take between 2.5 and 3 years to construct.

The cost share on the first three phases is a 65/35 split, with 65 percent coming from the state of North Dakota and 35 percent from local funds. The primary source for local funding is from a portion of the Minot city sales tax. [Click here](#) for more on this story.

Trinity Health secures bond financing for new hospital

Trinity Health received approval in November from the Ward County Board of Commissioners to issue up to \$380 million in Health Care Revenue Bonds as a second step toward financing a new hospital and medical park in southwest Minot.



The County Commission approved up to \$63 million for Trinity Health in August to refinance existing long-term debt at a lower interest rate, and to cover preliminary construction costs.

Trinity President/CEO John Kutch says this second bond issuance will be used in combination with operating funds and private philanthropy to finance construction of the new healthcare complex.

"We're excited to take this important next step toward constructing an extraordinary facility that will serve our communities for decades to come," Kutch said. "We've worked hard over many months to achieve a design that is viable and sustainable, and yet represents the future of how patient-centered health care should be delivered."

He says teams of department leaders have worked productively with the project manager, Yates Construction, and architects and other contractors to refine the project with the goal of delivering exceptional care at the most reasonable cost. Trinity Health officials are still targeting the construction project, slated to include a new hospital and medical office building, to begin next spring. They project it will take approximately three years to build out the new campus.

Burdick Expressway East reopens to traffic

A six-block section of Burdick Expressway East in Minot has reopened to vehicle traffic after the completion of a major construction project. City of Minot officials, including Mayor

Chuck Barney, City Manager Tom Barry and City Engineer Lance Meyer, joined representatives from the North Dakota Department of Transportation and others to mark the road's official reopening at a ribbon cutting on Nov. 9.



"Burdick Expressway is a key route for east-west traffic in Minot, and we're pleased that this project is substantially complete and traffic will be flowing again this week," said Meyer. "We appreciate the patience of everyone in this area as we've worked to upgrade this critical infrastructure and improve this section of roadway."

Burdick Expressway from 9th Street NE to 15th Street NE was upgraded, including new water lines, sewer pipes and storm sewer lines. Many of the underground utilities were 100 years old and in dire need of replacement. The stretch of Burdick Expressway now has new concrete sidewalks, curb and gutter, and updated signage and traffic signals.

The NDDOT and the Minot City Council awarded the \$4.3 million project to Keller Paving and Landscape in April 2017. The [City of Minot's share](#) was \$1.4 million.

Mastering the entrepreneurial spirit; MSU grad recognized for business acumen

Carla Schwanzenberger was looking for something to enhance her existing skill set. After deciding to go back to school, she found that in Minot State University's Master of Science in Information Systems graduate program.

"I always feel that a person should continue to grow – and to look for varying ways to do that," Schwartzenberger said. "I discovered the program at Minot State and felt that would enhance my experiences. It took a lot of dedication to complete it, especially while working full time, but it was made easier by the wonderful MSU faculty."



Fast forward from graduation in 2010 to 2017 and the skills she learned have helped her and her business partner Eric Mauch grow Razor Consulting Solutions into one of the fastest growing private companies in the tri-state area, according to Inc. 5000's 2016 list.

Schwartzenberger and Mauch were named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2017 North Dakota Small Business Persons of the Year, recognizing exceptional small business owners who demonstrate the entrepreneurial spirit in starting and growing a successful business. Schwartzenberger was also selected as one of North Dakota's Top 25 Women in Business in 2016 by Prairie Business Magazine.

Economic development education in Minot in November

A two-day free educational opportunity in November will give key stakeholders in the Minot area a chance to learn



the fundamentals of economic development, as taught by members of the International Economic Development Council. This unique course will happen on Nov. 16 and 17 at the Minot Holiday Inn-Riverside, and is being made possible through funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Disaster Resilience Program. The course will allow community leaders and the public to engage with top Certified Economic Development Specialists, explore best practices in the field, and start the discussion on addressing challenges, needs, assets and opportunities for economic development in the Minot area. For more information or to RSVP, call Jaime at 701-852-1075.

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