



Minot's Industrial Park is first in the state for BNSF's Certified Site recognition

The Industrial Park of Minot now holds the distinction of being the first location in North Dakota to earn the BNSF Railway Company's Certified Site designation, a step that will make it that much easier for businesses interested in connecting to rail lines in Minot.



"Having this coveted designation truly shows the business opportunities and business friendly environment that is present here in Minot and opens up doors for business growth in our region," said Stephanie Hoffart, president and CEO at Minot Area Development Corporation. "Our team has worked closely with BNSF to secure a rail spur into the Industrial Park for existing and future businesses, which was installed earlier this year. Having the BNSF Certified Site designation and the spur means that incoming businesses can cut considerable time off construction when moving here, lowering their overall costs and improving their bottom line."

According to BNSF, since the Industrial Park of Minot is a Certified Site, businesses looking to locate to Minot could save six to nine months of construction time because of this analysis. This includes an evaluation of environmental and geotechnical standards, available utilities, site availability and existing and projected infrastructure. There are only 12 other sites in the country that have earned this distinction from BNSF.

"The Industrial Park of Minot is BNSF's first Certified Site in North Dakota and strategically located at the heart of our Great Northern corridor," said Colby Tanner, Assistant Vice President, BNSF Economic Development. "BNSF's northern route serves agricultural production in the northern plains and is the gateway to the Bakken region, making Minot a perfect fit for both agricultural and industrial customers looking for direct-rail access."

The Industrial Park of Minot is an 800-acre park in northeast Minot with an anchor tenant in AGT Foods. 386 acres of the park is served by rail and is the portion that has been certified by BNSF as ready for the development of rail-served businesses. Along with the direct access to BNSF railway lines, the Industrial Park of Minot has convenient access to three U.S.

highways, CP rail lines and is zoned heavy industrial. Along with the Industrial Park of Minot being the first in the state to earn this distinction, the next closest BNSF Certified Site is more than 500 miles away.

Minot welcomes legislators to town for 'Hub City' funding conversation

Minot hosted members of the North Dakota Legislature's Energy Development and Transmission Committee on Nov. 29-30 as part of the committee's tour of North Dakota cities to discuss "Hub City" funding, oil-impacted development and infrastructure needs.



Over the two-day presentation, Minot officials joined the legislators on tours of various energy sector businesses throughout the city, including Hess, Enbridge, Baker Hughes and Cameron Surface Systems. The committee also toured the City of Minot's Public Works building, the Minot International Airport, and the Ward County Jail, as well as other public infrastructure locations.

"We wanted to focus on telling Minot's story, because we believe the city has a compelling story as one of the three legally defined Hub cities," said City Manager Tom Barry. "We are very appreciative of the support we received from our partners throughout the city as well as the private industries that stepped up to help us show the committee members why Minot has been and continues to be a vital Hub City in western North Dakota." Click [here](#) to read more about the legislative visit to the Magic City.

Minot Public Schools participates in 'Hub City' study and legislative visit

Minot Public School Superintendent, Mark Vollmer, had the opportunity to present enrollment and demographic information to the Energy Development and Transmission legislative committee in Minot in late November.



The committee was seeking information in regard to the effect of the Bakken oil play on the greater Minot area. Vollmer shared that student enrollment increased over 1,400 students since 2007. The district currently has 7,511 students enrolled at this time.

Minot voters approved in 2014 a 39.5 million-dollar bond issue that resulted in the building of a new elementary school, and additions on two existing buildings. While elementary overcrowding has been eliminated, the district now faces overcrowding at both the middle school and high school levels.

Enrollment at Minot Public Schools has remained steady since

2015, according to Superintendent Vollmer.

Broadway Bridge replacement reaches halfway point

The east Broadway Bridge is now open to two lanes of northbound traffic in Minot, as construction is substantially complete for 2017 on the U.S. 83 Broadway Viaduct Replacement Project. Along



with two lanes of northbound traffic, there are two lanes of southbound traffic on the older, west bridge.

“We finished with the bulk of the work needed to open up the east Broadway Bridge just a few hours ago,” said Project Manager Brian Bee of Lunda Construction. “The roadway surface is complete, along with temporary striping and the appropriate temporary barriers between the two bridges.”

The replacement of both bridges was programmed to be a two-construction-season project, with work coming to a winter halt for the next three or four months. Lunda Construction will start demolition of the west Broadway Bridge in late winter or early spring 2018, depending on the weather.

MSU sends 11 to Peace Garden Conference

Students from Minot State University and their counterparts from Brandon (Manitoba) University met this fall at the 65th Annual Peace Garden Conference for an event titled, “Canada and the US: Then and Now.”



The event was co-sponsored by the Minot State University League of Social Science and featured 11 MSU students and Political Science Professor Jynette Larshus. According to the MSU League of Social Science president Michaela Brost, the event was student run, giving them a hands-on experience.

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