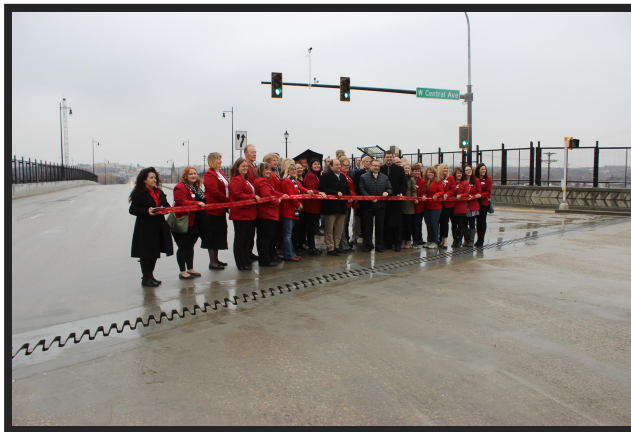




Two-year Broadway Bridge Project complete

State and local officials cut the official ribbon in November, as all four lanes of the new US 83/Broadway Bridge are open. The North Dakota Department of Transportation



(NDDOT) Director Tom Sorel and Minot Mayor Shaun Sipma joined representatives from the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, local NDDOT employees, City of Minot staff, and area leaders in celebrating the opening of the new bridge in the heart of Minot.

"The US 83 Broadway Bridge is a key piece of infrastructure for Minot and the surrounding region. With a wider pedestrian walkway, new street lights that fit into the downtown revitalization, and a smooth ride this project will serve us well into the future," said Sorel. "This project is a great example of federal, state and local collaboration to complete a project on budget that fulfills the DOT's mission of safely moving people and goods."

The funding for the \$21 million US 83/Broadway Bridge replacement project came from three sources, the Federal Highway Administration, the NDDOT and the City of Minot.

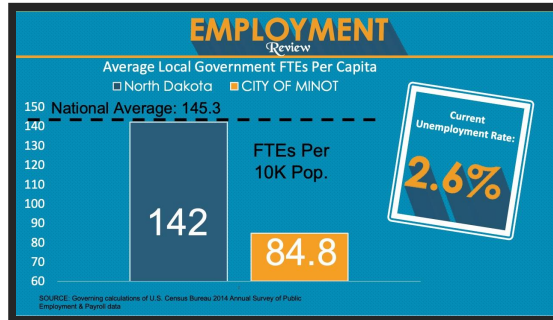
"These once-in-a-lifetime projects are important to get right - and the North Dakota Department of Transportation, City of Minot and hired contractors did just that," said Sipma. "It's great to have all four lanes of traffic open, including a fully functioning intersection at Broadway and Central Avenue. This is truly something to be proud of - and a big 'Thank you' goes out to the driving public and the businesses in the area for their

patience throughout these past two construction seasons. As well, a thank you to BNSF and CP Rail as they coordinated efforts with the contractor when they were working over or near their rail lines."

[Click here](#) to read more about the more than 55,000 labor hours put into the construction portion of the project.

Improving employee retention at the City of Minot

Efforts by the City of Minot to improve employee retention are proving to be successful, according to information provided at the Dec. 3 City Council meeting by City Manager Tom Barry.



In 2017, the City's turnover rate was 14.87 percent. That translated to a cost of more than \$3.4 million to the City when accounting for lost training, downtime, replacement and recruitment costs, and increased overtime.

In 2018, the City's turnover has been reduced to 12.56 percent. City officials report improvement in the quality and number of applicants, and a noticeable improvement in employee morale.

The employee retention efforts have had other tangible effects, too: The Minot Police Department is fully staffed for the first time in more than two years, and the Minot Fire Department is within three employees of being fully staffed. The Engineering Department is fully staffed for the first time in two years.

In an effort to continue the positive trends from 2018, the City developed a comprehensive workforce improvement plan that was approved by the City Council as part of the 2019 budget.

Minot's number of full-time employees is low when measured against averages for both North Dakota and the nation. The City of Minot has 84.8 full-time employees for every 10,000 in population; the North Dakota average is 142 FTE per 10,000 in population, while the national average is 145.3 employees.

Upcoming Legislative Session brings anticipated excitement to Minot Public Schools

Talk of an increase to North Dakota's education funding formula is creating excitement in schools throughout the state. In 2017, the North Dakota Legislative Assembly froze the per pupil payment for the upcoming biennium. While school districts were pleased to not experience funding reductions, stagnant payments over a three-year period have taken a toll on district

budgets throughout the state. Increases to operational and benefit costs have resulted in schools doing more with less. Minot Public Schools (MPS) is no exception.

Mark Vollmer, Superintendent of MPS, was honored to serve on the Governor's Task Force for Innovation in Education. Under the leadership of Governor Doug Burgum, the committee has explored new and innovative methods of ensuring students in North Dakota



have access to a world-class education. Discussion centered on innovative methods of education, funding options for schools, and training for certified and ancillary staff. In August of this year, Minot Public School's Professional Learning program was recognized by the committee as an excellent example of how school districts employees can work collaboratively to support and educate staff. Recommendations in the final report support many of the requests in the Governor's budget, released on Dec. 5.

As legislators gather in Bismarck this winter, there is no doubt that financial requests will far exceed available funding. MPS is encouraged by Governor Burgum's support of PreK-12 education in North Dakota and feel that much of the rich conversation held by the governor's task force will bring a renewed excitement to the legislative assembly this session.

Essentials for Learning makes big impact



The Minot State University Roger Looyenga Leadership Program started a class assignment two years ago hoping to help the community. Fast forward to this fall and the project, named Essentials for Learning, has done just that.

After partnering with the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce 2018 Community Leadership Institute Class, the project raised nearly \$10,000 in cash and items to fulfill the most basic needs for students in the Minot Public Schools.

“We originally came up with the idea to help students with items like clothing, but it shifted to personal hygiene products,” said Minot State senior Aaron Richard. “Last year, we worked with McKinley Elementary. It was such a fun project to work on. This year we wanted to carry it forward and had a great partner in the Community Leadership Institute.”

“It has been an insane process to see it start with just one elementary school and watch it grow and see what it has become,” said Minot State senior Alexa Tate. “We have such great community support. We were able to see the impact on McKinley and were excited to expand it. We know the kind of impact this has on a student’s life.”

Richard and Tate are two of the original six students — along with advisor Tawnya Bernsdorf — who brainstormed the project in the Roger Looyenga Leadership Program. After four students graduated, Richard and Tate knew they would need a partner to move the project forward.

Trinity Health expands primary care access

Trinity Health has expanded primary care access at clinics in Minot, New Town, and Kenmare. Sally Eberle, FNP-C, Renee Harju, FNP-C, and Kayla Thomas, FNP-C, have all joined Trinity’s family care team at Trinity Health East Ridge in Minot. Nicole Robinson, FNP-C, has begun practice at Trinity Community Clinic – Kenmare, and Abbey Ruland, PA-C, is now providing care at Trinity Community Clinic – New Town. A primary care provider is a healthcare professional who practices general family medicine and is a patient’s first stop for medical care.



Pride of Dakota show is a hit in Minot!

The Annual Pride of Dakota Showcase in Minot this year was hosted at the North Dakota State Fair Center on Nov. 10 and 11. Pride of Dakota, featuring all North Dakota made and



produced products has about 550 members and several of these members from big and small operations sold their products during the weekend-long event. This year, the showcase surpassed their attendance from 2017 by nearly 2,000 and welcomed more than 8,000 people to their

event. Due to the increased attendance, vendors saw increased success!

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