

<http://www.minotusa.com/smartmail/Minotfareswellin2019LegislatureMinotNewsletterMay2019/>



Minot fares well in 2019 Legislature

The City of Minot fared well during the 2019 North Dakota Legislature, although not every issue the city supported was approved by lawmakers.



Water projects were

successful in securing funding for ongoing construction. The Mouse River Enhanced Flood Control project was provided \$82.5 million in state cost share, while the Northwest Area Water Supply project secured nearly \$100 million in cost share and a line of credit.

The City of Minot will also benefit from changes in the formula that provides funding for hub cities in western North Dakota, which are Minot, Williston, and Dickinson. The change means Minot will see another \$2 million to \$3 million annually in revenue.

Minot officials testified on numerous bills during the session, but there were also some issues that lawmakers decided in ways the city had not supported.

Senate Bill 2275, a proposal to create a low-interest loan fund that would have made funds available for infrastructure projects, passed the Senate but failed in the House, costing Minot as much as \$100 million-plus in interest costs over the life of the city's flood protection project.

Both the Senate and the House rejected an attempt to create a \$30 million funding source for Centers for Technical Education.

There were a number of bills that related to local control issues. Legislators passed a bill that prohibits cities from banning the use of plastic bags, and approved another bill requiring cities to charge the same fees for building permits whether the permit is for a project inside city limits or in the two-mile extra territorial zone. The state raised the cap on traffic fines, meaning cities can now raise their traffic fees to cover the actual costs of enforcement.

First floodwall concrete pour on Souris Basin Project in Minot

Contractors with the Phase MI-1 Fourth Avenue project poured the first concrete to form floodwall footings in northeast Minot in early May, as part of the basin-wide flood



protection plan. When finished, 2,250 feet of floodwalls will be in place for this phase. The exposed height of the walls will range from 14 to 17 feet tall and will be located just south of the realigned Fourth Avenue roadway. The footings for the floodwalls will be approximately eight feet below grade and are the stabilizing force that ensures the integrity of the walls during high water levels on the Souris River. The construction of floodwalls and their footings on this phase of the overall project will require 10,500 cubic yards of concrete – or just over 1,000 concrete truck loads!

The Phase MI-1 Fourth Avenue enhanced flood protection project is a six-block stretch of levees, floodwalls, a new sanitary lift station, and a major storm water pump station from just west of Broadway to the east side of Third Street NE. Construction on this phase is scheduled to be substantially complete in early 2021. For more details on the project and the

latest information go to www.mouseriverplan.com.

Maple Diversion project takes next step

Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, signed the Chief's Report on April 16 to advance the Maple Diversion phase of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood



Protection Project to the next step of securing federal authorization and funding. The Maple Diversion project is estimated to cost \$87 million. When completed, the first four phases of the project, including the Maple Diversion, will protect approximately 60 percent of Minot from future flooding.

Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., brought together officials for the meeting from a wide range of federal, state, and local entities to review the project and discuss potential funding sources for phases 5-8 of the project. The group toured locations in Minot where work is happening on flood control levees and a new storm water pump station, before visiting a site in northeast Minot where future phases of the project could include a new Third Street Bridge spanning the river.

City of Minot's Town Hall meeting a success

The City of Minot's first town hall meeting of 2019 was a success. The event, held May 8 at Perkett Elementary School, drew a good-sized crowd of interested and engaged residents.



The group heard three presentations, including one from City Manager Tom Barry, who recapped some of the results of the

2019 North Dakota Legislature that impact Minot. Barry listed what the City would consider successes and failures during the Legislature, including a failed bill that would have enabled cities in the state to access low-interest loans for infrastructure projects. Senate Bill 2275, which passed the Senate but failed in the House, could have saved Minot more than \$100 million in interest payments for future infrastructure projects. Barry and Mayor Shaun Sipma both said they will continue to support the low-interest loan idea at the next legislative session in 2021.

Public Works Director Dan Jonasson provided an update on the progress of construction on the flood control project, including information about how construction will impact traffic this summer. City Engineer Lance Meyer led a discussion of the future of flood insurance and the timeline of implementation of new flood risk maps by the Federal Emergency Management Administration. Members of the City Council also addressed the crowd, and encouraged residents to be active in City issues.

The final segment of the town hall meeting was left for an open discussion of not only the three scheduled topics for the event, but for any questions residents had about city issues.

A second town hall meeting will be held in the fall of 2019. A date has not been selected.

State travel industry conference brings experts to Minot

The North Dakota Travel Industry Conference was hosted in Minot April 15-17 and the event drew more than 200 attendees. From destination marketing organizations, convention and visitors



bureaus, and many state-wide attractions, the conference was packed with information on digital marketing, social platforms and the annual Governor's Awards Luncheon. Sara Otte Coleman, director of the Tourism Division, said "The travel industry conference was an exciting event this year in Minot, attracting many new tourism providers and offering inspiring relevant content. There was notable energy that I believe will set North Dakota up for a great summer travel season." The annual conference is set to be hosted next year in Grand Forks.

Travel and tourism in the Magic City

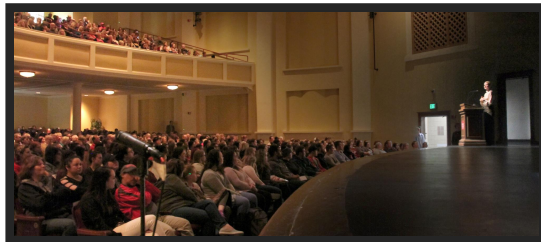
National Travel and Tourism Week is May 5-11. According to the U.S. Travel Association, travel generated \$2.5 trillion for the U.S. economy in 2018, and 1 in 10 U.S. jobs are supported by travel. Locally,



the travel industry is the third largest in North Dakota. The North Dakota State Fair hosted in Minot is the largest event in that state tallying 318,348 attendees in 2018. Norsk Høstfest has recorded visitors from all 50 states, and The Roosevelt Park Zoo in Minot had almost 94,790 visitors last year! Travel matters for North Dakota.

Smart gives lecture to full Ann Nicole Nelson Hall

The first Minot State University Presidential Speaker Series guest Elizabeth Smart packed Minot State's Ann Nicole Nelson Hall on April 17. If you missed it, the presentation is still available [online](#).



The Minot State University Presidential Speaker Series was launched at MSU to bring in high-profile thought leaders to the Minot State campus to share their experiences and expertise. Smart is the survivor of one of the most followed child abduction cases in the United States. She was abducted on June 5, 2002, from her home at the age of 14. Her captors controlled her by threatening to kill her and her family if she tried to escape. Smart was held for nine months before being rescued. Through her experience, she has become an advocate for change related to child abduction recovery programs and for national legislation.

She gave an hour-long presentation, met with local Minot media, and attended a social after her presentation at the Northwest Arts Center.

Lehner lecture delights large Minot State crowd

World-renowned Egyptologist, and Minot native, Mark Lehner gave a lecture to the delight of a full lower section at Minot State's Ann Nicole



Nelson Hall in early May. Lehner is the director and president of Ancient Egypt Research Associates, Inc. (AERA).

The lecture at Minot State was one part of a weekend of events planned in the Magic City as Lehner spoke at Minot Public Schools and attended Minot State's annual Alumni Association Gala fundraising event. Lehner gave an hour-long presentation and signed books in the lobby of Old Main at a reception in his honor.

Lehner graduated from Minot High School in 1968 and attended Minot State University. He went to Cairo in 1973 as a Year Abroad Student at the American University in Cairo where he received his bachelor's degree in anthropology. He has appeared on television in National Geographic's Explorer program and on the WGBH NOVA series, "Secrets of Lost Empires," on ancient technology, including "This Old Pyramid and Obelisk." In February 2019, he was featured on NOVA, "Decoding the Great Pyramid," and appeared on the Science Channel's "Unearthed: Secret History of the Sphinx."

Minot takes step toward 'Cardiac Ready' status

Minot residents and visitors will have a better chance of surviving a heart attack if an initiative currently underway gains support. A team comprised of health and emergency professionals is organizing to make Minot a Cardiac Ready



Community. Cardiac Ready Communities is a program that encourages communities to take steps that will help residents respond in cardiac emergencies through such actions as calling 911 and beginning CPR. The group hosted a pair of community stakeholder meetings for businesses and other organizations in the community. The next steps include evaluating the community's readiness and updating local practices and services. The final step involves a review by the State Health Department to determine whether Minot meets the criteria for

Cardiac Ready designation.

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