

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

SENATE BILL NO. 2268
(Senators Patten, Bekkedahl, Wardner)
(Representatives Kempenich, Lefor, Zubke)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 24-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a corridors of commerce program and fund.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 24-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Corridors of commerce program - Corridors of commerce fund.

1. The department shall administer a corridors of commerce program for constructing, reconstructing, improving, and maintaining highways that improve freight transportation and facilitate commerce.
2. The corridors of commerce fund is a special fund in the state treasury administered by the department. The fund consists of all money deposited in the fund. Pursuant to legislative appropriations, the department shall use moneys in the fund for eligible highway projects in accordance with provisions of this section.
3. To be eligible for funding under this section:
 - a. Any construction work associated with the project must begin within three years after the department selects the project for funding, unless the department grants an exemption; and
 - b. The highway project must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - (1) The project is a segment of highway with the following characteristics:
 - (a) The existing segment is not a divided highway;
 - (b) At least one end of the segment connects to an expressway or freeway; and
 - (c) The segment will connect to a proposed or existing interchange;
 - (2) The project will ease the movement of freight traffic;
 - (3) The project will improve safety on the highway;
 - (4) The project will allow oversized or overweight vehicles to use the highway after completion;
 - (5) The project will provide increased connectivity between areas of significant commerce; or
 - (6) The highway is or will be designated as national high priority corridor of connectivity.
4. When evaluating eligible projects for funding under this section, the department shall score each eligible project, make the scores available to the public, and consider:
 - a. The return on investment;

- b. Measurable improvements in commerce and economic competitiveness;
 - c. Efficiency in traffic flow based on average daily traffic counts, commercial vehicle miles traveled, and travel times;
 - d. Safety improvements;
 - e. Connections to regional trade centers or other modes of transportation; and
 - f. Community support for the project.
5. The funding provided to an eligible highway project may be used to plan, construct, replace, improve, or maintain the highway.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2268.

Senate Vote: Yeas 45 Nays 1 Absent 1

House Vote: Yeas 82 Nays 4 Absent 8

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2019,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State