

**TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS:  
PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH ALONG  
THE U.S. 52 AND U.S. 281 CORRIDORS  
JULY 9, 2010 BY MAYOR DON FRYE  
THE CITY OF CARRINGTON, NORTH DAKOTA**

Senator Conrad and members of the Senate Budget Committee. Thank you for your continued interest in the U.S. Highways 52 and 281 transportation corridors. One of the most important needs of rural North Dakota and Carrington is a viable transportation infrastructure. The success of Carrington over the past 20 years is directly related to our ability to move both commodity Ag products and finished processed foods and feeds to locations all across the U.S. and the World.

Our continued growth and success is threatened by the slow and steady deterioration of U.S. Highways 52 and 281 that serve our community. Thousands of semi trucks either travel thru or from Carrington each and every day. The success of 2 major Ag related businesses hinges on these transportation arteries. (Central City Marketing and Processing and Dakota Growers Pasta Company)

The Ag community, which is the back bone of Carrington and this region, relies on these transportation arteries to move product to market. Fair market prices will not be received if we are unable to transport these products to markets all across the U.S. and the world. It is critical to reach the market place in a low cost and timely manner.

Presently our community is working on several development projects that will continue to grow our important Ag community and processing sector. The first project I would like to talk about is the Central Dakota Feeds Initiative. This project will take co-products (waste by products) from food processing plants all across North Dakota and combine these co-products with selected commodity grains. They will then be combined to form a new "Super Feed" product for livestock all across the U. S. and the

world. This new "Super Feed" will provide a nutrient dense, highly palatable feed for livestock. The key component to the project has been identified as transportation. If we do not have a reliable and safe transportation artery to Carrington this project will not be able to bring the raw products to the processing facility. Then, transport the finished product to the market place. Carrington's Central location to the food processing plants in North Dakota is critical to the success of the project but if the transportation system is not up to the task Carrington will not be a cost effective location.

The second project I would like to talk about is the development of an ethanol processing facility using non eatable sugar beets as the feed stock for this new renewable fuel. The transportation of the raw material, non eatable sugar beets, for the processing plant will be done entirely by truck transportation. Once again, if the U.S. Highway 52 and 281 corridors are not up to the task this project will go by the wayside. Transportation again is a key factor in the development of this project and the future success of the region in creating new high paying jobs and market opportunities to the Ag producers in the region.

I have focused on the transportation of these products but I would also like to add that safety on these highways is equally important. Whether it is the safe travel on the highways, providing the passenger vehicles on U.S. 52 and 281 the ability to pass large vehicles safely. Or, the pooling of rain water or moisture retained in the ruts that have developed causing very unsafe travel conditions. This is just as important of an issue as the moving of goods and services. The loss of any life because of poor road surface conditions should never be acceptable.

Thank you for your interest and concern for Rural transportation issues that are facing all of us as we move forward in our efforts to grow Carrington and North Dakota.

On a Personal note I drive nearly 70,000 miles on average on North Dakota Highways and clearly understand the issues that face this important infrastructure.