



North Dakota Petroleum Council

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March 14, 2012

Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER IV Discretionary Grant: Minot International Airport, Minot North Dakota

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Supporting oil development in western North Dakota and access to air travel is vital to our nation's economy. In March of this year, North Dakota has overtaken California as the third-largest oil-producing state in the nation. Production totals recently released by both states show North Dakota pumped 16.9 million barrels of oil in January, compared with California's 15.8 million barrels. North Dakota had a daily average of 546,000 barrels, besting California by more than 36,000 barrels.

North Dakota officials have estimated the state could surpass Alaska within a year as the nation's No. 2 oil producer.

Based on the facts there is no doubt oil production will continue to drive the demand for air travel in the City of Minot. The North Dakota Petroleum Council supports the expansion of the Minot International Airport Access Road. The expanded roadway will alleviate traffic congestion which is a huge hindrance when accessing the Airport's parking and terminal.

Sincerely,

Ron Ness
President
North Dakota Petroleum Council