

KEY FACTS ABOUT NORTH DAKOTA'S INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

The Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, which has been called the most ambitious public works project built since the Roman Empire, is the most critical link in North Dakota's transportation system.

- North Dakota has 571 miles of Interstate routes running the length of the state and connecting the state's major urban areas.
- North Dakota's Interstate system, which includes one percent of all roadway lane miles in the state, carries 23 percent of all vehicle travel in the state.
- Since funding of the Interstate system was approved in 1956, vehicle miles of travel in North Dakota have increased by 171 percent and the number of vehicles in North Dakota has increased by 121 percent.

The state's Interstate Highway System saves the average North Dakota resident \$1,638 per year -- \$1 billion statewide -- in reduced accident costs such as medical expenses and lost productivity, the value of saved time and fuel, and reduced apparel, food, housing and transportation costs.

- By reducing travel times, the Interstate system saves each North Dakota resident 27 hours of travel time annually - 17 million hours statewide.
- North Dakota's Interstate system annually reduces statewide motor fuel consumption by 8 million gallons.
- Consumer costs have been significantly lowered by the Interstate Highway System. The cost of transporting goods has been reduced because the time it takes to make trips has been decreased.
- The following chart indicates the total savings per person and statewide of the Interstate system.

	Per Person	Statewide (millions)
Safety	\$80	\$51
Time and Fuel	\$436	\$277
Reduced Consumer Costs	\$1,122	\$712
Total	\$1,638	\$1,039

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a national transportation research group

Traffic levels on North Dakota's Interstate highways is increasing as travel growth outpaces the addition of new lanes.

- Between 1990 and 2004, vehicle travel on North Dakota's Interstates increased by 58 percent, while lane miles on the system were increased by one percent.
- Between 1990 and 2004, the average annual amount of travel per Interstate-lane-mile in North Dakota increased by 57 percent.

Travel on North Dakota's Interstate highways is safer than travel on all other roadways in the state. North Dakota's Interstates provide travelers with a network of highways with a variety of safety designs that greatly reduce the likelihood of serious accidents.

- North Dakota's Interstate highways have saved approximately 400 lives in North Dakota since 1956. This estimate is based on assuming that if there were no Interstate highways, traffic would be carried by other major roads in the state, which have higher traffic fatality rates.
- The features that make Interstates safer than non-Interstate routes include: a separation from other roads and rail lines, a minimum of four-lanes, gentler curves and often paved shoulders, median barriers and rumble strips to warn drivers when they are leaving the roadway.

The Interstate system is the backbone of the North Dakota economy and has played a critical role in improving business productivity in the state.

- Every year, \$19 billion in goods are shipped from sites in North Dakota and another \$24 billion in goods are shipped to sites in North Dakota, mostly by truck.
- Sixty-nine percent of the goods shipped annually from sites in North Dakota are carried by trucks and another eight percent are carried by courier services, which use trucks for part of the deliveries. Similarly, 70 percent of the goods shipped to sites in North Dakota are carried by trucks and another 13 percent are carried by courier services, which use trucks for part of their deliveries.

Data from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the U.S. Census Bureau was compiled and analyzed by TRIP, a nonprofit transportation research group based in Washington, D.C. Information is the latest available.

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