



Heart of Lake Sakakawea

City of New Town

P.O. Box 309

New Town, North Dakota 58763

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Daniel Uran, Mayor
City Of New Town

July 8, 2010

Committee Members,

I thank you for the opportunity to present my concerns on ND Highway 23 and the safety of the residents of New Town, Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and everyone who lives along and/or has to travel highway 23.

The number of fatal accidents that has been happening on Highway 23 has everyone concerned. Although there have been fatal accidents in the past, myself having lost a sister, cousin and my fiancé in an accident 30 years ago, the number of fatal accidents has increased significantly with the huge amount of traffic that is now traveling Highway 23.

Highway 23 was not built to handle the huge amount of traffic that is now traveling the highway, must less the truck traffic that has come along with the oil boom. The highway needs to be updated to handle today's traffic flow and to handle the truck traffic. It should be updated to a four lane or at least widened to provide turning lanes.

Highway 23 runs through the main street and, although the City of New Town cannot fit four lanes through town, we do have plans to reconstruct Main Street in 2012. The plans are to widen Main Street and put a turning lane in the middle. Recent traffic surveys indicate traffic signals may be warranted. The cost of the project is estimated at \$3.6 million dollars funding will come from Federal, State and local funds.

The City has been approved for a grant from the North Dakota Department Transportation of which \$2 million is from Federal dollars and \$200,000 is State funds. The City's cost is currently estimated at \$1.4 million. Without the federal money the City would not be able to even consider the project.

I have attached a main street traffic volume survey record which shows the traffic volume in New Town increased by 25% from 2006 to 2010 and by 53% from 2002 to 2010. Just a couple of examples, according to the surveys, truck traffic volumes on Main Street have increased by 123% at West Avenue since 2006 and by 373% at Soo Place since 2002. Imagine a pedestrian trying to cross the street in New Town.

As mentioned earlier, Highway 23 is our main street and if the traffic volumes have increased this significantly in New Town they are probably similar all along highway 23.

From January through April the City sold an average of about 1.5 million gallons of water per month to the oilfield. All of that water is trucked out and most of those trucks travel on Highway 23. A portion of the revenue from the sale of that water has been allocated to help pay for the Main street project.

The City of New Town continues to grow. The Three Affiliated Tribes has housing projects planned to house the medical staff at the new medical center and a housing project west of New Town. The school continues to build housing for teachers. All this growth will add to the traffic that will use highway 23.

Any Federal money that could be budgeted and allocated to help update Highway 23 and improve the safety of our motorists who use the highway and the pedestrians who have to cross the highway will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions please call me at home 701-627-4933, work 701-627-3650, cell 701-898-3511 or write me at P.O. Box 208 New Town, ND 59763-0208. My e-mail address is Dan.uran@sendit.nodak.edu.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Uran".

Daniel Uran

MAIN STREET TRAFFIC VOLUMES NEW TOWN, NORTH DAKOTA

YEAR	VOLUME	
2006	6915	
2010	8800	+27%

YEAR	VOLUME	
2006	7345	
2010	9200	+25%

YEAR	VOLUME	
2006	6300	
2010	8400	+25%

YEAR	VOLUME	
2002	4375	
2010	8250	+53%



TRAFFIC SIGNALS
MAY BE WARRANTED

MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION	
COST ESTIMATE	
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$2.0 MILLION
STATE FUNDS	\$0.2 MILLION
CITY FUNDS	\$1.4 MILLION
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$3.6 MILLION