

Farmers and Rural Homeowners  
Traill County, ND  
April 19, 2016

The closing of the Nielsville, MN bridge has been a hardship for the people that farm and live near it.

Because of the bridge's closure farmers must drive through Climax, MN or Shelly, MN to get to their land in Minnesota or move their products to Minnesota, adding many miles and much time. Some farmers have had a drive to the field that would have taken a few minutes when the bridge was open, become a several hour trip. Getting machinery and workers from North Dakota to Minnesota and back again takes a good deal of planning so time and mileage is not wasted. In the spring during planting and in the fall during harvest any extra time can cost farmers money. The bridge closing has increased farmers' expenses.

Because of the increased traffic from machinery and trucks that must use County Road #2 to get to Climax or Shelly, and the extra car traffic, safety concerns also increase. More traffic means more accidents. Also, County Road #2 is a gravel road which decreases how fast farmers can drive and when it rains it becomes a soupy mess.

Another safety factor is that many farm places are contracted with the Nielsville Fire Department for protection. If there is an accident or fire while farmers are in their farmyards or out in their fields they must wait for the Buxton Fire Department which for some farmers triples the response time. Also, the farther the farm or home is from the fire provider, the more expensive the insurance rates.

The homeowners in the area have all the concerns that the farmers do: time, mileage, increased traffic, fire protection, but they also have the added concern of the resale value of their properties. If prospective buyers see that is difficult to get across the river, they may purchase a different home.

The closure of the Nielsville Bridge has added and continues to add stress to many farmers' and homeowners' lives. It is also a financial strain for these people. It has complicated life in both small and large ways since the bridge closed last fall. Building a new bridge would help alleviate the stress, strain and complications for the farmers and homeowners in the area.

---

Nielsville Bridge 4/19/16

North Dakota Farmers

Name	Address
Christopher Hong	1068 161st Ave NE Buxton ND
Jason Mohr	16473 11th St NE Buxton
John & by	1142 161st Ave NE Buxton
Scott by	1068 161st Ave NE Buxton
Paul Wayne Eggertson	Nielsville 58568
Robert [unclear]	Caladonia ND 58219
Jamie Irons (Land owner Trail)	Nielsville, MN
Dail Bjorge	Buxton ND 58218
Danny Bjorge	Buxton, ND 58218
Leo Ahlman	Hillsboro ND 58045
Lyndon Wiegers	Cummings ND 58223
Don [unclear]	Hillsboro ND 58045
Rocky Letten	Caladonia ND 58219
Dora [unclear]	Caladonia ND 58219
Lana + David Palm	17258 9th St NE Cummings
Devin Abentoth	869 171st Avenue NE Cummings, ND 58223
Trever Spokely	1308 10th St. SE East Grand Forks, Mn 56211
Hug Abentoth	16975 8th St NE Cummings, ND
John Emson	<sup>1960</sup> <del>1650</del> 8th NE Cummings, ND
Jerry Larden	961 172nd Ave NE Buxton
Kenneth Mauter	17033 11th NE Buxton, ND
David A. Mueller	16283 7th St. NE Cummings, ND
Karl [unclear]	610 2nd St NW Hillsboro
Arthur Paulson	1043 170th Ave NE Buxton, ND
John Bartoch	1043 - 170th Ave NE, Buxton, ND
Joanne Paulson	1043 - 172nd Ave NE, Buxton, ND
Mark [unclear]	16809 5th NE Buxton, ND
Dickie [unclear]	16975 8th St. NE, Cummings, ND
Jaral Kurtz	563 167th Ave NE Hillsboro, ND
Jeff Kurtz	563 167 Ave NE Hillsboro ND
Walt Christman	16712 7th St NE Cummings ND

Doc Fisher	954 169th Ave NE Buxton ND
Tom Stewart	730 165th Ave SE Cummings ND 58223
Donald Rufner	1148 - 169th RE Buxton ND
Howard Cotton	12820 6th St. N.E. Cummings N.D.
Kenia Aketill	16969 8th St NE Cummings, ND
Paul A Muller	16256 7th St. NE Cummings ND
Baral Williams	17258 9th St. NE Cummings ND
Louis Spakey	704 6th Ave NE Hillsboro, ND
Brian Evenson	310 Central St Climax, ND
Michael R. Smith Jr.	322 5th Ave SE Hillsboro ND
Jeremy Chandler	P.O. BOX 43 Climax MN
Mark Chandler	45990 Viking 755w N. P. 58110 ND
Justin Chandler	544 Summit Ave. Crookston, MN
Mike Dale	1048 172nd Ave NE Buxton ND
Ken Akeman	606 3rd Ave NE Hillsboro ND