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Commerce News

August 19, 2021

2021 Main Street ND Summit to focus on infrastructure, serve as one of the top annual networking events in the state



<https://youtu.be/I5J2okcHUuk>

The 2021 Main Street ND Summit scheduled for Oct. 12 and pre-summit event on Oct. 11 will provide an in-depth and interactive learning experience centered around infrastructure, while also providing a one-of-a-kind networking opportunity for those attending.

This year's theme, "Smart, Efficient Infrastructure," will provide insight into both the physical elements of infrastructure and the critical need to grow a next-generation community with economic development, workforce and leadership development.

"Smart, efficient infrastructure is a key element in attracting a 21st century workforce that our communities need to thrive. This year's speakers will provide first-hand knowledge and insight on ways we can continue to build vibrant communities." – Gov. Doug Burgum

The event being held in West Fargo will offer both virtual and in-person attendance options. While the virtual option will provide the same learning experience, those interested in attending are highly encouraged to take advantage of the summit's annual networking opportunity.

Attendees also have the opportunity to engage with other attendees, speakers, and community leaders at the pre-summit event from 4-6:30 p.m. on Oct. 11. The pre-summit will begin with opening remarks and check in at The Lights located at 3150 Sheyenne St. West Fargo, followed by a bus tour of West Fargo infrastructure. For those wishing to attend, please note that capacity is limited for bus tour attendees. Guests are then invited for appetizers at Bar Down to conclude the evening.

Keynote speakers include:

Charles Marohn, known as one of the 10 Most Influential Urbanists of All Time, is the founder and president of Strong Towns. As a professional engineer with decades of experience, Marohn has presented Strong Towns' concepts in hundreds of cities and towns across North America.

Tristan Cleveland a community designer, researcher and urban columnist is the leader of the Healthy Communities research and planning with The Happy City Experiment. Cleveland has led projects with national and municipal governments in Canada and United Arab Emirates to help operationalize health research into design and policy.

Joe Minicozzi of Urban3, is a planner who imagines new way to think about and visualize land use for urban design and economics. Urban3's work establishes new conversations across multiple professional sectors, policy makers, and the public to creatively address the challenges of urbanization. Urban3's extensive studies range geographically over 30 states, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to the keynote speakers, the summit will also provide six breakout sessions with topics ranging from transportation, real estate, community development, sustainable community growth, and more. A full list of breakout sessions can be found at

[View the full agenda](#)

[Register here](#)



ED&F

Grand Forks company Airtonomy named one of five finalists in the worldwide GENIUS NY competition



Commerce Aerospace/UAS, University Development Manager Cortnee Jensen poses for a photo with Airtonomy staff, GENIUS NY leadership, Airtonomy business partners, and Grand Forks community leadership at the Atlanta AUVSI XPONENTIAL that was held on Aug. 16-19.

Airtonomy, a Grand Forks-based unmanned aircraft systems startup company, has been named one of five finalists for a grand prize of \$1 million in the 2021 GENIUS NY competition.

Airtonomy is the only company from the Midwest to be chosen as a finalist, and it is one of only two finalists from the United States, the other being based in New York. The other three finalists are from Germany, Poland and Switzerland.

Airtonomy currently employs 25 people – a number that has tripled in the past year – with 18 of those positions based in North Dakota.

GENIUS NY, started in 2017, is a multimillion-dollar accelerator competition focused on unmanned systems, robotics and big data startups – the largest of its kind in the world. The five finalists, out of 600 applicants, are selected from all over the world. The finalists receive \$500,000 to spur growth while participating in GENIUS NY's accelerator program, which provides money, resources, mentors and connections to grow the startups. The winning company will be named after the finalists give their final pitch on Oct. 21, and it will be awarded an additional \$500,000.

[Read more](#)

Bakken Energy reaches agreement to purchase Dakota Gasification Company assets

Clean energy infrastructure developer Bakken Energy announced that it has reached an agreement with Basin Electric Power Cooperative on key terms and conditions to purchase the assets of the Dakota Gasification Company. The closing is expected to be completed by April 1, 2023.

Located near Beulah, North Dakota, the Synfuels Plant will be transformed into the largest and lowest-cost, clean hydrogen production facility in the United States. In June 2021, Bakken and Mitsubishi Power Americas announced they had entered into a strategic partnership to create a world-class clean hydrogen hub in North Dakota to produce, store, transport, and locally capture and sequester carbon (CO₂). The Synfuels Plant facility will form the nucleus of a clean energy hub designed to aggressively advance regional, national, and global decarbonization objectives through the development of clean hydrogen applications for the agriculture, power, and transportation sectors.

“The North Dakota Hydrogen Hub will lead to the establishment of new industries, create high-paying jobs and the development of new domestic and foreign markets. This project illuminates how the power of innovation over-regulation can save versus destroy jobs. Congratulations to Bakken Energy, Mitsubishi Power and Basin Electric for their expansive vision to leverage the existing Synfuels Plant, its talented workforce, and North Dakota’s abundant resources to grow our economy and achieve our shared carbon neutrality objectives.” – Gov. Doug Burgum

[Read more](#)

Tourism and Marketing

Midwest Living Magazine was on the road in North Dakota!

North Dakota Tourism hosted the 2022 Midwest Living Road Rally this past July. The Midwest Living editorial team created a robust itinerary visiting six communities showcasing 31 legendary experiences. Tourism and Marketing Director Sara Otte Coleman and Communications Manager Kim Schmidt accompanied the team on their journey.

“This was a unique opportunity to showcase our communities and attractions for the Midwest Living Road Rally in 2022 and also capture additional content for future travel segments.” – Sara Otte Coleman

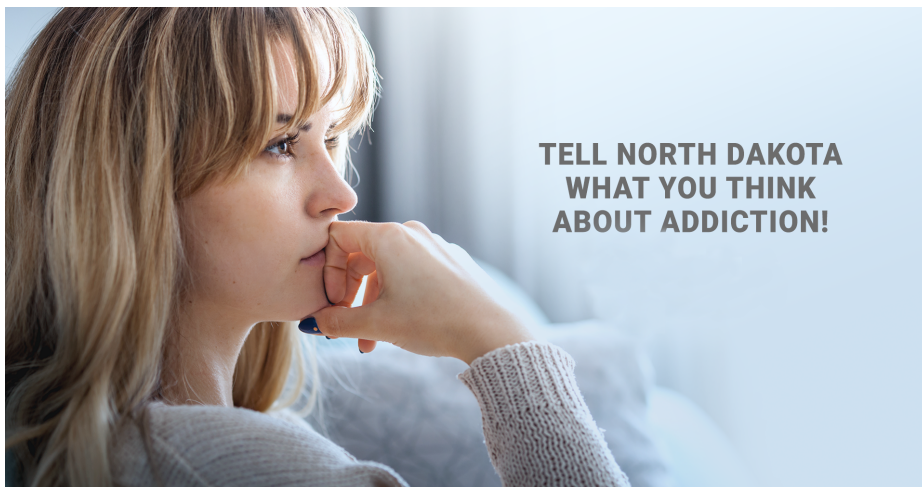
The team hit the ground running with branded vehicles that garnered attention as they made their way through the state visiting attractions, experiencing our events, culture and culinary options, getting the perfect photos and interviews all while chasing sunsets and sunrises!



“It was a perfect chance to develop relationships with this editorial team and inspire them to highlight our North Dakota stories throughout their content.” – Kim Schmidt

North Dakota is the sixth state in the Midwest Living Road Rally series with previous states seeing a substantial lift in social media engagement and video views. Watch for the North Dakota feature to run in June of 2022 and follow #MWLRoadRally2022 on social media.

[See previous road rallies](#)



The state of North Dakota is working to end the addiction crisis impacting all our communities. We are seeking the help of every citizen to share their attitudes and knowledge of addiction by participating in the **“North Dakota Addressing Addiction” Survey**. This quick, 10-minute survey will help us identify the challenges and opportunities related to addiction and recovery in the state. Your feedback will be instrumental in supporting healthy and safe communities that are free from addiction.

This online survey is completely anonymous, no identifying information will be collected, and you may stop taking the survey at any time.

[Take the survey here](#)



Upcoming events

[IPW](#) – Sept. 18-22 in Las Vegas, Nevada

[EDND/Commerce Developer Day](#) – Sept. 23 in Bismarck

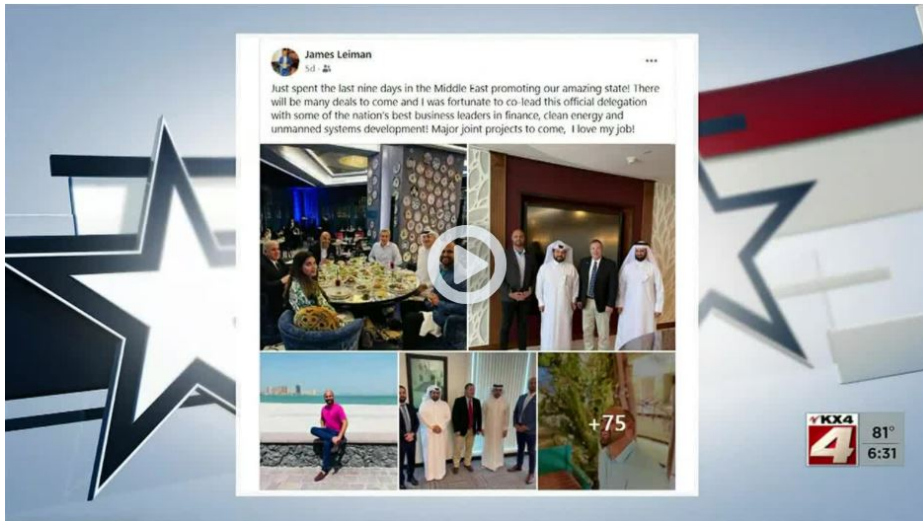
[Main Street ND Summit](#) – Oct. 12 in West Fargo

[2021 NBAA Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition \(NBAA-BACE\)](#) –
Oct. 12-14 in Las Vegas

Tourism Summit – Oct. 26 in Bismarck



In the news



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[North Dakota Tourism updated on Bison World park](#)



[Devils Lake and Grand Forks rank 3 and 5 as safest US destinations to visit right now](#)



[Census: North Dakota's oil counties, cities see big growth](#)