



Policy Update

October 3, 2025

Comprehensive Property Tax Taskforce Meeting Held in Pierre

The Comprehensive Property Tax Taskforce recently met in Pierre for their fourth meeting. The meeting included discussion on the scope of the study as well as various presenters and public testimony. The scope of the study is to review property tax policies and identify measures to provide significant and lasting tax relief, by focusing principally on state and local revenues; and expenditures and funding of K-12 education. Some of the ideas being discussed by the committee include:

- Replacing school property taxes with alternative 1 percent “education” tax.
- Replacing property taxes with a “transaction” tax. The proposal would implement a 10 percent tax on every purchase under \$15; after \$15 the tax would be \$1.50. An important thing to note is that an organization is pushing this proposal and is trying to place this idea on the 2026 ballot as a Constitutional Amendment.
- Reducing the owner-occupied levies for education and the county to zero by cutting the state general fund budget by 5 percent, eliminating certain sales tax exemptions, and shifting revenues within the state.

Separate from the taskforce, Governor Rhoden is proposing a 0.5 percent county sales tax to reduce owner-occupied property taxes.

The next and final meeting of the taskforce is October 22, 2025, in Pierre.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the taskforce’s proposals.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Governor’s proposal.

SDDOT Seeks Public Input for Statewide Active Transportation Plan

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) seeks input from residents and stakeholders to help develop the Statewide Active Transportation Plan. This comprehensive initiative is aimed at enhancing South Dakota’s public transportation system by incorporating active transportation modes such as walking and biking.

The plan will focus on improving safety and connectivity across state highway corridors in South Dakota. Collaboration and input from residents, businesses, local governments, tribal governments, regional organizations, and other community groups will help identify key elements. Public meeting open houses will be held at the following dates, times and locations:

- Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the Best Western Ramkota, located at 1400 8th Ave. NW in Aberdeen;

- Wednesday, Oct.15, 2025, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the SDDOT Mitchell Region Office, located at 1300 S. Ohlman St. in Mitchell;
- Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the Siouxland Libraries Downtown Library, located at 200 N. Dakota Ave. in Sioux Falls;
- Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the SDDOT Rapid City Region Office, located at 2300 Eglin St. in Rapid City; and
- Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the SDDOT Pierre Central Office, located at 700 E. Broadway Ave. in Pierre.

Each public meeting open house will start with a short presentation at 5:30 p.m. The public meeting will be informal allowing for one-on-one discussions with planning staff. Representatives from SDDOT will be available to answer questions, discuss the project, and receive community input.

New Carbon Dioxide Pipeline to Begin Operations in Nebraska

Tallgrass Energy announced recently that operations on its carbon dioxide pipeline in Nebraska will begin soon. The pipeline is a converted former natural gas line that will move carbon dioxide from 11 ethanol plants in Nebraska and Iowa to a sequestration site in Wyoming. The 392-mile pipeline will begin shipping carbon dioxide this fall.

Tallgrass also announced an initial \$500,000 donation to the Nebraska Community Foundation, creating the Trailblazer Community Investment Fund. The company has also invested more than \$450,000 in training and equipment for rural fire and rescue departments, in addition to payments to landowners.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the project.

Contact for Questions

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