Senate Bill

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Tanner Franklin – Student Body President, Matt Kopp – Greek Housing Senator

Sponsors: 

CC: Tanner Franklin - Student Body President, Brett Johnson – Student Body Vice President, Cassie Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor, Andrew Freligh – Student Organization Funding Agency Advisor; Dr. Lori Reesor – Vice President for Student Affairs, Cara Halgren – Associate Vice President for Student Services & Dean of Students

Date: 5/3/2015

Re: Funding for Vibrancy Zones Consultant

Whereas, the city of Grand Forks in conjunction with the University of North Dakota has hired a consultant to explore the development of so-called “Vibrancy Zones” in our community, and

Whereas, students are often frustrated with the lack of activities and social areas on our campus and in the City of Grand Forks as a whole, and

Whereas, student input was sought out during the initial consulting stage at a meeting that was well-attended by members of the UND Student Senate, and

Whereas, the Senators present at that meeting expressed a desire for a more vibrant community filled with attractions for both students and other members of the Grand Forks community, and

Whereas, these Vibrancy Zones would bring in new businesses and recreational activities for students to frequent, and

Whereas, a goal of the City of Grand Forks is to retain students from the University of North Dakota after they graduate in order to continue driving the economic engine of the city, and

Whereas, students make up a large portion of the population in Grand Forks for most of the year and because of this deserve to have a voice on important issues that affect the community, especially in regards to initiatives that may attract more students to Grand Forks and the University of North Dakota, and

Whereas, as a part of the Vibrancy Zones initiative one of the major findings was to increase transportation for students from campus to busy areas of the community such as shopping centers near 32nd Ave South and the downtown area, and

Whereas, students that have limited transportation options often feel as if they are cut off from the Grand Forks community at large, and

Whereas, UND Student Government is constantly looking for ways to collaborate with the administration of the institution as well as leaders from the City of Grand Forks to make the campus and the community a better place for students, and
Whereas, a total of approximately $9000 has already been spent on this consultant to come up with initial findings for the Vibrancy Zones initiative, and

Whereas, a total of roughly $50,000 between Student Government, the City of Grand Forks, UND, and other partners will be necessary for the implementation of the consultant’s recommendations, and

Therefore, be it moved that the University of North Dakota Student Senate allocate $12,000 from the Student Government General Account to the City of Grand Forks in order to further the efforts to improve our city through the funding of the Vibrancy Consultant, and

Therefore, be it further moved that the University of North Dakota Student Senate requests the right to view and possess all documents and recommendations pertaining to this process, and to have an active role in the decision making along with others that will be involved with this process, and

Therefore, be it further moved that the Student Senate encourages the University of North Dakota to allocate a comparable amount for the project in order to address the aforementioned concerns of the student body.

Therefore, be it furthest moved that this funding is contingent upon the University of North Dakota and the City of Grand Forks pursuing this project in the future.

Student Body President, Tanner Franklin