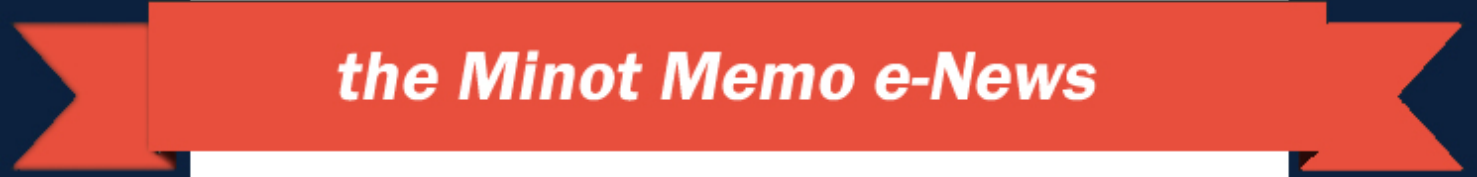


<http://www.minotusa.com/smartmail/MinotMemoDecember2020/>



MINOT AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MERGER WORK CONTINUES

Ballots were mailed to all investors and members of the Minot Area Development Corporation and the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce in early December. Virtual Q&A Sessions were also held in early December for any additional questions on the potential merger. Ballots are due to be returned by December 18th to be counted and an announcement is expected before the end of the month.



While waiting for the official vote count, continued discussion on the merging of the two organizations has continued between the two Boards of Directors. The new organization's board will be comprised of members of each of the two current boards as well as a representative from the City and the County. The staff have also continued to work on a communication strategy and started to research options for a combined website.

Learn more about the merger [here](#). Follow both the [Minot Area Development Corporation](#) and the [Minot Area Chamber of Commerce](#) on Facebook for up to date news and community members sharing their thoughts on the merging of the two organizations.

MADC BOARD MEMBERS VIRTUALLY ATTEND NDTO'S TRADE EVENT

In November, a number of Minot Area Development Corporation Board Members virtually attended the North Dakota Trade Office (NDTO)'s virtual

seminar entitled Empowering People to Expand Trade. The NDTO assists North Dakota companies with export expansion through education, research, and organization of trade missions, reverse missions, and education to help identify opportunities and improve export processes.



The webinar covered the many services available to North Dakota companies to help grow their exports both domestically and internationally, what state and federal funding programs administered by the NDTO are available to financially support ND exporters, NDTO partnerships with associations and Trade Service Providers, and additional benefits available with a NDTO Membership.

Learn more about the North Dakota Trade Office at www.ndto.com.

WEEKLY SERVICE AT THE PORT OF MINOT DIVERSIFIES THE REGION'S ECONOMY

Rail Modal Group (RMG) is now shipping out one train per week at the Port of Minot. RMG launched the service in late October and shipped out its first train on October 30th. Since then they have been working diligently to reach their goal of loading one train per week.



The intermodal service in Minot is a push to help diversify the region and state's economy. Farmers have stepped up to grow new specialty crops like beans, peas, and lentils. Customers can save money on trucking to more distant intermodal facilities and taking trucks off the road, which makes it more environmentally friendly.

Leaving from Minot, it takes about 72 hours for a train to reach the dock at Seattle. From there it will load on a vessel that will sail within seven days. The docks are controlled by the [Northwest Seaport Alliance](#) in Seattle and Tacoma.



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