TO: Mayor Shaun Sipma  
                Members of the City Council  
FROM: John Klug, Chief of Police  
DATE: November 30, 2021  
SUBJECT: ORDINANCE TO INCREASE TRAFFIC FINES  

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Review and approve the attached ordinance amending Section 20-6(a) of Article II, Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances, Minot, North Dakota increasing traffic fines.

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS

Chief John Klug (701) 857-4715  
Kelly Hendershot (701) 857-4755

III. DESCRIPTION

In 2019, the North Dakota Legislative Assembly passed SB 2304 allowing municipalities to adjust some traffic fines by as much as 100% of the state’s fine schedule. Chief Klug identified traffic behaviors that contribute to public safety issues, and is recommending a revised fee schedule to increase the fines as allowed by state law. The attached ordinance accomplishes these goals.

IV. FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Municipal Court fines are eventually deposited into the City’s general fund. A fine increase could result in an increase in revenue if poor driving behavior continues, or it could deter poor driving and result in a decrease in revenue. That being said, while there may be a financial impact, the purpose behind raising the fines is not to generate revenue – it is to deter poor driving behavior.

V. ALTERNATIVES

Alt. 1: The city council could decline to increase traffic fines.

Alt. 2: The city council could propose increase traffic fines to another amount.

VI. TIME CONSTRAINTS

To be effective by January 1, 2022, this ordinance needs to be approved on first reading at the December 6, 2021 regular City Council meeting and on second reading at the December 20, 2021 regular City Council meeting.

VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance