Gov. Doug Burgum on Tuesday welcomed Vice President Mike Pence to Fargo for an event highlighting the positive impacts of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on the American economy. Burgum introduced Pence to more than 600 people who assembled to hear the Vice President speak after a panel discussion with business leaders and U.S. Sen. John Hoeven. Tuesday marked the second visit to North Dakota by Pence in just six months, further underscoring the administration’s commitment to North Dakota. Visit the Governor’s Facebook page to see more photos of the day.
On Thursday, Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford joined Sen. John Hoeven, legislators and city leaders for the groundbreaking of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project in Minot. To date, the estimated $1 billion project has been approved for $178 million in state funding – including a $62.8 million request made by the Souris River Joint Board and approved by the State Water Commission in August 2017 – with legislative intent for an additional $130 million. Last October, Sanford joined Minot officials to celebrate the completion of a three-year, nearly $35 million downtown infrastructure improvement project, highlighting it as a prime example of smart, efficient infrastructure – a key pillar of Gov. Burgum’s Main Street Initiative.
ADMINISTRATION GIVES UPDATE
Gov. Doug Burgum, Lt. Gov. Sanford and members of their administration met Wednesday with statewide elected officials, agency leaders and team members from across state government to provide updates on the administration’s five strategic initiatives and invite greater collaboration across agencies. About 60 people from cabinet and non-cabinet agencies were on hand for the unique meeting aimed at enhancing communication and collaboration with the different agencies and branches of government on the five strategic initiatives: Reinventing Government, Main Street Initiative, Transforming Education, Tribal Partnerships and Behavioral Health, including recovery from the disease of addiction.

FIRST LADY SPEAKS IN JAMESTOWN
First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum brought her message of recovery to her hometown of Jamestown on Tuesday evening. She was the keynote speaker at the University of Jamestown’s Convocation, where she spoke about eliminating the shame and stigma of addiction, highlighting her own battle with the disease. The First Lady has been vocal about her journey, having been in recovery for the past 16 years. Her appearance follows last week’s appointment of members to the advisory council for the Office of Recovery Reinvented, an office created by Gov. Burgum last year.