

United States Senate

January 17, 2025

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for FY 2025 RAISE Discretionary Program: Planning Grant for East Grand Forks-Grand Forks Bridge Crossing Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to urge your support of the City of East Grand Forks, Minnesota's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. The RAISE funding will facilitate planning efforts to ensure people in the northern Red River Valley have safe and reliable bridges for the smooth transportation of goods and services between East Grand Forks, Minnesota and Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals in utilizing a multi-agency partnership to address critical mobility and connectivity, quality of life, equity, and economic challenges in the East Grand Forks/-Grand Forks area. The communities have identified a need for a new river crossing(s) between the two cities to enhance safety, reduce congestion at the existing crossings, and build active infrastructure to strengthen the current transportation network.

The 'newest' bridge in the East Grand Forks-Grand Forks metro was built in 1963, back when the cities had a combined population of approximately 42,000 people. Today, the combined cities have a population around 68,000. Estimates shows the region will grow by 39% from 2015 to 2045. This new infrastructure is critical to the continued growth of the cities and well-being of its citizens.

For the reasons above, I encourage your strong consideration for this proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Jordan Schroeer by email at jordan@smith.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator