

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2307

January 29, 2025

United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary of Transportation,

I am writing in support of the City of East Grand Forks, Minnesota's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. The BUILD funding will facilitate completion of planning efforts to conduct preliminary engineering design, environmental documentation, and permitting for the long-planned bridge connection(s) across the Red River of the North between the cities of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, and Grand Forks, North Dakota. The multi-State planning project will support a range of multimodal options that address diverse local and regional community needs.

The project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals in that it utilizes 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: two cities, four local jurisdictions, and two states. 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 project will address these challenges by providing a safer connection(s) for freight and vehicular traffic across the Red River of the North that includes multimodal access for all users walking, rolling, bicycling, or taking transit between the cities and the surrounding areas.

The population of the East Grand Forks-Grand Forks region is forecasted to increase by approximately 39% between 2015 and 2045. Infrastructure improvements are critically needed so residents and visitors of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities may access jobs, healthcare, and housing. The completion of proposed activities will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in the region, including the anticipated growth. In addition to the improvements noted above, we anticipate that the project, when completed, will facilitate economic growth with high-paying job opportunities for people from all backgrounds.

I ask that you please give this application your full and fair consideration in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress