

December 30, 2024

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

Dear Secretary of Transportation:

**NDDOT's Letter of Support for East Grand Forks-Grand Forks FY 2024 RAISE Planning Grant Application**

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) supports of the Cities of East Grand Forks, Minnesota and Grand Forks, North Dakota's application for funding through the USDOT's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. The RAISE funding will facilitate completion of the 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 two cities. 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 (EGF-GF) area: two cities, four local jurisdictions, and two states. The communities have long identified a need for a new river crossing(s) between the two cities to enhance safety, reduce congestion at the existing crossings, accommodate freight movements, and build active transportation 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 that includes multimodal access for all users walking, rolling, bicycling, or taking transit between the two cities and the surrounding areas.

The population of the East Grand Forks-Grand Forks region is forecast to increase by approximately 39 percent 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.

Your support for this grant application is greatly appreciated.



Ronald J. Henke, PE  
Director

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