



Board of Commissioners

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Manvel, ND

January 7, 2025

United States Secretary of Transportation
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 of Transportation:

I am writing in support of the City of East Grand Forks' 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 completion of the planning efforts to conduct preliminary and final engineering design, environmental documentation, and permitting for the long-planned bridge connection across the Red River between the cities of East Grand Forks, Minnesota and Grand Forks, North Dakota. The 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, as it utilizes an innovative multi-agency partnership to address critical mobility and connectivity, quality of life, equity, and economic challenges in the rapidly growing East Grand Forks-Grand Forks area. The communities have identified a need for a new river crossing between the two cities to enhance safety, reduce congestion at the existing crossings, and build active transportation infrastructure to strengthen the current roadway network. The project will address these challenges by providing a safer connection for freight and vehicular traffic across the Red River 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 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. The completion of proposed planning activities will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of the Grand Forks County.



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The Grand Forks County Board of Commissioners supports the City of East Grand Forks' application for the funding of the planning activities for East Grand Forks-Grand Forks Bridge Crossing project through FY 2025 RAISE Discretionary Program and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at (218) 230 – 9916, or kimberly.hagen@gfcounty.org.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Hagen
Chair,
Grand Forks County Board of Commissioners