



## CITY OF GRAND FORKS

255 N 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET - P.O. BOX 5200 - GRAND FORKS, ND - 58206-5200

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
BRANDON BOCHENSKI

(701) 746-2607  
BBOCHENSKI@GRANDFORKSGOV.COM

January 6, 2024

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 Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Area Bridge Crossing Project

Dear Secretary of Transportation:

I am writing in support of the City of East Grand Forks' application in partnership with the City of Grand Forks and Grand Forks County and Polk County 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 Grand Forks, North Dakota and East Grand Forks, Minnesota and counties of Grand Forks, North Dakota and Polk, Minnesota. 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 Grand Forks-East Grand Forks area. The communities and surrounding area have identified a need for a new river crossing between the two cities and counties 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, agri-business, 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 Grand Forks-East 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 and grow job, healthcare, housing, and economic opportunities. 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 City of Grand Forks itself.

I support the City of East Grand Forks' application in partnership with the City of Grand Forks and Grand Forks County and Polk County for the funding of the planning activities for the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks regional 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 [bbochenski@grandforksgov.com](mailto:bbochenski@grandforksgov.com) and 1-701-787-3735

Sincerely,

Mayor Brandon Bochenski  
City of Grand Forks, ND