



City of East Grand Forks

600 Demers Ave · East Grand Forks, MN 56721
Administration Phone: 218-773-2483; www.egf.mn

January 27, 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 BUILD 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, Minnesota's application in partnership with the City of Grand Forks and Polk County, MN and Grand Forks County, ND 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 multi-modal 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. The communities and surrounding region 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 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 activities will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth.

Please consider 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 BUILD Discretionary Program. The City of East Grand Forks looks forward to this infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at molstad@egf.mn or (218)773-2483

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Olstad", is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Mark Olstad
City of East Grand Forks, MN