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January 13, 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,

We are writing in support of the City of East Grand Forks, Minnesota's 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 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 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.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and if we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Barry Wilfahrt
President & CEO
The Chamber GF/EGF
701-317-1555c