

# City of East Grand Forks

600 DeMers Ave • P.O. Box 373 • East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
218-773-2483 • 218-773-9728 fax [www.eastgrandforks.net](http://www.eastgrandforks.net)

---

April 29, 2009

Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2159 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

Please accept this letter and accompanying questionnaire as our submission for the High Priority Project program that will be included in the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. This project is considered a critical improvement to the transportation network in that it helps mobility between the north and south areas of town, it provides safety functions, and it lessens congestion and delays during flood events. As you know, during the recent flood of the Red and Red Lake Rivers, 3 of 4 bridges closed in the cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. With these closures came extreme congestion along the Highway 2 and Kennedy Bridge.

The East Grand Forks project would construct a full intersection at 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW and US Highway 2 (Gateway Drive) with a traffic signal and turn lanes; and will increase the access for all vehicles, including safety vehicles needing to respond to residential areas in the north end of East Grand Forks. Associated with this project is the construction of a side path connecting non-motorized users with the existing underpass to an existing side path located within River Heights Park, thereby eliminating an existing gap between these two facilities.

In addition, this proposed project will provide a north-south access for the north end residents of East Grand Forks and those visitors and neighboring residents who visit our commercial businesses and campground located to the south of US Highway 2.

Most importantly, the project will move people and freight more safely and efficiently, reduce traffic congestion and delays, and increase economic connectivity.

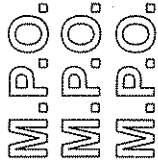
As the Mayor of East Grand Forks, I fully support this project and ask for your consideration for inclusion in the High Priority Project Program. This project is included in the City's Comprehensive Plan and is currently in the MPO 2009-2012 TIP. We are asking for a minimum of 80% federal funding toward the total project estimate and our city is willing to commit our

local share or obtain any other such additional funding to complete this project. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Stauss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "L".

Lynn Stauss  
Mayor of East Grand Forks



## Grand Forks – East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization

255 North 4th Street • P.O. Box 5200 • Grand Forks, ND 58206-5200

GF (701) 746-2660  
FAX (701) 787-3755

EGF (218) 773-0124  
FAX (218) 773-0128

April 29, 2009

Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2159 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

Please accept this letter of support from the Grand Forks – East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the City of East Grand Forks 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW/US Highway 2 full intersection project for inclusion in the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. This project is identified as a critical transportation need in the Metropolitan Long Range Transportation Plan and the MPO TIP and State TIP. We ask for your support for this project by its inclusion as a listed project in the Congress' High Priority Project Program.

The project is described as an upgrade to the intersection at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, a collector street and US Highway 2 (Gateway Drive) through the addition of a traffic signal and turn lanes. This full intersection project has been recommended in two studies conducted in 1994 and 2006 for the GF-EGF MPO. Consistent with the function of the MPO, these planning studies were rooted in input from the public and involved agencies.

These public meetings and forums provided the public to identify deficiencies in the area, offer input for the development of alternatives and provide comments on those proposed alternatives and recommendations. Additionally, placement in the MPO TIP and State TIP required public hearings and gave numerous opportunities for the public and government entities to provide comment. Both the studies and the public input supported this intersection project because it reduces speeds along US Highway 2, lowers critical crash rates for nearby intersections, reduces congestion and delays during peak times and flood events and provides an additional north-south access for residents and commercial business users.

Thank you for your consideration of this project for the High Priority Project program. This project will provide greater mobility for the City of East Grand Forks and improve congestion and safety during flood and non-flood events.

Sincerely,

Gary Malm, Chair

Grand Forks – East Grand Forks  
Metropolitan Planning Organization