



**SPECIAL**  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 – 8:30 A.M.**  
**Zoom**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to ongoing public health concerns related to COVID-19, and the fact that the East Grand Forks City Hall is not open to the public; the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization (GF/EGF MPO) is encouraging citizens to provide their comments for public hearing items via e-mail at [info@theforksmmpo.org](mailto:info@theforksmmpo.org). The comments will be sent to the Technical Advisory Committee members prior to the meeting and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. To ensure your comments are received and distributed prior to the meeting, please submit them by 5:00 p.m. one (1) business day prior to the meeting and reference the agenda item your comments addresses.

**MEMBERS**

Peterson/Kadmas \_\_\_\_\_  
Ellis \_\_\_\_\_  
Bail/Emery \_\_\_\_\_  
Brooks/Halford \_\_\_\_\_  
Riesinger \_\_\_\_\_

Mason/Hopkins \_\_\_\_\_  
Zacher/Johnson \_\_\_\_\_  
Kuharenko/Williams \_\_\_\_\_  
Bergman \_\_\_\_\_

West \_\_\_\_\_  
Magnuson \_\_\_\_\_  
Sanders \_\_\_\_\_  
Christianson \_\_\_\_\_

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. CALL OF ROLL
3. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM
4. MATTER OF FUTURE BRIDGE TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY..... ALLIANT
5. OTHER BUSINESS
6. ADJOURNMENT

INDIVIDUALS REQUIRING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO ALLOW ACCESS OR PARTICIPATION AT THIS MEETING ARE ASKED TO NOTIFY EARL HAUGEN, TITLE VI COORDINATOR, AT (701) 746-2660 OF HIS/HER NEEDS FIVE (5) DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. IN ADDITION, MATERIALS FOR THIS MEETING CAN BE PROVIDED IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: LARGE PRINT, BRAILLE, CASSETTE TAPE, OR ON COMPUTER DISK FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES OR WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) BY CONTACTING THE TITLE VI COORDINATOR AT (701) 746-2660

*Future Bridge Traffic Impact Study*

# TAC Update #1

**MARCH 19, 2021**



# Agenda

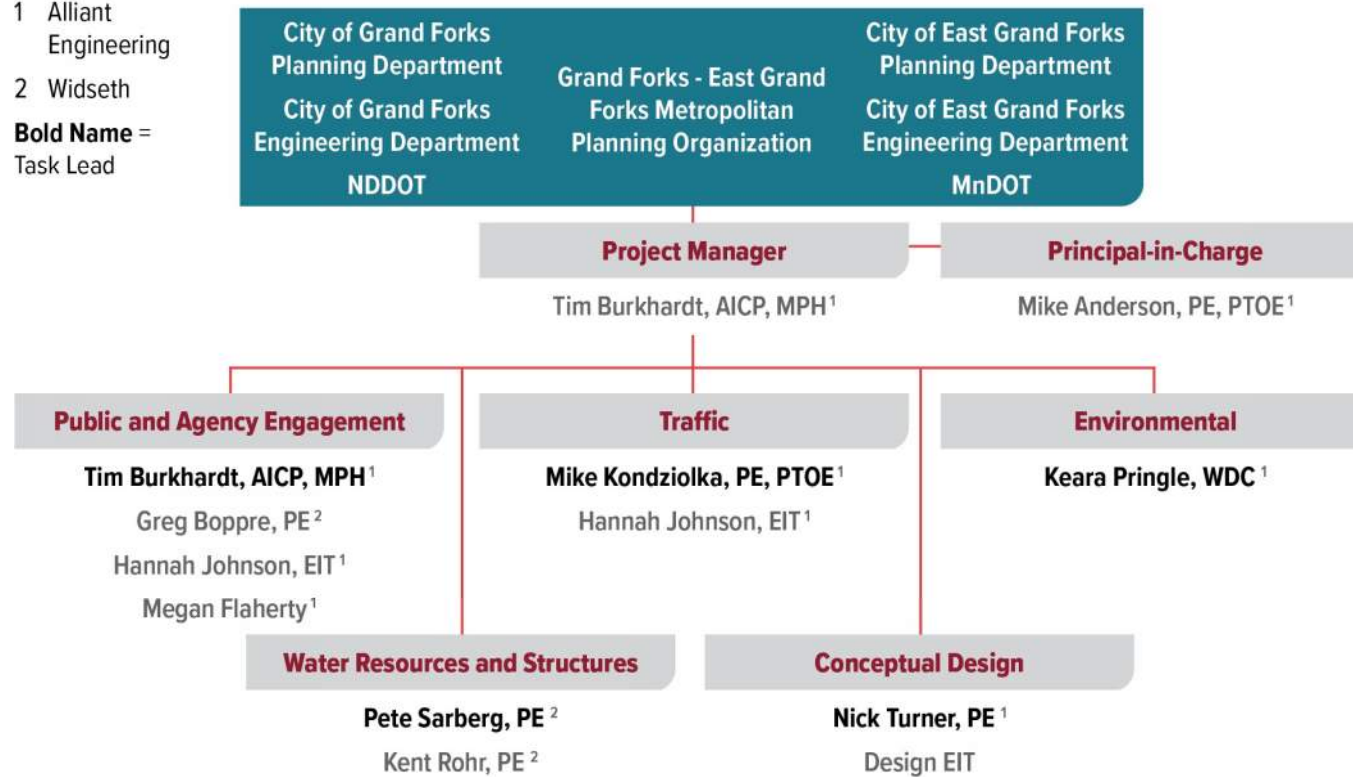
TIME	TOPIC
8:30	Welcome and Agenda Review (Earl Haugen/Tim Burkhardt)
8:35	Big Picture: Alliant Team, Approach, Schedule and Tasks
8:50	Detailed Approach and Initial Deliverables <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public and Agency Involvement</li><li>• Data Collection/Existing and Future Conditions</li></ul>
9:20	Questions and Discussion
10:00	Adjourn

# Team Organization

## PROJECT TEAM

- 1 Alliant Engineering
  - 2 Widseth
- Bold Name** = Task Lead

## AGENCY LEADERSHIP TEAM



# Key Team Members



*Tim Burkhardt, AICP, MPH*



*Mike Kondziolka, PE, PTOE*



*Nick Turner, PE*



*Keara Pringle, WDC*



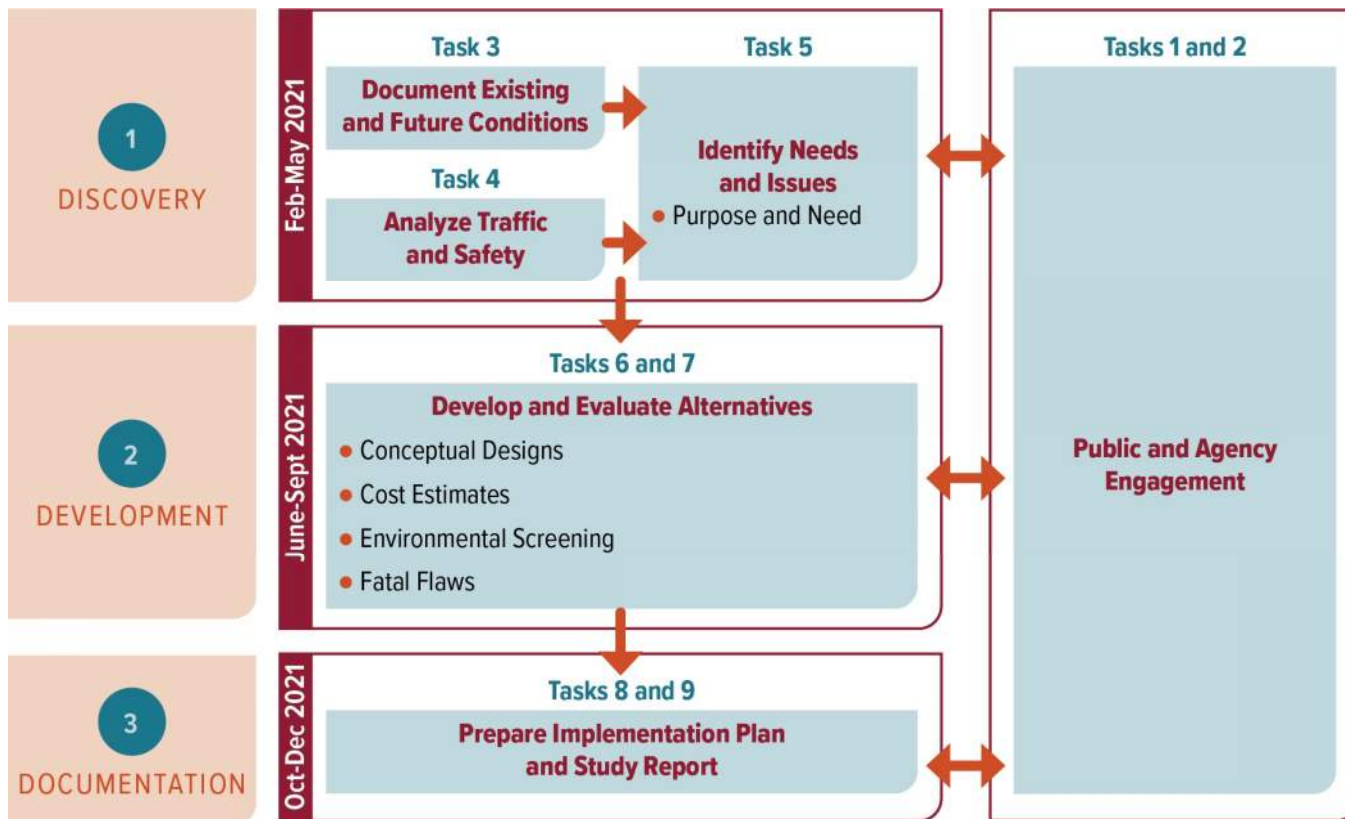
*Greg Boppre, PE*



*Mike Anderson, PE, PTOE*



# 3-Step Approach







# Task Status & First Deliverables

Task	Status	Deliverables in Progress	Deliverables Coming up
1. Project Management	Underway	TAC Update #1	Monthly TAC Updates
2. Public Involvement	Underway	Public Involvement Plan Ad Hoc Committee/Decision Process	Ad Hoc Committee #1 (4/XX) Public Event #1 (June/July)
3. Existing/Future Conditions	Underway	Tech Memo #2 (late Mar/early Apr)	
4. Traffic Analysis	Underway	Data collection (traffic counts) Land use coordination	Tech Memo #3 (June)
5. Issues and Needs	Not Started	N/A	
6. Alternatives Development	Not Started	N/A	
7. Alternatives Evaluation	Not Started	N/A	
8. Implementation Plan	Not Started	N/A	
9. Study Report	Not Started	N/A	



# Engagement Approach and Tactics

Project Phase	Engagement Content	Engagement Tactics
<p>1</p> <p><b>DISCOVERY</b></p> <p>Discover and understand existing and future conditions, constraints, and stakeholder needs and concerns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Study purpose and goals</li><li>• Existing conditions</li><li>• Needs and benefits</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interactive Comment Map and Survey</li><li>• Ad Hoc Group Meetings #1 and #2</li><li>• Public Input Meeting #1</li><li>• Pop-up Activities</li></ul>
<p>2</p> <p><b>DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>Develop and evaluate potential crossing and traffic options that respond to identified issues and needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alternatives</li><li>• Evaluation results</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interactive Comment Map and Survey</li><li>• Ad Hoc Group Meetings #3 and #4</li><li>• Public Input Meeting #2</li><li>• Pop-up Activities (on-site if possible)</li></ul>
<p>3</p> <p><b>DOCUMENTATION</b></p> <p>Summarize the study results, identify phasing, and set up the project for the next step.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recommendations</li><li>• Phasing</li><li>• Study report</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ad Hoc Group Meeting #5</li><li>• Public Input Meeting #3</li></ul>



# Engagement that Works: Connect



## Agencies

- Regional Goals
- Local Needs



## Public

- MPO/agency lists, web sites, social media
- Interactive site + phone/text line + mailings/paper copies



## Integrate

- Ad Hoc Group Meetings



# Engagement that Works: Manage



## Thoughtful

- Key Messages: Needs, Benefits, Tradeoffs



## Compliant

- Transparent
- Documented



## Responsive

- Flexible
- Grounded



# Engagement that Works: Make it Easy

Grand Forks - East Grand Forks METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Drag to comment > Opportunity Concern Question Other

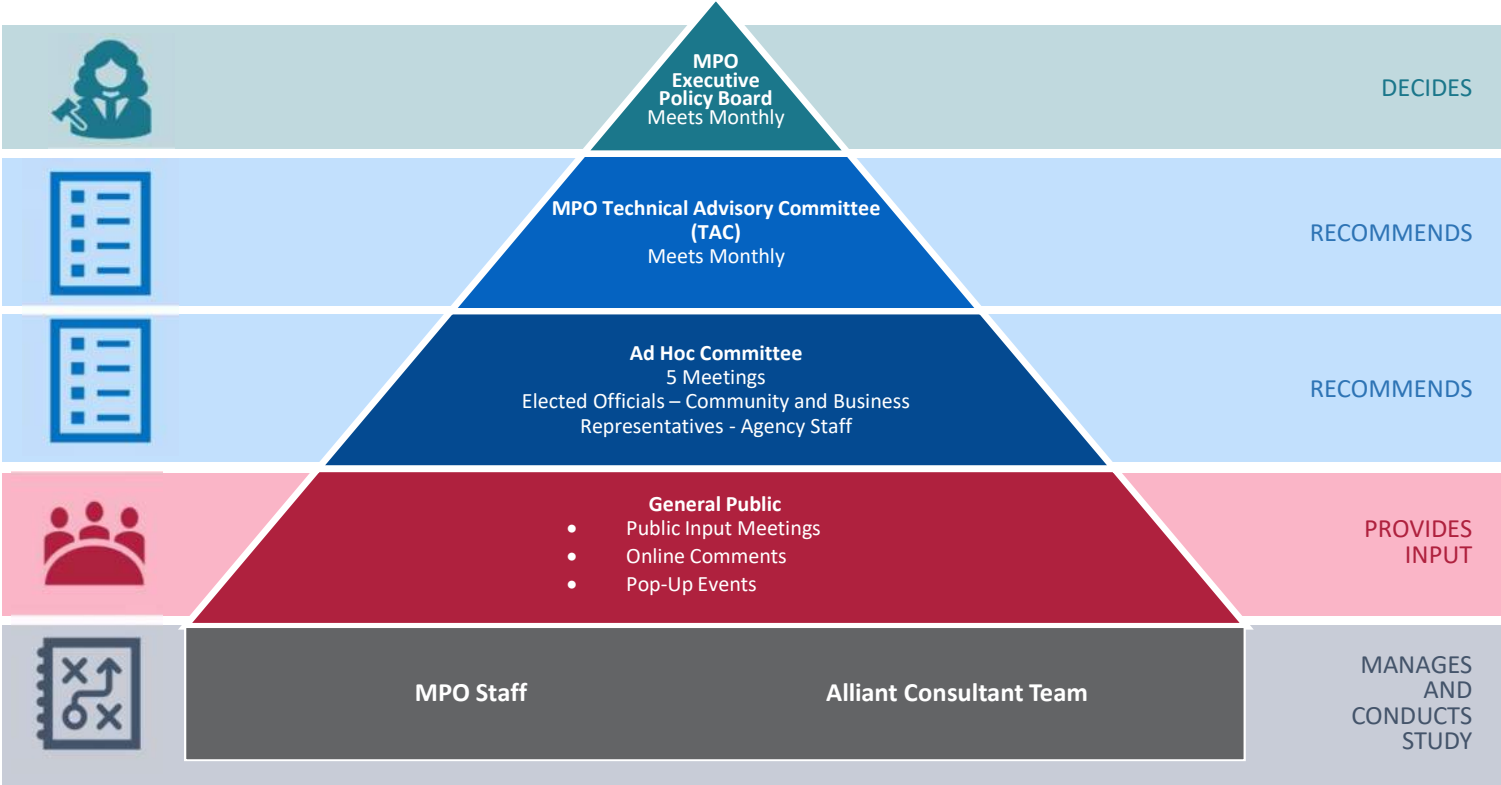
University of North Dakota  
Red River State Recreation Area  
East Grand Forks  
Grand Forks  
Central Park  
Lincoln Drive Park  
Elks Dr Alignment Option  
32nd Ave Alignment Option

Legend  
Study Area  
Bridge Alignment Options  
Bridge Alignment Options

Google  
Map data ©2021 Imagery ©2021, CNES / Airbus, Landsat / Copernicus, Maxar Technologies, USDA Farm Service Agency | Terms of Use | Report a map error



# Decision Structure and Public and Agency Involvement





# Ad Hoc Committee

- **Purpose**

- Provide balanced representation of stakeholder interests, affected communities, and geographic areas
- Build mutual understanding among citizens, technical staff, and elected officials
- Serve as communication link between those interests and the project team

- **Membership**

- Mixture of elected officials, community representatives and agency staff from both sides of the river.
- Before identifying individuals, we will identify “seats” – geographies, issues, or interests
- Members will be appointed by the MPO Executive Policy Board.

# Committee Roles and Responsibilities

- **Represent**
  - Represent constituents' perspectives during group deliberations
- **Communicate**
  - Communicate project progress with their constituents
- **Participate**
  - Prepare for and participate in up to five committee meetings
- **Attend**
  - Attend public outreach events and review public comments
- **Work for Consensus**
  - Work to develop consensus recommendations to the MPO Executive Policy Board at each step in the decision process





# Three Decision Points

- **Purpose and Need**

- Describes why an additional river crossing is needed and what it is intended to achieve. The basis for purpose and need has been established by the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan.

- **Alternatives to be Considered**

- The two corridors being studied – 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Elks Drive – have already been established. More detailed concepts for each corridor will be defined in this study.

- **Study Recommendations**

- This study is assumed to identify a recommended corridor and related implementation steps. The recommendations will be based on technical evaluation results and stakeholder input.

# Ad Hoc Committee: Seats

#	Committee Seat	Representing
<b>Elected Officials</b>		
1	Grand Forks City Council – Ward 5	Single seat to capture both bridge alignments
2	East Grand Forks City Council – At Large	Single seat to capture both bridge alignments
<b>Community and Business</b>		
3	32 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue Neighborhood (GF)	Directly adjacent neighborhood
4	Elks Drive/24 <sup>th</sup> Ave Neighborhood (GF)	Directly adjacent neighborhood
5	Near Southside Neighborhood (GF)	Indirectly affected neighborhood (traffic)
6	Rhinehart Neighborhood (EGF)	Directly adjacent neighborhood
7	Bygland Neighborhood (EGF)	Directly adjacent neighborhood
8	Rhinehart Township	Directly adjacent neighborhood
9	Grand Forks School District	Schools with potential traffic impacts
10	Chamber of Commerce (GF Rep)	Business/economic interest
11	Chamber of Commerce (EGF Rep)	Business/economic interest
<b>Agency Staff (Advisory Role/Non-Recommendng)</b>		
	City of Grand Forks, ND	North Dakota City
	City of East Grand Forks, MN	Minnesota City
	Polk County, MN	Minnesota County (unincorporated area)
	North Dakota Dept. of Transportation	State of North Dakota Transportation
	Minnesota Dept. of Transportation	State of Minnesota Transportation
	Federal Highway Administration	Federal Transportation
	Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MPO	Regional Transportation/Planning



# Ad Hoc Committee: Members

#	Committee Seat	Name
<b>Elected Officials</b>		
1	Grand Forks City Council – Ward 5	Kyle Kvamme
2	East Grand Forks City Council – At Large	Brian Larson
<b>Community and Business</b>		
3	32 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue Neighborhood (GF)	Eric Hansen
4	Elks Drive/24 <sup>th</sup> Ave Neighborhood (GF)	Tanya Kuntz
5	Near Southside Neighborhood (GF)	Andrew Budke
6	Rhinehart Neighborhood (EGF)	Zach Bopp
7	Bygland Neighborhood (EGF)	Craig Wald
8	Rhinehart Township	John Zavoral
9	Grand Forks School District Buildings & Grounds	Chris Arnold
10	Chamber of Commerce (GF Rep)	Dave Zavoral
11	Chamber of Commerce (EGF Rep)	Josh Brown
<b>Agency Staff (Advisory Role/Non-Recommendng)</b>		
	City of Grand Forks, ND	North Dakota City
	City of East Grand Forks, MN	Minnesota City
	Polk County, MN	Minnesota County (unincorporated area)
	North Dakota Dept. of Transportation	State of North Dakota Transportation
	Minnesota Dept. of Transportation	State of Minnesota Transportation
	Federal Highway Administration	Federal Transportation
	Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MPO	Regional Transportation/Planning



# Public Involvement Plan

Table 3. Engagement Tools and Tactics

Engagement Opportunity	Engagement Tools and Materials	How Accessed	Web Site Promotion	Low Tech Options	Engagement Goal	Comment Period
<b>0</b> <i>Pop-Up Engagement Activities To Be Determined (Ongoing)</i>	TBD	TBD (in person if/when possible)	TBD	TBD	TBD	Project Lifetime (through Dec. 2021)
<b>1</b> <b>Agency Coordination Meeting #1: Introduction, Existing &amp; Future Conditions</b> (March 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: Preview existing and future conditions</li> <li>• Discussion: Ensure shared understanding of study scope and purpose, stakeholder identification, and strategy</li> </ul>	Microsoft Teams	N/A	N/A	Study scope, purpose, stakeholder identification and strategy	N/A
<b>2</b> <b>Ad Hoc Meeting #1: Introduction, Existing &amp; Future Conditions</b> (March/April 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: Preview existing and future conditions</li> <li>• Discussion: Ensure shared understanding of study scope and purpose, stakeholder identification, and strategy</li> </ul>	Microsoft Teams	N/A	N/A	Study scope, purpose, stakeholder identification and strategy	N/A
<b>3</b> <b>Agency Coordination Meeting #2: Existing &amp; Future Conditions, Traffic Analysis</b> (April 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: Present existing and future conditions, preview traffic analysis</li> <li>• Discussion: Input on existing and future conditions</li> </ul>	Microsoft Teams	N/A	N/A	Input on existing and future conditions information	N/A
<b>4</b> <b>Ad Hoc Meeting #2: Existing &amp; Future Conditions, Traffic Analysis</b> (April/May 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: Present existing and future conditions, preview traffic analysis</li> <li>• Discussion: Input on existing and future conditions</li> </ul>	Microsoft Teams	N/A	N/A	Input on existing and future conditions information	N/A
<b>5</b> <b>Public Information Meeting #1: Issues and Needs Development</b> (June 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductory postcard (mailed by Alliant)</li> <li>• Web site (Social Pinpoint): project summary, email sign-up</li> <li>• Presentation: fact sheet with project information to date</li> <li>• Interactive comment map and survey</li> </ul>	Project Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postcard #1</li> <li>• Email list</li> <li>• Paid Facebook Ad posts to project zip codes</li> <li>• Other social media</li> <li>• News Release</li> </ul>	Project phone line available for SMS texting or voicemail	Input on issues and needs	June 2021 (4 weeks)
<b>6</b> <b>Agency Coordination Meeting #3: Issues and Needs Development, Alternatives Development</b> (June 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: Present summary of public information meeting #1, preview alternatives development</li> <li>• Discussion: Input on alternatives development</li> </ul>	Microsoft Teams	N/A	N/A	Input on alternatives development	N/A
<b>Ad Hoc Meeting #3:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: Present summary of public</li> </ul>					

# Public Involvement Plan (cont'd)

Table 3. Engagement Tools and Tactics, *continued*

	Engagement Opportunity	Engagement Tools and Materials	How Accessed	Web Site Promotion	Low Tech Options	Engagement Goal	Comment Period
8	<b>Public Information Meeting #2:</b> <b>Alternatives Development,</b> <b>Alternatives Evaluation</b> (August 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postcard (mailed by Alliant)</li> <li>• Web site: project summary, email sign-up</li> <li>• Presentation: fact sheet with alternatives development and evaluation</li> <li>• Interactive comment map and survey</li> </ul>	Project Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postcard #2</li> <li>• Email list</li> <li>• Paid Facebook Ad posts to project zip codes</li> <li>• Other social media</li> <li>• News Release</li> </ul>	Project phone line available for SMS texting or voicemail	Input on alternatives development and evaluation	August 2021 (4 weeks)
9	<b>Agency Coordination Meeting #4:</b> <b>Alternatives Development,</b> <b>Alternatives Evaluation</b> (August 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: alternatives development and evaluation</li> <li>• Discussion: Input on alternatives evaluation</li> </ul>	Microsoft Teams	N/A	N/A	Input on alternatives evaluation	N/A
10	<b>Ad Hoc Meeting #4:</b> <b>Alternatives Development,</b> <b>Alternatives Evaluation</b> (August 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: alternatives development and evaluation</li> <li>• Discussion: Input on alternatives evaluation</li> </ul>	Microsoft Teams	N/A	N/A	Input on alternatives evaluation	N/A
11	<b>Public Information Meeting #3:</b> <b>Alternatives Evaluation,</b> <b>Implementation Plan</b> (October 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postcard (mailed by Alliant)</li> <li>• Web site: project summary, email sign-up</li> <li>• Presentation: fact sheet with alternatives evaluation and next steps</li> <li>• Interactive comment map and survey</li> </ul>	Project Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postcard #3</li> <li>• Email list</li> <li>• Paid Facebook Ad posts to project zip codes</li> <li>• Other social media</li> <li>• News Release</li> </ul>	Project phone line available for SMS texting or voicemail	Input on next steps	October 2021 (4 weeks)
12	<b>Agency Coordination Meeting #5:</b> <b>Implementation Plan</b> (October 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: implementation plan and next steps</li> <li>• Discussion: recommendations and input on next steps</li> </ul>	Microsoft Teams	N/A	N/A	Recommendations and input on next steps	N/A
13	<b>Ad Hoc Meeting #5:</b> <b>Implementation Plan</b> (October 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: implementation plan and next steps</li> <li>• Discussion: recommendations and input on next steps</li> </ul>	Microsoft Teams	N/A	N/A	Recommendations and input on next steps	N/A



GRAND FORKS-EAST GRAND FORKS  
Future Bridge Traffic Impact Study



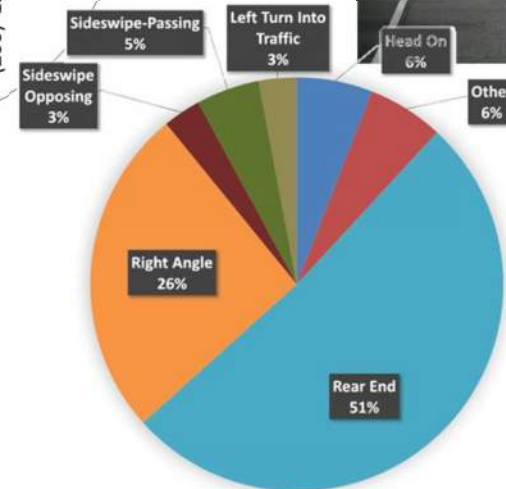
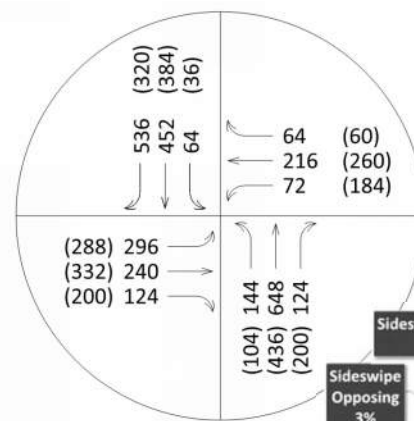
# Traffic: Establishing a Baseline

- Traffic Volumes

- Establish Existing Turning Movement Volumes
- COVID-19 Checks/Adjustments

- Safety

- Evaluate Crash History
- Understand the Community's Safety Concerns
- Assess Problem Areas and Contributing Factors

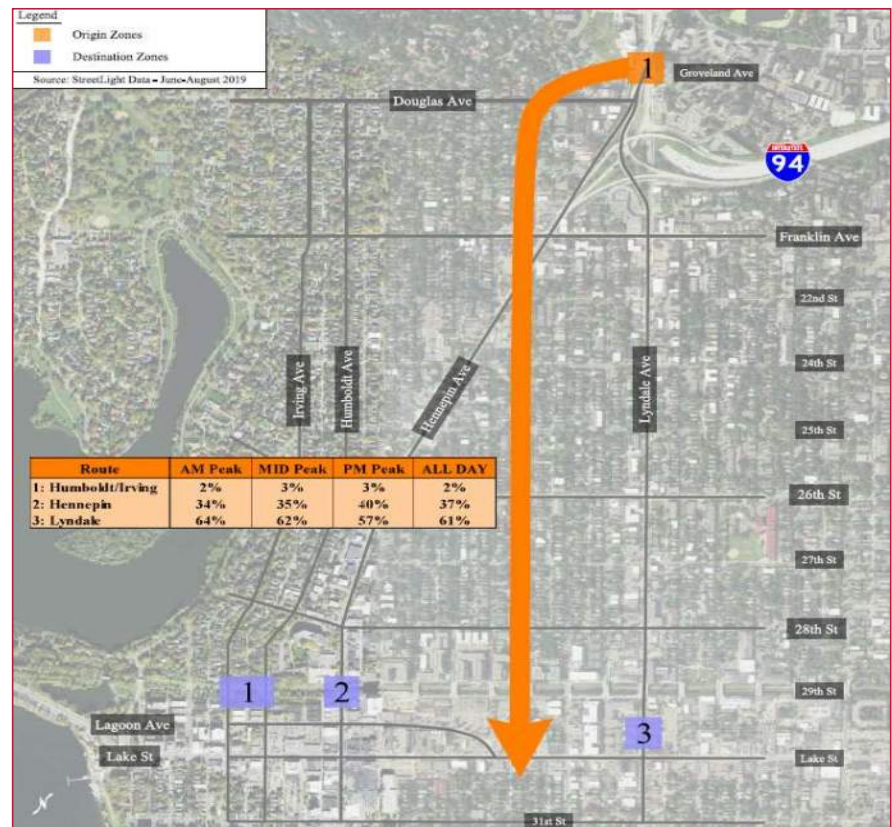




# Traffic: Establishing a Baseline

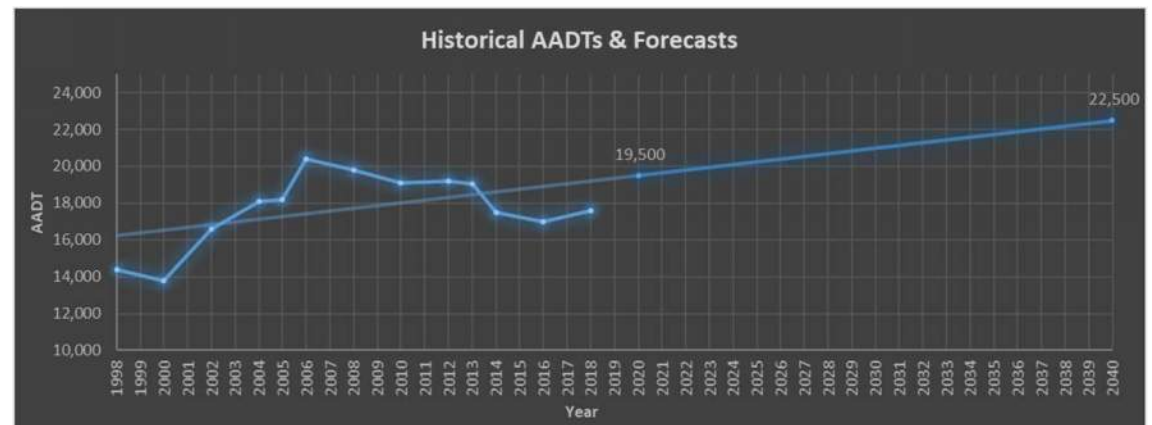
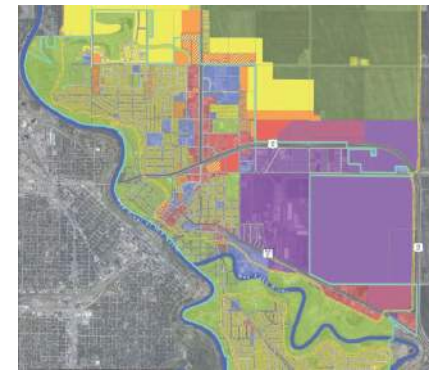
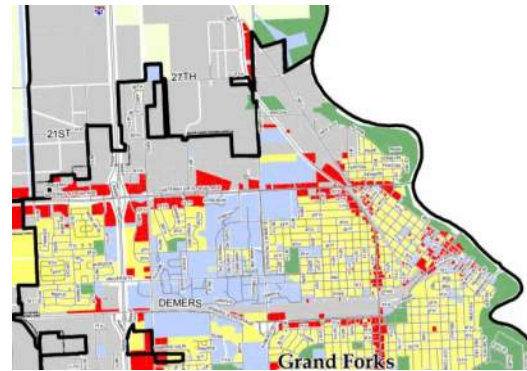
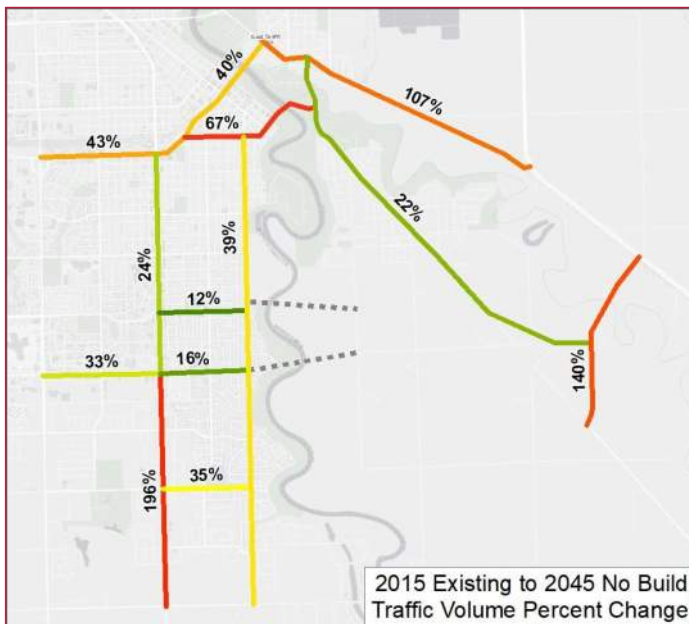
- Traffic Patterns

- StreetLight
- Assess Regional Demands for River Crossing



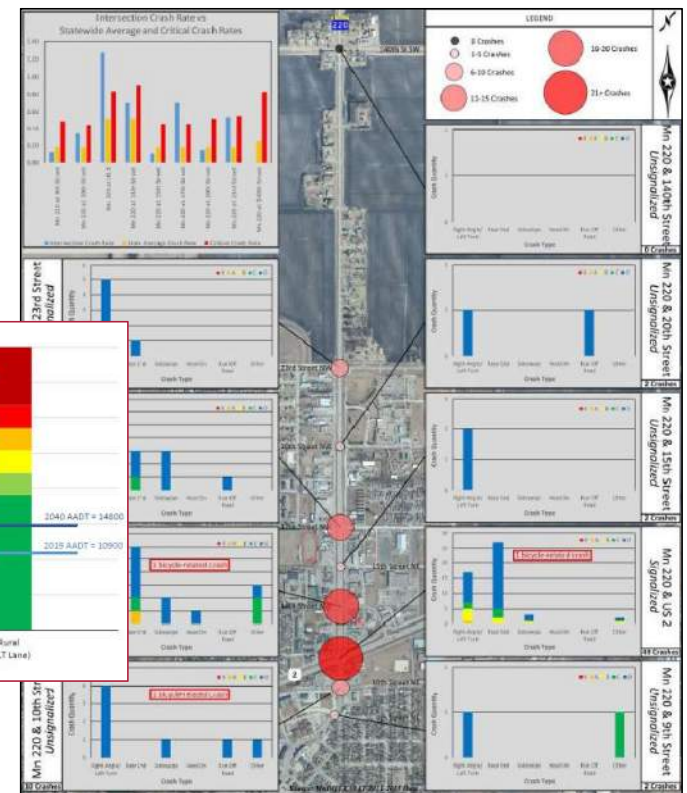
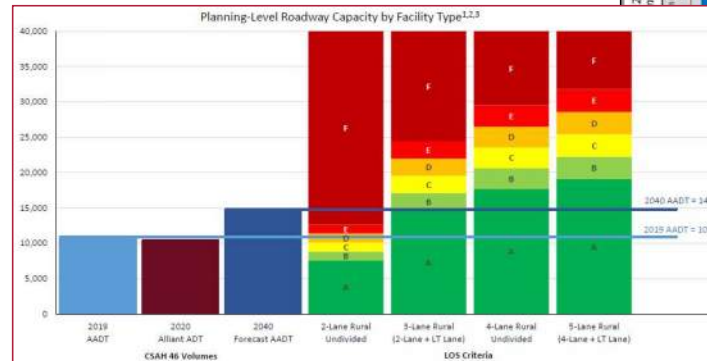
# Traffic: Assess Traffic Pattern Changes

- Land Use Plan Review
- ATAC Traffic Forecasts



# Traffic: Evaluate and Compare Performance

- Volume Sensitivity Analysis
- Segment Volume/Capacity
- Intersection Operations
- Safety Evaluation
- Multimodal Needs
- Identify Needs

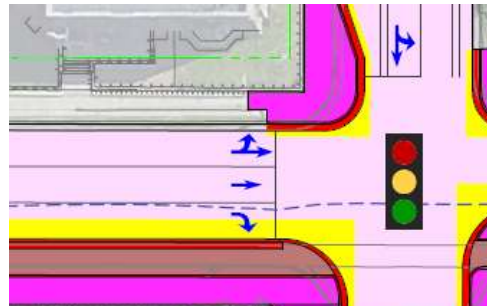




# Traffic: Address Needs

*We will identify appropriate strategies and mitigation measures to address safety and capacity issues*

- **Toolbox of Solutions**
  - Geometrics
  - Traffic Control
  - Access Management
  - Traffic Calming
- **Inform Concept Development**



*Turn Lanes*



*Traffic Signal*



*Roundabout*



*3/4 Configuration*

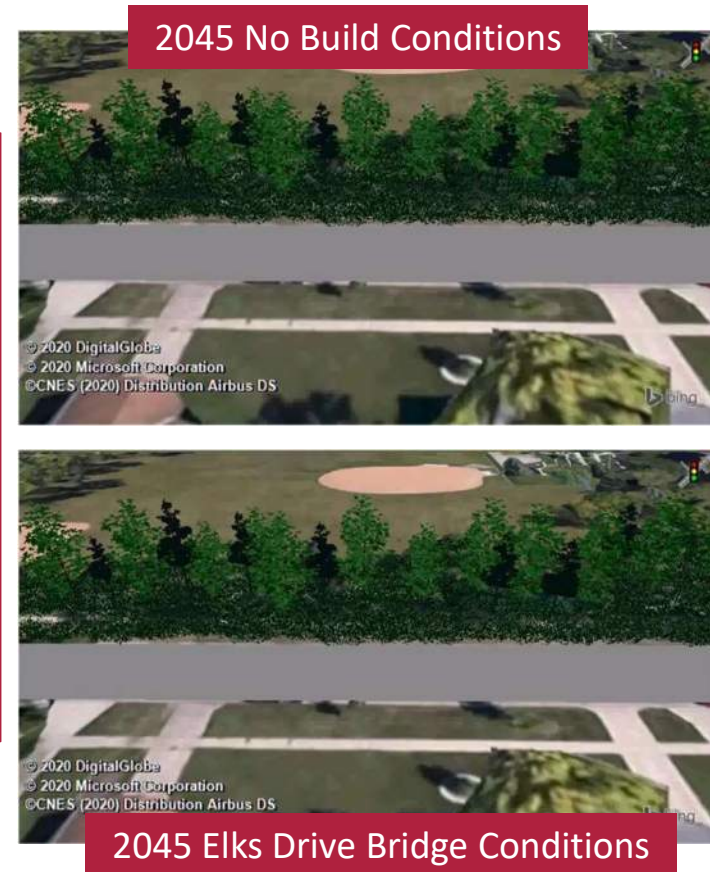
# Traffic: Effective Communication

*We understand the issues relevant to the community*

- Volumes on residential streets
- Speeding
- Safety

*We understand the need for relatable graphics and visualizations*

- Easy to understand graphics
- Illustrate impacts from a resident's perspective

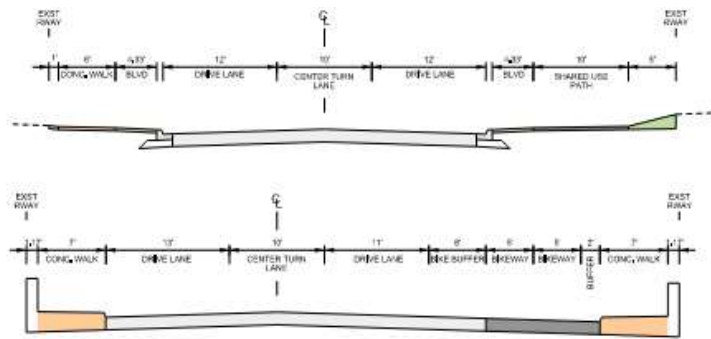
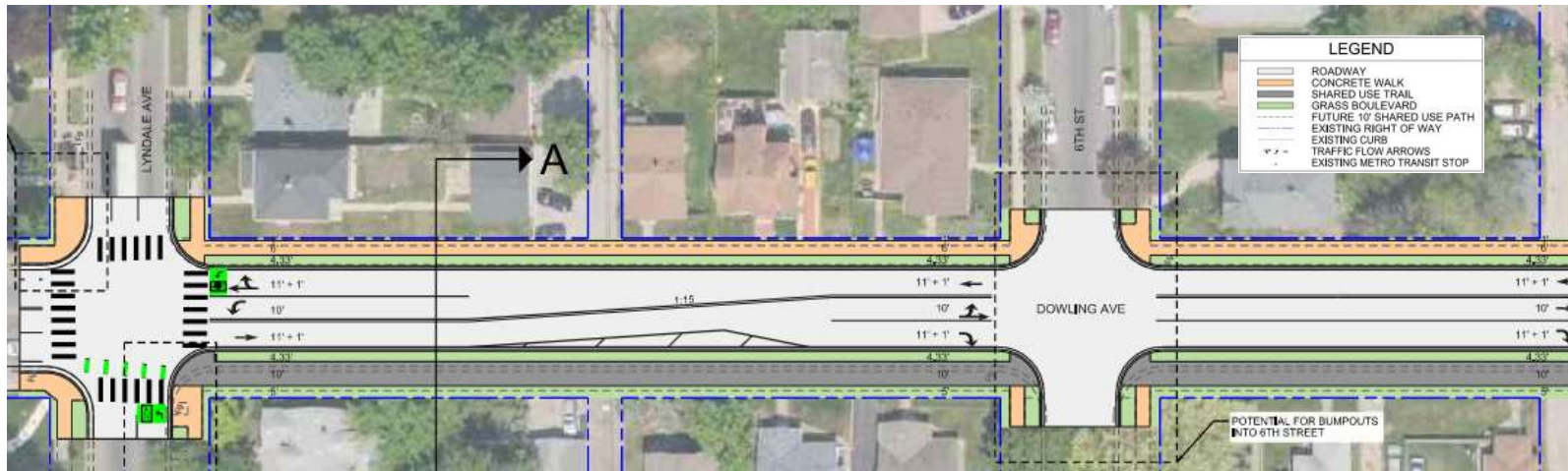


# Key Intersections and Traffic Counts

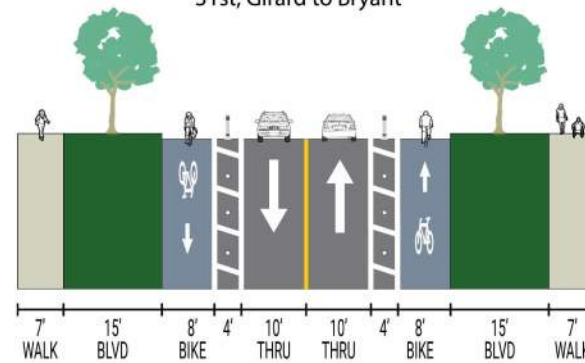
Intersection	City	Control	Data Source
32nd & Washington	Grand Forks	Signal	MPO Signals
32nd & Cherry	Grand Forks	AWSC	Alliant
32nd & Belmont	Grand Forks	AWSC	MPO
24th & Washington	Grand Forks	Signal	MPO Signals
24th & Cherry	Grand Forks	AWSC	Alliant
24th & Belmont	Grand Forks	TWSC	Alliant/MPO
Belmont & Elks Dr	Grand Forks	TWSC	Alliant/MPO
Demers & Washington	Grand Forks	Signal	MPO Signals
4th & Cherry	Grand Forks	Signal	MPO
4th & Belmont	Grand Forks	AWSC	MPO
Bygland (CR 72) & 1st	East Grand Forks	Signal	Alliant
Bygland (CR 72) & Rhinehart	East Grand Forks	TWSC	Alliant
Rhinehart & Greenway	East Grand Forks	TWSC	Alliant/MPO
Rhinehart & Future 24th	East Grand Forks	N/A	Inferred from Adjacent Ints
Rhinehart & Future 32nd	East Grand Forks	N/A	Inferred from Adjacent Ints
Bygland (CR 72) & Greenway	East Grand Forks	TWSC	Alliant / KH Study
Bygland (CR 72) & Bygland/190th	East Grand Forks	TWSC	Alliant
TH 220 & Harley	East Grand Forks	TWSC	Alliant
TH 220 & US 2	East Grand Forks	TWSC	Alliant



# Smart Concept Designs and Visuals



31st, Girard to Bryant



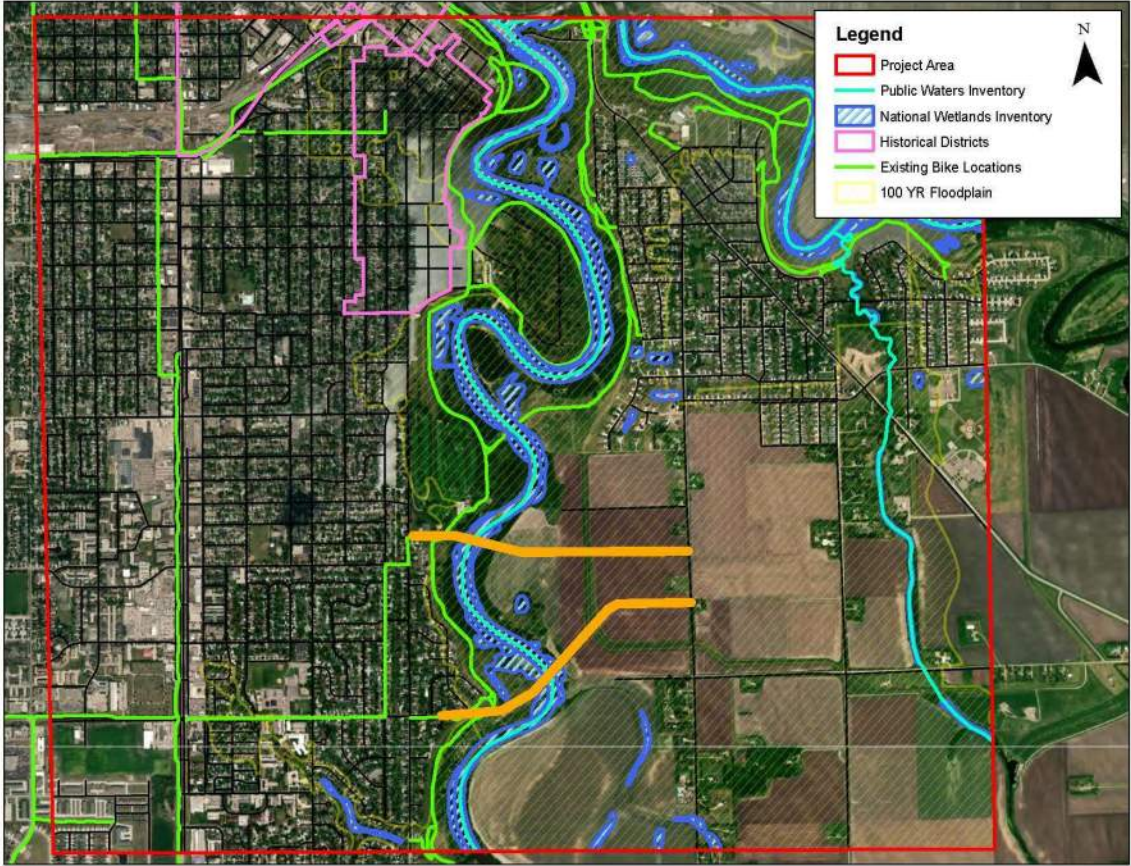


# Environmental and NEPA/PEL Process

<b>Purpose and Need</b>	<b>Public Involvement</b>	<b>Alternatives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start with MPO Transportation Plan</li><li>• Reference Goals and Objectives</li><li>• Use for Fatal Flaws</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thorough</li><li>• Documented</li><li>• Transparent</li><li>• Informs P&amp;N</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Range of Alternatives</li><li>• Don't Eliminate (except possible Fatal Flaws)</li><li>• Screen with Key Differentiators</li></ul>



# Environmental and NEPA/PEL Process



# Putting it all Together

- Screening and Evaluation Results
- Implementation Plan
- Report

Objective	East Side Only			West Side Station + East Side		Center Access		
	A	C	E	B	D	F	G	
Transit Benefits	Transit + walk travel time (1 + 2)	2,630	2,690	1,500	2,780	2,850	3,470	2,020
	Passenger safety	●	●	●	◐	◐	●	◐
	Consistency with BRT station placement	●	●	●	●	●		◐
Highway operations	Safe operations	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	●
Transit operation	TOD support/potential	◐	○	○	◐	◐	○	○
Cost	Capital + operation	\$15.3 M (-\$118,000)	\$8.0 M (-\$130,000)	\$3.5 M (-\$76,000)	\$30.4 M (-\$64,000)	\$23.1 M (-\$76,000)	\$17.6 M (-\$168,000)	\$22.9 M (-\$51,000)

# Questions/Discussion





