



# Grand Forks - East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization

## **MPO Staff Report** **Technical Advisory Committee: December 14, 2016** **MPO Executive Board: December 21, 2016**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Designation of Proposed Minnesota NHS Intermodal Connectors**

Matter of Minnesota NHS Intermodal Connectors.

**Background:** MnDOT has identified a need to update the designated NHS Intermodal Connectors. These are roads off the NHS that provide access to intermodal facilities that are located away from the designated NHS system. These intermodal facilities are for both freight and passenger services.

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As discussed last month, MnDOT has tasked us to review NHS Connectors. In reviewing the criteria, the only likely segment of streets within our Minnesota side of our Study Area that currently is not part of the NHS would be the portion of US Bus #2 from DeMers Ave all the way to US #2 and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE between Gateway Dr and US Bus 2.

This segment is possible candidate due to the American Crystal Sugar Beet Plant. It handles over 2.5 million tons of beets each year and averages over 100 trucks per day during the average year. The attached map depicts the current NHS routes and the segment being proposed.

The current US 2/US Bus 2 Traffic Study may impact this recommendation. One possible outcome would be to shift the designation to current Polk #17. We can coordinate with MnDOT as to the Study's process to keep them informed as to the status of this proposed segment. The timeline desired by MnDOT may coincide with the Study's timeline; however, MnDOT requested MPO action by the end of December. Some questions to MnDOT staff about the criteria is still waiting for an answer. The TAC will be informed of any possible change to the recommendation is the response from MnDOT warrants it.

### **ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- MnDOT has identified the need to review NHS Intermodal Connectors.
- Currently, there are none in the Forks MPO Study Area.
- Tentatively, the end of December 2016 has been identified for MPO review.

### **SUPPORT MATERIALS:**

- Map

Legend

Black = Existing NHS

Red = Proposed Connectors

