



# 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 Proposed Amendment to 2017 and 2018 Unified Planning Work Program.**

Matter of the Proposed Amendment 2017 and 2018 UPWP.

**Background:** The MPO prepares a work program listing the activities that will be accomplished with the consolidated planning grant from the USDOT. The program is titled the Unified Planning Work Program and covers a two-year period. We are beginning a new two year period. The MPO has prepared a work program listing the activities that will be accomplished with the federal Consolidate Planning Grant (CPG) and a planning grant from Minnesota, which helps off-set local match.

The proposed amendment is to carry-over the I29 Traffic Operation Study into 2017. This Study was simply missed as one of the carry-over work activities when the original Work Program was completed. The various amendments added to the scope were identified at the time of approving the amendments that the Study's completion would need to be extended.

The I29 Traffic Study is providing us with very valuable analysis that will serve us greatly in our future transportation planning and programming activities. The budget amount will be what is currently available so it will not have a negative impact on any of the activities already programmed. The extension is until April 2017. An extension on the contract with NDDOT will also need to happen to continue their funding of a portion of the local match for the study.

**Findings and Analysis:**

- The MPO is required to prepare a Unified Planning Work Program.
- The activities are to occur over a two year period of 2017-2018.
- The I29 Traffic Operations Study needs to carryover for completion.

**Support Materials:**

- Draft Amendment #1 UPWP

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# **2017-2018 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM Amendment #1**



**Grand Forks – East Grand Forks  
Metropolitan Planning  
Organization**

*Prepared By*

**Grand Forks – East Grand Forks  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
December 2016**

## 300.5 SPECIAL STUDIES

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 300.51 MAP-21/FAST Implementation: To participate in the implementation of the new transportation reauthorization bill.
- 300.52 I-29 Traffic Operations Study: 2015/6/7 – To study the traffic operations along I-29 corridor and determine operation deficiencies and how different alternatives can improve the operations of I-29 and its access points.
- 300.53 School Safety Study: 2017/18– To work with Safe Kids, cities and local school districts to develop strategies to improve safety in and around middle schools.
- 300.54 Technical Assistance: To provide technical assistance to the Cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks in areas related to transportation planning.

### **PROPOSED WORK:**

- 300.51 MAP21/FAST Implementation: Staff activities as necessary to keep involved with the process of implementing the transportation bill. Experience has shown that reauthorization requires significant staff time. Involvement also means maintaining an understanding of issues, participating with either state department of transportation efforts regarding implementation.
- With passage of FAST continuing MAP21 performance based planning and programming, final regulations are being promulgated to implement this major shift in MPO activities. By the end of this UPWP, the MPO will need to be fully compliant with FAST in its planning and programming documents.
- 300.52 I-29 Traffic Operations Study: 2015/67 – The 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan identifies traffic congestion at the main access points for Grand Forks. Further, traffic operation concerns exist for I-29 between DeMers Ave Interchange and Gateway Drive Interchange. The Study will analyze the current and future traffic operations and consider alternatives that improve traffic flow. Alternatives could include additional interchanges, modification of existing interchanges or creating

parallel traffic corridors to ease traffic operations.

300.53 School Safety Study: 2017/18 – The MPO, Cities and School District have been working with the SAFE KIDS Coalition to identify safety improvements at local middle schools. Each year, a number of schools will be studied to evaluate current traffic circulation and pedestrian safety conditions, identify safety issues, and recommend improvements to address the identified issues.

300.54 Technical Assistance: This task allows for work to be done on various studies requested throughout the annual program year. Unidentified requests will be approved on a priority basis after evaluation of resource commitment. It is envisioned that formal proposals will be required prior to approval.

**PRODUCTS:**

300.51	Undetermined.
300.52	I29 Traffic Operations Study – 2017
300.53	School Safety Study – 2017/18.
300.54	Undetermined

**COMPLETION DATE:**

300.51	As needed.
300.52	December 31, 2017/18
300.53	December 31, 2017/18
300.54	As needed