



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report

Committee of the Whole – December 8, 2025
City Council – December 15, 2025

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council

12/15/2025

Maureen Storstad
Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

Agenda Item: Letter of No Objection for UND Campus Fiber Network Redundancy Plan

Submitted by: Engineering Department, David Kuharenko, PE (Assistant City Engineer)

Staff Recommended Action: **Approve Letter of No Objection for UND Campus Fiber Network Redundancy Plan**

Committee Recommended Action: Motion by Osowski, second by Vein to move staff recommendation to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Action: Motion by Vein, second by Fridolfs to approve on consent agenda.
Motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND:

The University of North Dakota (UND) is proposing to run a new fiber optic cable from UND campus to the Grand Forks International Airport. The proposed alignment crosses the English Coulee Diversion. For this reason, UND will need to apply for a 408 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. As part of the 408 process, they are looking for a letter of no objection from the City of Grand Forks.

The English Coulee Diversion (ECD) is a part of the City of Grand Forks' flood protection system. The ECD functions as both a water diversion and levee for the runoff from the surrounding agricultural land. Any modifications to the system must be reviewed by the United States Army Corps of Engineer (USACE). Before the USACE can move forward with their review of this project, they require that a letter of No Objection be submitted by the non-federal sponsor of the flood protection system (The City of Grand Forks). This letter states that the City does not object to the USACE moving forward with their review of the project. The letter does not waive any of the City's rights to be involved with or contest any part of the project as it develops. City Engineering staff will continue to be involved in the review of this project as it moves forward.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- UND has hired MBN Engineering to design a plan set for this project.
- The proposed alignment crosses the English Coulee Diversion near the intersection of Demers Avenue and North 69th Street.
- UND and MBN will need to apply for a 408 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.
- The 408 permit requires that the City of Grand Forks provide a letter of no objection.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Draft Letter of No Objection
- Project Location Map

255 N. 4th St.
PO Box 5200
Grand Forks, ND 58206-5200



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
(701) 746-2640
Fax#(701) 787-3744

December XX, 2025

United States Army Corp of Engineer
180 5th St. E, Ste. 700
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Statement of No Objection
Proposed Third-Party Project: UND Campus Fiber Network Redundancy Plan
Location: Sections 1 and 2, Township 151 N, Range 50 W, Grand Forks County,
North Dakota
Federal Project: DACW37-00-B-0020

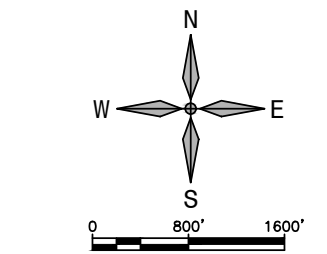
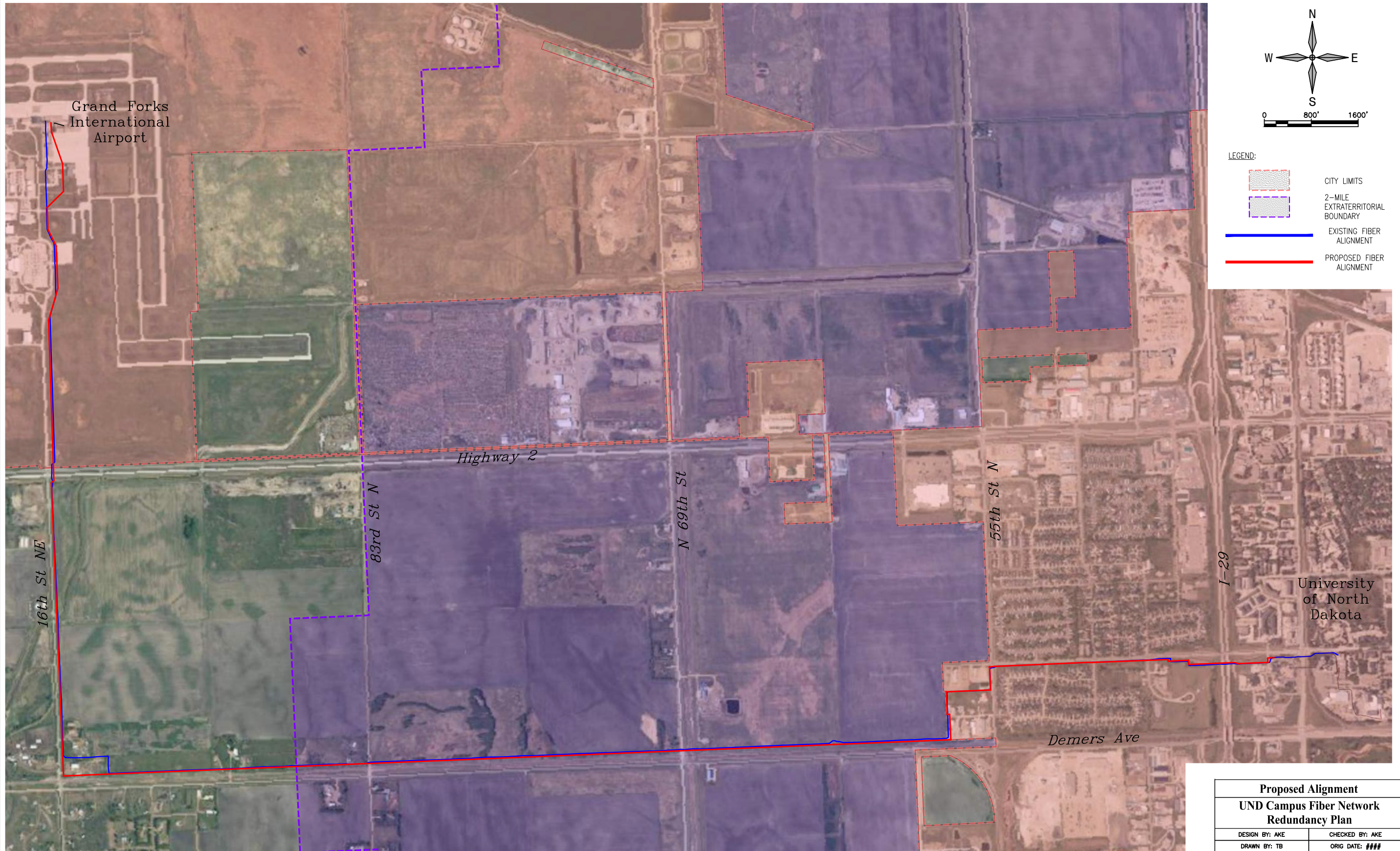
The City of Grand Forks, a North Dakota municipal corporation, hereby issues its Statement of No Objection, in compliance with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' Section 408 Permission Submittal Requirements. The City of Grand Forks has been advised as to the proposed Third-Party scope of work and has determined that such scope affects the above-mentioned Federal Project for which the City of Grand Forks was a sponsor. However, the City of Grand Forks has no objection to the proposed Third Party Project per the preliminary plans dated 6/5/2025. The City of Grand Forks reserves its rights to provide additional comment for consideration by USACE during the review process and prior to a final Section 408 decision.

This letter of no objection should not be seen as a waiver of any right to seek any compensation or remediation from Third Party in the event Third Party damages the property of the City of Grand Forks, fails to return the property to its original condition, or causes unnecessary delays and/or disruptions to the infrastructure or utility services of the City of Grand Forks.

In the event you should have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Allen Grasser, PE – City Engineer at 701-746-2640 or agrasser@grandforksgov.com.

Sincerely,

Allen R. Grasser, PE – City Engineer



- LEGEND:
- CITY LIMITS
 - 2-MILE EXTRATERRITORIAL BOUNDARY
 - EXISTING FIBER ALIGNMENT
 - PROPOSED FIBER ALIGNMENT

Proposed Alignment
UND Campus Fiber Network
Redundancy Plan

DESIGN BY: AKE	CHECKED BY: AKE
DRAWN BY: TB	ORIG DATE: ###

SHEET NO.	C-1
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