

TEAM SNAPSHOT

# Grand Forks, North Dakota



**JOSH CLAWSON**  
SOFTWARE SPECIALIST, CITY OF GRAND FORKS

Clawson is the software specialist for the engineering department. He has been with the City of Grand Forks for just under 4 years. In this time he has been a progressive leader to help bring the Engineering department into the future of design. Developing paperless workflows and electronic data transfers from field to office has been well received. He has gone through intensive training with Autodesk products and will be bringing his expertise in Civil 3D, Infraworks, and GIS Data to help generate easily understandable concept models and exhibits for the project.



**STEPHANIE ERICKSON**  
PLANNER, CITY OF GRAND FORKS

Erickson is a Planner for the City of Grand Forks; she reviews site plans for the City, oversees bicycle and pedestrian planning and is working on the current Five Year Consolidated Plan. Previously, she worked for the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization, updating the bike and pedestrian portion of the Long Range Transportation Plan, writing the Traffic Incident Management Plan, updating the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture. Ms. Erickson also interned for the Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker in his Sustainability Office and Parks & Public Lands Office. Erickson has a BS in City Planning from the University of Utah.



**MATTHEW LEIPHON**  
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ANALYST, PRAXIS STRATEGY GROUP

Matthew has participated in projects and conducted research focused on community and rural economic development, public-private partnerships, infrastructure finance, and energy, workforce development, and manufacturing and industrial policy. At Praxis, Matthew conducts research to identify successful state government initiatives focused on creating jobs and building stronger regional economies as part of the Enterprising States initiative. He received a Masters in Public Administration from the University of North Dakota in 2007. Matthew also holds a BA in political science and history from the University of North Dakota.



**ALI ROOD**  
MOBILITY MANAGER, CITY OF GRAND FORKS

As Mobility Manager for the City of Grand Forks, Ms. Rood is responsible for public transit planning, marketing, education and outreach. Ms. Rood has a Master of Arts degree in Geography from the University of North Dakota and prior experience working for the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization. She is Vice President of the Dakota Transit Association and also serves as the North Dakota Statewide Transit Coordinator.



**JASON SCHAEFER** *team lead*  
BOARD MEMBER, DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Jason's passions center on themes of innovation, community, and sustainability. He brings a great deal of enthusiasm coupled with Midwestern pragmatism. He serves on the board of the Grand Forks Downtown Development Association. Last year, he was awarded a McCloy Fellowship to study urban sustainability initiatives while visiting Amsterdam and seven cities across Germany. Recently, he traveled with a delegation of leaders from Fargo to learn about creative initiatives in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba. More recently, Mr. Schaefer was a featured speaker at TEDx Grand Forks where he shared his vision for the Warehouse EcoDistrict and Grand Corridor rapid transit project.



**MARCUS WAX**  
GENERAL MANAGER, YELLOW DART INDUSTRIES

Marcus Wax is the General Manager of Yellow Dart Industries, a small fabrication company offering a range of custom wood and metal products. He earned a BS in Geography from the University of North Dakota, where he wrote a thesis exploring the introduction of warehousing, light manufacturing, and precision manufacturing into mixed use development projects. He also earned the UND Entrepreneurial Studies Certificate. Combining his education with practical experience operating a small business, including the coordination of a major relocation and coming expansion, he seeks to continue learning how to promote planning as a boon for the community and a boon for healthy businesses.

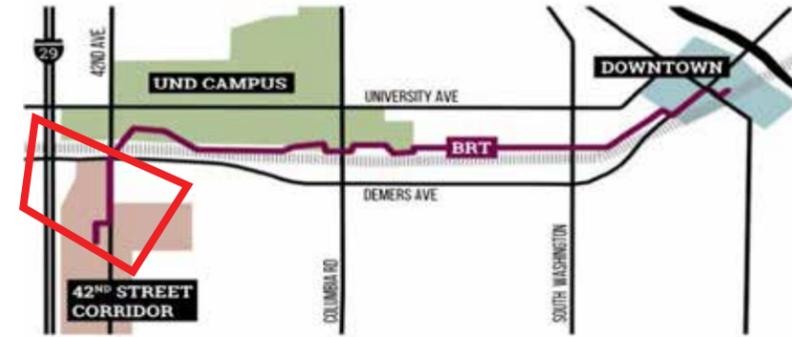


**DR. BRETT WEBER**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Dr. Weber is a social worker and historian teaching social work at the University of North Dakota and a Council Member for the City of Grand Forks. He served as a founding member of the Grand Forks Community Land Trust and the High Plains Fair Housing Center. He has worked closely with the local housing authority and has experience with related programs including section VIII housing vouchers and Neighborhood Learning Centers. Weber co-led the North Dakota Man Camp Project and field teams examining life in the temporary labor housing in the Bakken region. He researched the Denver program, which set precedents for similar programs and helped change the racial and political landscape of the US.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

# Warehouse EcoDistrict & Grand Corridor Project



The Grand Forks ecodistrict area encompasses two projects, the Grand Corridor Project, a 4-mile bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor, as well as the Warehouse EcoDistrict, which sits within the corridor. The Warehouse EcoDistrict is a 5-acre area adjacent to Downtown that contains dilapidated warehouses, housing and underutilized land that is primed for redevelopment. The Warehouse EcoDistrict is the first phase of the Grand Corridor project, a broader initiative to connect people, jobs, and activity through a development corridor that includes housing, recreation, transit, and mixed-use development. The Grand Corridor will connect downtown to campus and the developing 42nd St Destination Corridor - home to an arena and convention center as well as 1000 units of housing and several large employers. Within 1/4 mile of the corridor are the highest density of housing and jobs in Grand Forks. At the heart of the corridor is BRT, a form of transit that looks, acts and feels like light rail, but is more cost-effective as it doesn't require tracks. The Corridor will also include pedestrian and bicycle paths. These paths would connect with the existing English Coulee trail system as well as a Greenway that includes 20 miles of trails along the Red River.

**Why this Neighborhood?**

Grand Forks has a diverse economy with education, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture and tourism all playing significant roles. The city added jobs at twice the national rate since 2001 and the metropolitan area led the nation in per capita personal income growth last year. Grand Forks, with its growing university, is well-positioned to thrive in the 21st century knowledge-based economy. Downtown and the university are successful, energetic and growing. The 42nd St Destination

Corridor is another fast-growing area, and the Grand Corridor connects all three of these vibrant areas and will spur development of areas in between.

The Warehouse EcoDistrict's location near downtown and along the transit corridor makes it an ideal location for businesses, including the potential for Amazon.com to move to the neighborhood. Another brownfield along the Grand Corridor is also ripe for redevelopment, including affordable housing options. Grand Forks has the opportunity to build what could be the most innovative and exceptional transit and development corridor of any small city in the country with a solid return on investment. The holistic EcoDistricts approach to sustainability that includes equity, environmental, climate and resiliency will be key.

**top 3 Neighborhood PRIORITIES:**

1. Connecting community assets, improve existing neighborhoods
2. Making Grand Forks more affordable (particularly in regards to housing and transportation)
3. Encouraging development in the core of city as opposed to less efficient sprawl development

**top 3 Neighborhood CHALLENGES:**

1. Ensuring diverse group of stakeholders is involved and feels heard
2. Working with a variety of property owners
3. The size and scope of the project, which has many moving parts