



# La Crosse Area Planning Committee

*Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area*

Peter Fletcher, Director     Jackie Eastwood, Transportation Planner  
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June 27, 2022

Colonel Karl Jansen  
Commander  
St. Paul District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
180 5<sup>th</sup> St. E., Suite 700  
St. Paul, MN 55101

SUBJECT: Support to Form the Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area

Colonel Karl Jansen,

This letter is to offer our support for the creation and establishment of the Northern Grain Belt (NGB) Port Statistical Area (PSA) per the requirements of Engineer Pamphlet 1130-2-520, Chapter 5, paragraph 5-10.

This bi-state section of the Upper Mississippi River has been a functioning regional port system for over 100 years without federal recognition. Wisconsin is currently the only state on the Mississippi River without a federally recognized port. It is also difficult to determine what waterborne commerce activity is actually taking place in Western Wisconsin and Eastern Minnesota to support bi-state, regional economic development, and transportation planning efforts. The Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area initiative corrects that.

Creating the Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area can aid an inland port region in marketing itself to investors and customers by consolidating port and terminal data under one umbrella. The creation of the statistical boundary will also provide the opportunity for investment opportunities which could lead to job creation and economic growth for the bi-state region.

The La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the bi-state La Crosse, WI-La Crescent, MN Urbanized Area as specified in state statute ([23 CFR 450.300](#)). The LAPC provides continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive performance-based multimodal transportation planning, including the development of a [Metropolitan Transportation Plan](#) (MTP) and a [Transportation Improvement Program](#) (TIP). The NGB PSA directly supports our strategic plan and fosters regional economic growth and development.

Attached to this letter is a citation of authority (resolution) from the LAPC Policy Board.

We request favorable consideration and timely approval of this application for the creation of the Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Peter Fletcher  
Executive Director

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