

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | May 7, 2025

GRAND FORKS COUNTY FATAL CRASH - UPDATE

What: Fatal Crash

Where: Northbound I-29, 2.5 miles north of Thompson

When: 05/05/2025, approximately 1:05 PM

Road Conditions: Good

Weather Conditions: Sunny

Crash Involvement: Two-vehicle

Type of Crash: Head-on

Agencies Involved: NDHP, Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office, Thompson Fire & Rescue, Altru Ambulance

Vehicle No. 1: 2015 Chevrolet Traverse

Driver No. 1: Judy Rusten, 83, Aneta, ND (deceased)

Restraints: Seatbelt not in use

Vehicle No. 2: 2018 GMC Sierra

Driver No. 2: Joshua Bedard, 42, Grand Forks (serious injuries)

Restraints: Seatbelt in use, air bags deployed

NARRATIVE: The Chevrolet Traverse, driven by Rusten, was traveling the wrong way on I-29, southbound in the northbound lanes. The GMC Sierra, driven by Joshua Bedard, was traveling north on I-29. The Traverse and the Sierra collided head-on in the northbound lanes.

Rusten died on scene and Bedard was transported by ambulance to Altru Hospital in Grand Forks with serious injuries. The northbound lanes of I-29 were closed for approximately 2 hours while the scene was investigated and cleared. The crash remains under investigation by the ND Highway Patrol.

For more information, contact: Lieutenant Ryan Panasuk 701-328-2447, rpanasuk@nd.gov