

**535th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, November 10, 2022 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS
Nicole	Crutchfield	City of Fargo Planning
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Jace	Hellman	City of Horace – Community Development Director
Robin	Huston	City of Moorhead Planning
Matthew	Jacobson	Clay County Planning
Kelly	Krapu	Freight Representative - TrueNorth Compliance Service
Don	Lorsung	City of Dilworth Community Development
Aaron	Nelson	West Fargo City Planning
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division
Kristen	Sperry	FHWA - ND (ex-officio)

Members Absent: NONE

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Calvin	Berube	Stantec
Paul	Bervik	Metro COG
Ethan	Bialik	Moore
Mike	Bittner	Bolton & Menk
Jaron	Capps	Metro COG
Luke	Champa	SRF Consulting
Jim	Dahlman	Interstate Engineering
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Brenda	Derrig	City of Fargo Engineering
Dylan	Dunn	Moore
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Wade	Frank	Stantec
Sharijad	Hasan	NDSU/ATAC/UGPTI
Matt	Kinsella	Apex Engineering
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG

Brent	Muscha	Apex Engineering
Anna	Pierce	MnDOT
Kshitij	Sharma	NDSU/ATAC/UGPTI
Jordan	Smith	MATBUS
Tom	Soucy	Cass County Highway Engineering
Steve	Strack	Houston Engineering
Kalvin	Strecker	Houston Engineering
Brad	Wentz	NDSU/ATAC/UGPTI

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on November 10, 2022 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 535 TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the 535 TTC Meeting Agenda, noting that she would like to switch items 12 and 13, so she can discuss NDSU UGPTI SMART Cities Grant Application and the Expression of Interest in the FRA's Establishment of the Corridor Identification and Development Program.

Motion: Approve the 535 TTC Meeting Agenda as amended
Mr. Lorsung moved, seconded by Ms. Huston
MOTION, PASSED.
Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVE October 13, 2022 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the October 13, 2022 TTC Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approve the October 13, 2022 TTC Minutes.
Ms. Huston moved, seconded by Ms. Crutchfield
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

5. Transportation Improvement Program 2023-2026 Amendment

Mr. Bervik presented an amendment to the draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The proposed amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP reflects a modified federally funded project within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA).

A public notice was published in The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, which advertised the public meeting, detailed how to request more information, and provided information on how to make public comment regarding the proposed amendment. The public notice advertised that any public comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday. No written comments have been received.

The proposed amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP is as follows:

1. **Modification of Project 3220008:** City of West Fargo construction of shared use path at Eaglewood and the Lights (2023). The project year shifted from 2024 to 2023 and the project cost increased by 51%.
2. **Modification of Project 4220003:** City of Fargo construction of a shared use path at Bison Village (2023). Total project cost and associated funding breakdown is being increased by 9.4% to match what was approved by the Policy Board in June of 2022.
3. **Modification of Project 5200003:** Moorhead Transit Operating Assistance. Total project cost decrease by 6.8%. Addition of Federal share. Decrease to state and local share. (2023)
4. **Modification of Project 5220032:** Moorhead Transit Paratransit Operating Assistance. Total project cost increase by 19.1%. Addition of Federal share. Decrease to state and local share. (2023)
5. **Modification of Project 8200011:** MNDOT rehabilitation of Minnesota 9. Project will consist of partial reconstruct, mill and overlay, shared use path, and ADA improvements. Total project cost and associated funding breakdown is being reduced by 7.9% to become consistent with the Minnesota State Transportation Improvement Plan (MN STIP).
6. **Modification of Project 8230002:** City of Moorhead preliminary engineering for new underpass under BNSF railroad in Moorhead (2023). The project description is being updated to match the Minnesota State Transportation Improvement Plan (MN STIP).
7. **Modification of Project 9191007:** NDDOT I-94 east-bound storm sewer and stormwater lift station (2023). Project changed years from 2024 to 2023.
8. **New Project 4231001:** City of Fargo reconstruction of the 12th Avenue North and 15th Avenue North Moorhead bridge over the Red River (2023).
9. **New Project 8231001:** MNDOT districtwide safety improvements (local HSIP) edgeline striping (2023).
10. **New Project 8231002:** MNDOT districtwide living snow fence installation (2023) (CRRSAA).
11. **New Project 9231001:** NDDOT rehabilitation of three structures along the Rose Coulee (2025). Deck overlay, bridge rail retrofit, approach slab repair, spall repairs, and erosion repair.
12. **New Project 9231002:** NDDOT rehabilitation of I-94 frontage road bridge 4 miles east of ND18 (2025). Deck overlay, bridge rail retrofit, approach slab repair, spall repairs, and erosion repair.
13. **New Project 9231003:** NDDOT statewide pavement marking (2023).
14. **New Project 9231004:** NDDOT signal revision in West Fargo at the intersection of 9th Street East/Veterans Boulevard and I-94 (2025).
15. **New Project 9231005:** NDDOT reconstruction of the Lynchburg interchange 3 miles west of ND18 (2025).
16. **New Project 9231006:** NDDOT rehabilitation chip seal of US-81 from Dakota Drive to I-29 (2023).

Motion: Recommend approval of Amendment #1 of the Metro COG 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Board.
Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Ms. Van Beek
MOTION, PASSED (18-0-1) Mr. Wrucke abstained from the vote.
Motion carried.

***Mr. Wrucke joined the meeting**

6. ATAC Addendum for 2023 Intersection Data Collection & Reporting

Chair Gray presented an addendum to the 2023 Intersection Data Collection & Reporting. Under the original pilot project, the necessary connections were established and 28 intersections were setup on UGPTI's Traffic Analysis Tool. The scope of this project is to expand traffic data collection efforts to no fewer than 42 more intersections.

UGPTI has completed testing of API script to automate the data download from the VISION traffic detection cameras. Note that currently, VISION data download is a tedious, per-camera manual process that needs to be completed any time new traffic data is desired. UGPTI's API script is customizable and applicable to any regional intersection (including those from the pilot project).

Mr. Atkins said that the City of Moorhead will not allow an off-site server onto their network, and that needs to be amended in the contract.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the ATAC contract addendum and scope of work for the Intersection Data Collection and Reporting project, including the removal of a dedicated computer for the City of Moorhead
Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Mr. Gorden
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Transportation Alternatives 2024-2025 Project Selection**

Mr. Farnsworth presented the Transportation Alternatives (TA) project selection for FY 2024-2025. The scores and funding table for each application is presented as vetted by the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee.

Below is a list of all applications and their associated scores and recommended TA funding award.

City of Fargo – Connecting the Trails Path Project – Drain 27 Crossing at Timberline

- Evaluation scoring: 35 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$875,045
 - o Recommended TA funding (FY 2025): \$700,036 (80%)
 - o Local match: \$175,009 (20%)

City of Fargo – Red River Shared Use Path – Phase 2 – 35th Ave S to 40th Ave S

- Evaluation scoring: 40 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$739,941

FY 2024

Recommended TA funding: \$352,649 (48%)
Local match: \$88,162

FY 2025

Recommended TA funding: \$144,134 (19%)
Local match: \$36,033

City of Fargo – Red River Shared Use Path – VA to Park Lane

- Evaluation scoring: 30 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$840,508
 - o Recommended TA funding: \$0

City of Fargo – Drain 27 & Deer Creek Shared Use Path

- Evaluation scoring: 30 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$848,206
 - o Recommended TA funding: \$0

City of Horace – County Rd 17 Shared Use Path Phase 4

- Evaluation scoring: 20 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$433,090
 - o Recommended TA funding: \$0

City of Horace – County Rd 17 Shared Use Path Phase 5

- Evaluation scoring: 35 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$590,140
 - o Recommended TA funding (FY 2024): \$472,112 (80%)
 - o Local match: \$118,028 (20%)

City of West Fargo – Sheyenne River Pedestrian Bridge

- Evaluation scoring: 30 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$761,450
 - o Recommended TA funding: \$0

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the TA project prioritization, selection and associated funding as vetted through the Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee.

Mr. Gorden moved, seconded by Mr. Hellman

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

8. STBG Solicitation Release

Mr. Maddox presented the release of the Surface Transportation Block Grant solicitation. The agency will be accepting projects for federal fiscal years 2026 and 2027. FY2026 was not fully programmed at the development of the FY2023-2026 TIP cycle. There also may be some shifts in priorities given information in the TMA Status.

Metro COG has programmed its expected suballocation in fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Currently Metro COG is overprogrammed in FY2025 with the City of Fargo 36th Street at Rose Coulee project (\$307,534 federal) and the City of West Fargo 9th Street E project (\$9,600,000 federal).

As was announced at the last TTC meeting, Metro COG will not become a Transportation Management Area (TMA) in FY2023 due to the final census urban area population data being unavailable. Metro COG and NDDOT have been discussing the ramifications of this delay.

NDDOT has confirmed with Metro COG that funding in FY2023 going toward the City of Fargo's 52nd Avenue South project will change as far as how the funding is being pulled together, but total amount of federal funding and the status of the project will not be affected. This consists of a total of \$9,000,000 in federal funds (\$5M FY2022 and \$4M FY2023). Instead of coming from our metro area's direct suballocation as a TMA, the \$4M in FY2023 funds will come from the STBG category referred to as Urban Roads, which for the MPO cities throughout the state, totals only \$8.4M. NDDOT does not anticipate our funding for our chosen Transportation Alternatives (TA) projects to be affected.

The 42nd Street/I-94 structure rehab project will get rescheduled due to a) the need for NDDOT to carry out further internal coordination and coordination with the City of Fargo regarding the project, and b) the TMA status impact. NDDOT has informed Metro COG that Phase 2 of 32nd Avenue South (25th to University Drive) will lose approximately \$4M in federal FY2023 funding due to the delay in the TMA designation. In order to recoup federal funding on that project, the City of Fargo may elect to use Advance Construction (AC) to pull funding from FY2026 or FY2027 through this solicitation.

***Mr. Raso joined the meeting**

9. 2050 Demographic Forecast

Mr. Altenburg presented the 2050 Demographic Forecast update. Metro COG develops demographic forecasts for the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area every five years as part of its long-range transportation planning process. Demographic forecasts developed by Metro COG are used to revise and update the region's Travel Demand Model (TDM).

The 2050 Baseline Demographic Forecast includes a close examination of socioeconomic factors from the 2017 Demographic Forecast Study, the most recently completed study for the metro area. The study also set out a framework for two unique growth scenarios based primarily on trend variables (cohort age structures, industry labor distribution), dynamic variables (birth rates, death rates, migration), and constants (housing to demographic relationships, labor force participation rates, gender ratio). Population, household, and employment forecasts from these scenarios are provided in five-year increments, from 2025 through 2050.

Two projection scenarios were created: a "Most Likely" forecast which outlines a baseline projection, and a "High Growth" scenario which outlines a fast-growing situation in the metropolitan area. These scenarios were created by manipulation of the birth, death, and migration rates that underpin the forecast model.

It is Metro COG's suggestion to adopt the "Most Likely" scenario rather than the "High Growth" scenario for use in the TDM.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the 2050 Baseline Demographic Forecast and selection of the "Most Likely" growth scenario for use within Metro COG's transportation planning process.

Ms. Crutchfield moved, seconded by Mr. Lorsung

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

10. 2022 Metro Profile

Mr. Del Rosario presented the 2022 Metropolitan Profile (Metro Profile). The report is split into five sections (community profile, roadways, freight, bike & ped and transit) with metrics to be continually tracked in the future to reveal larger trends.

Mr. Raso asked if city infrastructure specials are included in the cost of housing. Mr. Del Rosario said that it was not, but it could be included if the TTC would like that information included. Ms. Pierce suggested that the profile could add an asterisk to note that this region has special assessments which vary based on jurisdiction and more information can be found based on specific properties.

Ms. Crutchfield asked how the profile information is disseminated and how jurisdictions use this information and data. Mr. Del Rosario said that it is available on Metro COG's website, but could be shared further if needed.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the Metropolitan Profile 2022, including the suggested changes

Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Ms. Crutchfield

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Transit Asset Management Plan

The Cities of Fargo and Moorhead recently completed and approved their Transit Asset Management Plans. Mr. Smith presented the highlights of both Fargo and Moorhead's respective plans.

12. Agency Updates

Metro COG: MN Rail Surface Improvement grant opening December 16.

MnDOT: HSIP currently open, closing November 23

13. Additional Business

NDSU UGPTI SMART Cities Grant Application – Metro COG partnering on the application. Mr. Wentz and Mr. Bittner presented the highlights of the grant application.

Expression of Interest in the FRA's Establishment of the Corridor Identification and Development Program – Greater Northwest Connections (All Aboard NW) – Ms. Gray stated that Metro COG will submit an expression of interest. This does not obligate us to anything at this point – it is only communicating that our region is interested in pursuing study of the passenger rail line that runs west of Fargo through Jamestown, Bismarck, Dickinson, and beyond.

14. Adjourn

The 535 Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on November 10, 2022 at 12:22 a.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD December 8, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant