

**507th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, May 14, 2020 – 10:00 am
Webconference**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Robin	Huston	City of Moorhead Planning
Matthew	Jacobson	Clay County Planning
Jaclynn	Maahs	Concordia College
Peyton	Mastera	City of Dilworth Administration
Aaron	Nelson	Fargo City Planning
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Russ	Sahr	City of Horace Planning
Tim	Solberg	City of West Fargo Planning
Tom	Soucy	Cass County Highway Engineering
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS
Mark	Wolter	Freight Representative, Midnite Express
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division

Members Absent:

Kim	Lipetzky	Fargo Cass Public Health
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Dan	Bergerson	HDR
Luke	Champa	Metro COG
James	Dahlman	Horace / Interstate Engineering
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Leif	Garnass	SRF Consulting
Scott	Harmstead	SRF Consulting
Matt	Kinsella	Apex Engineering
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Jim	Mertz	Bolton & Menk
Diomo	Motuba	ATAC / UGPTI
Brent	Muscha	Apex Engineering
Jake	Nordick	SRF Consulting
Bobbi	Retzlaff	FHWA – MN
Jordan	Smith	MATBUS
Kristin	Sperry	FHWA – ND
Steve	Strack	WSB
Kyle	Wieler	HDR

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on May 14, 2020 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the May 14, 2020 TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the May 14, 2020 TTC Meeting Agenda. Ms. Gray noted a revision to the agenda, that a discussion on the Recreational Trail Grant Applications has been added as Agenda Item #11.

Motion: Approve the May 14, 2020 TTC Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Raso moved, seconded by Ms. Van Beek

MOTION, PASSED.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVE April 9, 2020 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the April 9, 2019 TTC Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approve the April 9, 2020 TTC Minutes.

Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Mr. Mastera

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

No MOTION

5. 2020-2023 TIP Amendment #3 – Public Hearing (Continued from April 9, 2020)

Mr. Champa presented Amendment #3 to the 2020-2023 TIP.

The final information for the proposed amendment to the 2020-2023 TIP is as follows:

1. Addition of Project 8203001: West Central Communities Action, Inc., Regional Transportation Coordinating Council for Region 4 (R4RTCC) operating activities. The total project cost is \$56,000 of which \$44,800 is funded by Federal Section 5310 funds, \$5,600 state funds, and \$5,600 through local funds.

A Public Hearing was opened; no comments were received.

The Public hearing was closed.

Motion: Pending public comment, recommend approval of Amendment #3 to the Metro COG 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Board.

Ms. Van Beek moved, seconded by Mr. Sahr.

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

6. 2020-2023 TIP Amendment #4 – Public Hearing

Mr. Champa presented Amendment #4 to the 2020-2023 TIP.

The proposed amendment to the 2020-2023 TIP is as follows:

1. Addition of Project 3204001: City of West Fargo I-94 and Veteran's Boulevard structure rehabilitation project (2020*). The total project cost is \$482,000 of which \$390,082 is funded by Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Urban (STBGP-U) funds, and \$91,918 through local funds (West Fargo). *The project is listed as a pending project for 2020, to be completed if funds are available.
2. Addition of Project 8204002: MnDOT D4 Districtwide safety improvement project (2021). The total project cost is \$534,693 of which \$481,224 is funded by federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds, and \$53,469 through state funds.

A Public Hearing was opened; no comments were received.

The Public hearing was closed.

Motion: Pending public comment, recommend approval of Amendment #4 to the Metro COG 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Board.

Mr. Sahr moved, seconded by Ms. Huston

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

7. West Fargo 9th Street Corridor Study

Mr. Altenburg and Mr. Muscha presented the West Fargo 9th Street Corridor Study final plan. The purpose of this study, extending from 13th Avenue E to 12th Avenue NE, is to develop and refine transportation alternatives that take into account the needs of all users and may be considered for future implementation projects by the city.

Mr. Solberg noted that a commissioner brought up a lack of truck routing on the corridor, which may be considered in the future, but did not find a need to prolong the study for this aspect.

Ms. Gray asked when the West Fargo City Commission plans to vote/adopt this study, Mr. Solberg said that he has left this up to Dustin Scott, City Engineer, but anticipates action will be taken at a June commission meeting. Mr. Wrucke noted that they may be waiting for an in-person meeting, versus a web-conference, as they are usually received better in that format.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the West Fargo 9th Street Corridor Study, pending final approval by the West Fargo City Commission.

Mr. Solberg moved, seconded by Ms. Huston

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Horace Comprehensive and Transportation Plan

Mr. Altenburg presented the Horace Comprehensive and Transportation Plan final draft. The purpose of the new plan is to help the City of Horace prepare for anticipated population and employment growth and ensure that new development is compatible with the community's vision and guiding principles. Impacts such as regional economic and demographic changes, groundbreaking of two new schools, a potential I-29 interchange at 76th Avenue, and the current alignment of the FM Area Diversion Project were addressed as part of the planning process.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the Horace Comprehensive and Transportation Plan, pending final approval by the Horace City Council.

Mr. Sahr moved, seconded by Ms. Huston

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

****Mr. Raso left the meeting at 11:03 a.m.**

****Mr. Jacobson left the meeting at 11:10 a.m.**

9. US 10/75 Corridor Study – Draft Final Plan Adoption and Online Open House

Mr. Maddox and Mr. Garnass presented the US 10/75 Corridor Study draft final plan. The Final Study provides an analysis of existing and future conditions. Corridor alternatives are provided that will guide MnDOT and the City of Moorhead as they move into final design. The process has allowed MnDOT, the City of Moorhead, Moorhead Downtown Inc. and Metro COG to collaborate on creating a vision for the roadway segments included in MnDOT's upcoming reconstruction project. The effort was guided by a Study Review Committee (SRC) consisting of representatives from MnDOT District 4, City of Moorhead, Downtown Moorhead Inc, Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), and Metro COG.

Chair Gray asked how the Moorhead City Council acted on the final plan. Mr Maddox said that the council did approve a resolution adopting the study. They did not show preference for any of the alternatives/options.

Mr. Atkins said he received a lot of comments from the business community asking for designs similar to downtown Fargo. He also noted that Moorhead is working with MnDOT for traffic counts to make determinations for corridor in the future.

Ms. Safgren said that once the study is finalized, they will be moving into project development and construction slated for 2025 or 2026. The funding and development of the underpass may change the construction schedule; however, project development will still be underway soon.

Ms. Van Beek noted that there are transit considerations in the study as well.

Motion: Recommend approval of the Draft Final US 10/75 Corridor Study to the Policy Board.

Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Mr. Mastera.

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

**Ms. Maahs left the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

10. Draft 2021 Budget

Chair Gray presented the draft 2021 budget, mostly highlighting the project budgets slated for 2021. She explained that the spreadsheets being presented were slightly different from those included in the packet due to recent revenue information provided by NDDOT.

Mr. Solberg asked for the budgeting spreadsheets for a more in-depth look and jurisdictional budgeting.

Ms. Safgren noted that MnDOT has not yet finalized local project budgets, but it may depend on how much NDDOT is willing to match for the Interstate Operations Analysis.

Mr. Atkins noted that the City of Moorhead is looking at a budget reduction due to economic slow down, and requested the estimated budgets sooner rather than later. Ms. Gray said that is why she included this on the agenda and is presenting these numbers now, so that the jurisdictions can get their estimated budgets ready as well. These estimates will also be presented to the Policy Board next week.

Mr. Atkins asked if the recommended approval action can be tabled until next month to ensure members a more in-depth review. Ms. Gray said it can, provided that the timing works for members to submit budget requests to leadership within their respective jurisdictions in a timely manner.

NO Motion

11. Recreational Trail Grant Applications

Chair Gray said that as of this time, Horace and West Fargo have so far expressed interest, but encourages other North Dakota jurisdictions to look into the grant.

12. Agency Updates

Chair Gray said that Metro COG staff plans to start moving work back into the office in the coming weeks, but encourages Webinar participation in TTC and study review committee meetings moving forward to maintain social distancing for the foreseeable future.

13. Additional Business

No additional updates.

14. Adjourn

The 507th Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on May 14, 2020 at 12:12 p.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD June 11, 2020, 10:00 A.M. AT THE METRO COG CONFERENCE ROOM (1 – 2ND ST N, CASE PLAZA 232, FARGO, ND). A WEBINAR LINK WILL BE PROVIDED FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant