

Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Wednesday, October 17th, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.
Metro COG Conference Room
AGENDA

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| 1. Welcome and introductions | |
| 2. Approve minutes from July 11 th meeting - Attachment | Action Item |
| 3. Public input opportunity | Public Input |
| 4. 2045 F-M Metro Long Range Transportation Plan | Discussion Item |
| 5. Dockless bicycles & dockless electric scooters – Attachment | Discussion Item |
| 6. Transportation Alternatives grant opportunity - Attachment | Information Item |
| 7. Other business | |

NOTE: Full Agenda packets can be found on the Metro COG Web Site at <http://www.fmmetrocog.org> – Committees

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**102nd Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
July 11th, 2018 – 3:00pm
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Patrick Hollister, PartnerSHIP 4 Health
Barrett Voigt (proxy for Maegin Elshaug), City of Fargo Planning
Erik Hove, Clay County Highway
Dylan Ramstad Skoyles, Great Rides
Kim Citrowske, City of Moorhead Planning
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering
Joe Anderson, Fargo Police Department
Bob Walton, NDDOT Fargo District
Jason Gates, Citizen representative
Jane Butzer, MnDOT
Tyler Kirchner, Fargo Park District
Cheryl Stetz (proxy for Kim Lipetzky), Fargo Cass Public Health

Others Present:

Cindy Gray, Metro COG
Spencer McCombs, City of Moorhead GIS
Luke Morman, City of Fargo Planning
Angela Shen, KVRR
Max Mueller, KVRR

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:03 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approve minutes from April 18th, 2018 meeting

A motion to approve the April 18th minutes was made by J. Atkins and seconded by T. Kirchner. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

3. 2018 BIKE FM efforts

D. Farnsworth discussed efforts made by the BIKE FM group thus far in 2018. These efforts included the following:

- Developed a logo (January)
- Updated website (www.bikefm.org)
- Education / rules of the road booth at NDSU (April 11th)
- Education / rules of the road booth at MSUM (April 20th)
- Designed & installed billboard (June 15 – present) (funded by FM Rotary)

- Education / rules of the road booth at Streets Alive (June 24th)
- TV / radio interviews

It was asked if BIKE FM would have a presence at the August Streets Alive event. D. Farnsworth state that they hope to be there and noted that 50 helmets have been funded by FM Rotary so they hope to fit and distribute those helmets to both adults and kids.

4. Bicycle tune-up stations & Artistic bike racks

D. Farnsworth discussed the implementation of new bicycle tune-up stations around the community and the recent installation of an artistic bike rack in downtown Fargo.

Funded by the FM Rotary Club and installed by Moorhead Park & Public Works and Fargo Parks, a total of five bicycle tune-up stations were purchased. Three have been installed, one will be installed this summer/fall, and the other will be a mobile station for community events and rides. The stations have been installed at the following locations:

- MB Johnson Park, Moorhead (installed June)
- Gooseberry Park, Moorhead (installed June)
- Red River Trail just south of Main Ave, Fargo (installed June)
- Milwaukee Trail, Fargo (to be installed this summer or fall)
- Mobile station

Artistic bike racks were installed in June at the southeast corner of Broadway & 2nd Ave N in downtown Fargo. The racks, which spell 'FARGO' in sign language, provide an iconic piece of art to the community, provide a fun location to park bicycles, and are a tribute to the local deaf community. A ceremony for the new racks was held during the June 24th Streets Alive event. The ceremony featured those involved with the project, the public at large, and many individuals from the deaf community.

5. Bicycle Friendly Community Application

The committee continued by discussing the Bicycle Friendly Communities application. In August of 2014 Metro COG applied for Bicycle Friendly Communities designation for the FM Metro area. In November of 2014 the League of American Bicyclists announced the designation of the FM Metro area as a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community. With the designation being good for only four years, it is in the best interest for a community to reapply to keep or improve-upon their designation. This is why Metro COG is reapplying for a Bicycle Friendly Community designation with a hope of possibly obtaining Silver status.

The Committee reviewed the application and specifically reviewed the unanswered questions (B4, E1, E2, E4, E7, E8, and G1). It was asked if Metro COG plans to include any attachments with the application. D. Farnsworth stated that they hope to include their bicycle & pedestrian count data and plan to include a PDF photo album that they put together. The PDF photo album was shown to the Committee.

Upon review and discussion of the application and questions, a motion was made to advance the application the Metro COG's Policy Board pending the answering of the final questions. Motion was made by P. Hollister and seconded by D. Ramstad Skoyles. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. ND Moves – Active Transportation & Transit Plan

D. Farnsworth handed out a flyer for the upcoming ND Moves public input opportunities. ND Moves is a bicycle, pedestrian and transit plan coordinated by NDDOT. This is the first such plan in decades so Farnsworth encouraged attendees to attend the upcoming meeting and invite the public. The meeting will be held on Tuesday July 24th from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Fargo City Hall. This will be the final public meeting for this study.

7. Annual North Dakota Trails Conference

Attached was a flyer for the annual North Dakota Trails Conference to be held in Fargo August 7-8. This event is open to all and has topics of trails ranging from paved to hiking trails. The deadline for registration is July 27th. The conference is free of charge.

8. Other business and citizen comments

J. Gates brought up some questions/concerns about the construction project currently on 10th Ave N in Fargo where roughly a dozen trees have been removed as part of the project. There have been concerns by the public and neighborhood about the need for the removal of existing mature trees. It was noted that trees can help calm traffic and keep speeds lower and drivers more cautious.

B. Walton provided the background behind these decisions. Walton stated that since this is a NDDOT roadway and is receiving federal funds, they needed to adhere to all federal design standards, which included sight distant standards for safety. In order to meet the sight distance standards (where the road curves), numerous trees needed to be removed. Walton noted that there were other trees that were slated for removal but they worked with the City of Fargo in finding a way to save up to six trees.

D. Farnsworth mentioned that Metro COG will be seeking a consultant this fall to conduct a study called the 'Fargo-Moorhead Metro Bikeways Gap Analysis.' The purpose of this study will be to take the 119 gaps identified in the 2016 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and select ones which are of highest importance to the jurisdictions and public. Once this list has been created, the consultant will determine costs, alternatives, and implementation strategies so that the jurisdictions can implement the projects in a well-vetted and timely manner.

P. Hollister passed around a flyer regarding a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new US Hwy 75 trail in Breckenridge, MN. The ceremony will be held on July 11th at the Family Community Center at 5:45 pm.

There was also some discussion about future and current construction projects. J. Atkins noted that the Oak Grove / Memorial Park lift bridge construction is ahead of schedule. The bridge has been delivered and they hope to have the bridge open by the time school start in late August.

It was also asked what the outcome of the Center Ave Study was. J. Atkins described that Alternative B was chosen by the Moorhead City Council. Alternative B will include a 3-lane road section with parking on the sides of the corridor. The lanes will be wide enough to comfortably fit both motorists and bicyclists.

K. Citrowske mentioned to the Committee that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new improvements made recently at MB Johnson Park in north Moorhead. The ceremony will be Thursday July 12th.

Meeting adjourned 4:35pm.

Agenda Item 5

To: Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
From: Dan Farnsworth, Metro COG
Date: October 12, 2018
Subject: **Dockless bicycles & dockless electric scooters**

Over the past year or so dockless bicycles and dockless electric scooters have been popping up in cities across the nation. Both have exploded in popularity with the dockless electric scooters being deployed at a staggering rate. The first city to receive dockless scooters was San Francisco in September 2017. As of October 2018 dockless scooters have been deployed in over 120 cities in the US alone.

With the advances in technology and the convenience of smartphone apps, these modes of transportation allow anyone with the mobile app (and required payment) to 'checkout' these bikes/scooters, often for short-distance trips. Once a user has reached his/her destination, the bicycle simply locks up or the scooter simply shuts down until the next user checks it out. These innovative transportation modes are owned and operated by private companies such as Lime, Bird, and now Uber.

For better or for worse, many cities are caught off guard when these bicycles or scooters arrive to their jurisdiction. The purpose of this agenda item is to discuss the pros and cons of this rapid trend should either dockless bicycles or scooters come to the Fargo-Moorhead area. While these modes of transportation can supplement short trips otherwise taken by vehicles, they have also become a challenge for jurisdictions across the nation.

Below is information about both the dockless bicycles and dockless electric scooters, including known pros and cons.

Dockless Bicycles



Above: A dockless bike in use.
Source: The Verge



Above: Dockless bikes parking issue
Source: News Locker

Dockless Bikes	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle origins/destinations is not limited to docking station locations • Integrations with smartphones makes bikes easily accessible to the public • Affordable trips (typical short trip around \$2) • Healthy mode of transportation • Can help reduce vehicle trips by providing alternative mode of transportation • No public funds required • Can reduce vehicle parking demand by providing alternative mode of transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of docking stations can create various issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hazards when parked in middle of sidewalk or other travel corridors - Complaints from property owners when parked on private property - Aesthetic issues - Vandalism issues • Pricing by the minute. This creates incentive for users to get to destination as fast as possible

Dockless Electric Scooters



Above: A dockless electric scooter in use.
Source: Washington Post



Above: Dockless electric scooter parking issue
Source: CB Insights

Dockless Electric Scooters	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No docking stations required, flexibility in origins & destinations • Integrations with smartphones makes scooters easily accessible to the public • Affordable trips (typical short trip around \$2) • Can help reduce vehicle trips by providing alternative mode of transportation • No public funds required • Can reduce vehicle parking demand by providing alternative mode of transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hazards when parked in middle of sidewalk or other travel corridors - Complaints from property owners when parked on private property - Aesthetic issues - Vandalism issues • Lack of city ordinances make hazardous riding hard to enforce • Most scooter riders unsure of any ordinances – this can be a concern to motorists and pedestrians • Pricing by the minute. This creates incentive for users to get to destination as fast as possible

Agenda Item 6

To: Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
From: Dan Farnsworth, Metro COG
Date: October 12, 2018
Subject: **Transportation Alternatives Grant Opportunity**

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) program, formerly TAP, is a federally-funded grant opportunity for projects that provide enhancements to alternative means of transportation such as bicycle/pedestrian trails, safe routes to school projects, crosswalk improvements, and more.

Grant solicitations have recently been announced for jurisdictions within both MN and ND. These solicitations and associated dates are as follows:

North Dakota

- **September 14, 2018** – Announcement of joint TA and Safe Routes to School solicitation
- **December 4, 2018** – Deadline to submit applications to Metro COG
- **Spring of 2019** – Announcement to applicants

Unlike previous years, the North Dakota solicitation will be awarding project for two years – fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

All applicants located within Metro COG's planning boundary will need to submit applications to Metro COG (Dan Farnsworth). Any applicants located outside of the Metro COG planning boundary will submit applications directly to NDDOT. If unsure whether your jurisdiction is in Metro COG's planning boundary, feel free to contact Dan Farnsworth at the contact information provided below.

Minnesota

- **October 1, 2018** – Announcement of joint TA and Safe Routes to School solicitation
- **October 15, 2018** – 10:00 am – TA workshop to be held at West Central Initiative office, Fergus Falls. Interested applicants are encouraged to attend.
- **October 31, 2018** - Deadline to submit letters of intent
- **January 4, 2019** - Deadline to submit full applications
- **April 15, 2019** – Announcement to applicants

Interested applicants will need to submit letters of intent by **October 31st, 2018**. These letters will need to be submitted online using the following link: www.mndot.gov/ta . If the project is found to be eligible, applicants will be asked to complete the full application, which will be due to Wayne Hurley (WCI) by **January 4th, 2019**. Please visit www.mndot.gov/ta for more information.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dan Farnsworth at 701-532-5106 or farnsworth@fmmetrocog.org.