

**512th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, November 12, 2020 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic 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
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Russ	Sahr	City of Horace Planning
Jordan	Smith	MATBUS (alternate for Lori Van Beek)
Tim	Solberg	City of West Fargo Planning
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Tom	Soucy	Cass County Highway (alternate for Jason Benson)
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager
Mark	Wolter	Freight Representative, Midnite Express
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division

Members Absent:

Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering (alternate present)
Kim	Lipetsky	Fargo Cass Public Health
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS (alternate present)

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Dan	Bergerson	HDR
Mike	Bittner	KLJ
Luke	Champa	Metro COG
James	Dahlman	Interstate Engineering/Horace
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Matt	Kinsella	Apex Engineering
Wade	Kline	KLJ
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Jim	Mertz	Bolton & Menk
Brent	Mucha	Apex Engineering
Anna	Pierce	MnDOT
Kristen	Sperry	FHWA
Steve	Strack	Houston Engineering
David	Sweeney	SRF Consulting

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on November 12, 2020 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 512th TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the 512th TTC Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Approve the 512th TTC Meeting Agenda.

Ms. Huston moved, seconded by Mr. Atkins

MOTION, PASSED.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVE October 8, 2020 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the October 8, 2020 TTC Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approve the October 8, 2020 TTC Minutes.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Jacobson

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

5. 76th Avenue Corridor Study

Mr. Maddox presented the 76th Avenue Corridor Study final report. The study focuses on identifying contextual options and roadway alternatives that can be used in future decision-making on the functionality and purpose of the corridor. Two alternatives are included, one looking at an option that focuses primarily on mobility, and the other, a more traditional context that focuses more heavily on access to adjacent land uses. The timeline for future visioning of this corridor is well beyond the traditional 25 year planning horizon.

Ms. Gray stated that prior to the initiation of this project, Metro COG and Cass County had been collaborating to set up periodic discussions about southwest metro growth and infrastructure expansion, particularly related to the development of the schools in Horace. Now that this project is complete, she suggested that this group continue getting together on a periodic basis to ensure coordination and communication. She stated that Metro COG could take the lead on setting up these coordination meetings. The group indicated general agreement.

Motion: Favorable recommendation to the Policy Board for approval of the 76th Avenue Corridor Study

Mr. Gorden moved, seconded by Mr. Sahr

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Northwest Metro Transportation Plan

Mr. Altenburg introduced Mr. Bittner and Mr. Kline from KLJ, who presented the final report for the Northwest Metro Transportation Plan. The plan seeks to provide a long-range blueprint for future expansion needs within the northwestern growth area of the FM metro. Recommended transportation needs identified included future street capacity, traffic controls, multimodal facilities, as well as high-level planning estimates for infrastructure costs associated with future transportation facilities.

Mr. Gorden asked to have the plan be presented at the City of Fargo Public Works committee. Mr. Solberg said that the City of West Fargo Commission won't see it until December or January. Ms. Gray asked if Metro COG should hold off making a presentation to Policy Board until all commissions have approved it. Mr. Solberg and Mr. Gorden did not have an issue with the Policy Board approving the final study, but asked that if any changes are called for at the local level, to bring the study back to the Policy Board for re-approval.

Mr. Solberg asked if future consultant budgets could be structured to allow for consultants to make presentations to local jurisdictions at the end of the planning process. Ms. Gray stated that our budgets often do account for that, but equally as often, it seems like the scope has crept, causing a budget shortage near the end of the project, and Metro COG staff often steps in at that point with an offer to present the project to local jurisdictions to reduce the budgetary impact on the consultant. However, she indicated that Metro COG will make a greater effort to ensure this is included in the scope and remains part of the scope through the end of the project.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the Northwest Metro Transportation Plan, pending final approval by the Fargo City Commission and West Fargo City Commission

Mr. Gorden moved, seconded by Ms. Bommelman

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Fargo Transportation Plan RFP

Ms. Gray noted that the RFP has undergone some changes since the original mailing of the packet materials. Ms. Gray said that the approval can be continued until next month if necessary. Mr. Nelson from City of Fargo Planning and Development Department said that they are reviewing the budget and scoping to ensure that the main purpose and intent are covered. Ms. Gray said that this item will be continued until next month. Mr. Zacher said that he has comments for the RFP as well, and will discuss them with Ms. Gray outside of the TTC meeting.

No Motion: This item has been continued until next month

8. Section 5339(b) Transit Grant Application

Mr. Farnsworth presented the Section 5339(b) Transit Grant application that was submitted to Metro COG from Handi-Wheels.

Ms. Bommelman said that MATBUS supports this application and that Handi-Wheels service is much-needed in the area.

Mr. Farnsworth reminded the committee that the annual grant solicitation will be in December.

Motion: Recommend approval to the Policy Board of the Section 5339(b) Grant Application as discussed
Ms. Bommelman moved, seconded by Mr. Smith
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.

9. Metro Profile Update

Ms. Gray noted that with staff changes within Metro COG, the Metro Profile completion has been delayed. Mr. Altenburg gave an update on its status. Mr. Altenburg said that they are updating the format to be easier to read and understand for everyone, including updated infographics.

10. Agency Updates

Fargo: Bid opening for 64th Ave overpass is this Friday, 11/13. Working on Federal grant applications. Core Neighborhoods Plan first draft is available, land development code diagnostic process continues and will be presented to the Planning Commission later this month.

Moorhead: Received funding for downtown 11th Street/railroad grade separation, current underpass project at 21st St continues, 17th St Corridor study progressing. First Comprehensive Plan TAC is scheduled, received funding for completion of Midtown trail.

West Fargo: Sheyenne Street project bid opening will occur on 11/13.

Dilworth: no updates

Horace: Zoning Ordinance update RFP released

Cass County: no updates

Clay County: no updates

Freight: Northern Region Association Safety Professionals annual conference 12/1 and 12/8 (virtual conference)

Higher Ed: no updates

NDDOT: TIP amendment forthcoming, 2021 UPWP letters coming

MnDOT: US10/75 project management in works, reviewed proposals for MnDOT D4 Freight Plan. TIP final approval slated for before Thanksgiving

11. Additional Business

No additional business

12. Adjourn

The 512th Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on November 12, 2020 at 11:40 a.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD December 10, 2020, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant