636th Policy Board Meeting

Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

Thursday, November 21, 2024 – 2:30 PM



# 1a. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS, convened

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM, on November 21, 2024 by Chair Breitling, noting that a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

## 1b. Approve Order and Contents of Overall Agenda, approved

Chair Breitling asked for approval for the overall agenda.

*MOTION*: Approve the contents of the Overall Agenda of the November 21, 2024 Policy Board Meeting.

Mr. Peipkorn moved, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg

*MOTION,* passed

Motion carried unanimously.

## 1c. Past Meeting Minutes, approved

Chair Breitling asked for approval of the Minutes of the October 17, 2024 Meeting.

*MOTION*: Approve the October 17, 2024 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg.

*MOTION*, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

## 1d. Monthly Bills, approved

Chair Breitling asked for approval of the November 2024 Bills as listed on Attachment 1d.

*MOTION*: Approve the November 2024 Bills List.

Mr. Peipkorn moved, seconded by Mr. Olson.

*MOTION*, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

# 2. CONSENT AGENDA

## Chair Breitling asked for approval of Items a-d on the Consent Agenda and removing item e, stating that the Executive Director would provide an update under additional business. (Regular Agenda Items 3f. and 3g. were added to the consent agenda by amending the consent motion later in the meeting.)

### October Month End Report

### 2025 Health/Vision/Dental Insurance with BCBS-ND

### 2025 Metro COG Public Meeting Schedule

### Human Resources Consulting Services Agreement

### ~~Request for MATBUS Appointment to Policy Board~~

### EV Readiness Study Final Report (added to consent)

### Fargo Transportation Plan (added to consent)

*MOTION*: Approve Items a-d, removing Item e, on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg.

*MOTION*, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

# 3. REGULAR AGENDA

## 3a. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were provided or received.

## 3b. 2024-2027 TIP Amendment 12

Mr. Bervik presented Amendment 12 regarding the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A public notice was published on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, and comments accepted until 12:00 noon on Thursday, November 14, 2024. No written comments were received.

The proposed amendment to the 2024-2027 TIP is as follows:

1. **Modification of Project 9231004:** NDDOT revising signals within West Fargo (2025). Updating Project Cost.
2. **Modification of Project 9240052:** NDDOT removing negative left turn offsets at various locations (2025). Updating Project Cost.
3. **Modification of Project 9210005:** NDDOT installation of high-tension cable median guardrail (2026). Moving the project year from 2025 to 2026.
4. **Modification of Project 9220039:** NDDOT installation of high-tension cable median guardrail (2026). Moving the project year from 2024 to 2026.
5. **New Project 0247073:** Metro COG flexing STBG funding to Metro COG Planning (2025).
6. **New Project 9242074:** NDDOT pavement marking at various locations throughout the Fargo District (2025).

*MOTION:* Approve Amendment 12 of the Metro COG 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg.

*MOTION*, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

## 3c. 2025-2028 TIP Amendment 1

Mr. Bervik presented Amendment 1 regarding the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A public notice was published on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, and comments accepted until 12:00 noon on Thursday, November 14, 2024. No written comments were received.

The proposed amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP is as follows:

1. **Modification of Project 9231004:** NDDOT revising signals within West Fargo (2025). Updating Project Cost.
2. **Modification of Project 9240052:** NDDOT removing negative left turn offsets at various locations (2025). Updating Project Cost.
3. **Modification of Project 9210005:** NDDOT installation of high-tension cable median guardrail (2026). Moving the project year from 2025 to 2026.
4. **Modification of Project 9220039:** NDDOT installation of high-tension cable median guardrail (2026). Moving the project year from 2024 to 2026.
5. **New Project 0247073:** Metro COG flexing STBG funding to Metro COG Planning (2025).
6. **New Project 9242074:** NDDOT pavement marking at various locations throughout the Fargo District (2025).

*MOTION*: Approve Amendment 1 of the Metro COG 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) contingent upon approval of the 2025-2028 TIP.

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson.

*MOTION*, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

## 3d. 2024 Metro Profile Final Report

A recorded power point was presented providing the latest details for the 2024 Metropolitan Profile. The report is divided into five sections:

* Community Profile –
  + The population has increased by 3,957 for a total of 262,620
  + Horace has the fastest growing population
  + Unemployment rate as of 2022 is 1.81% which is less than the United States rate of 3.63%
  + 10.2% work from home compared to 13.8% of the US
* Roadways
  + Vehicle miles have increased by 5%
  + There were 60 TIP projects in 2023 with a total cost of $86,065,822
* Freight
  + Amtrak station ridership for 2023 was 17,545 an increase of 19.17%
* Bike & Pedestrian
  + There are 253 miles of bikeway paths
  + University Drive has the highest hourly pedestrian counts
* Transit
  + There were 1,295,317 MATBUS passengers in 2023

*MOTION*: Approve the 2024 Metropolitan Profile

Ms. Mongeau moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson.

*MOTION*, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

## 3e. Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (SS4A) Final Report

# Mr. Altenburg stated SS4A is the first safety action plan aimed at reducing and eliminating serious injuries and fatalities on the region’s transportation network.

Renae Kuehl from SRF presented the findings of the final report. The vision is to have zero deaths or severe injuries with a 55% reduction of fatal injury crashes by 2040. There were pop-up engagements held and an on-line survey to gather public feedback. Speeding, lack of lighting, and snow removal were some of the concerns listed. Distracted driving is hard to prove unless someone admits it.

Mr. Strand asked if the information included crashes involving bicycles and pedestrians with trains. Ms. Kuehl said no, just cars.

Mr. Peipkorn asked if the data takes into consideration the different fines for speeding in North Dakota and Minnesota. Ms. Kuehl stated she did not think so but would have to look at the individual incidents.

Mr. White stated a high percentage of crashes are age-related. When asked if they could see if the ages of the people and which state, Ms. Kuehl replied yes, there is a breakdown by age in the report as well. Chapter 5 contained the data analysis. Mr. Altenburg stated many of the crashes are with the younger-aged population and Ms. Kuehl concurred.

Mr. Strand inquired if a controlled substance or something similar was involved, did that get incorporated into the plan? Ms. Kuehl stated yes, those are all contributing factors and included. Ms. Kuehl is going to specifically look at the impaired data portion of the report and get back to the Board.

*MOTION*: Approve the Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Mr. Rosenberg moved, seconded by Mr. Olson

*MOTION*, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

## 3f-g. *MOTION: Amend Consent agenda to include the following:*

## 3f. EV Readiness Study Finaly Report

## 3g. Fargo Transportation Plan (FTP)

## Ms. Mongeau moved, seconded by Mr. Piepkorn.

## *MOTION*, passed

## Motion carried unanimously

4. Additional Business

* Mr. Griffith reported that the new MATBUS board had held it’s first meeting the preceding Tuesday and appointed Moorhead Assistant City Manager Mike Rietz to the Metro COG Policy Board with a unanimous vote.
* Mr. Griffith apologized for the change in meeting time, explaining that the Diversion Authority Board regularly meets on the fourth Thursdays of the month at 4:00 PM. In November and December, their meetings are moved to the third Thursdays of the month, causing conflicts for Policy Board members who also serve on the Diversion Authority Board. He went on to explain that the Diversion Authority Board meets in the Fargo City Commission Chambers and don’t have much flexibility with meeting times due to the number of other meetings held in the Chambers, so it’s easier to adjust the Policy Board’s meeting time to help accommodate both Boards’ ability to form a quorum in order to conduct business. With that, he asked the Chair to approve moving the December Policy Board meeting to 2:00 instead of 4:00 and he agreed.

# 5. Adjourn

***Mr. Breitling, Board Chairperson adjourned the 636th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board***

The 636th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, November 21, 2024 was adjourned at 3:17 PM.

# THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD December 19, 2024, AT 2:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Brumbaugh  
Office Manager