554th Meeting of the

**Agenda Item 3 Attachment 1**

FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee

Thursday, June 13, 2024 – 10:00 am

Metro COG Conference Room

Members Present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lori | VanBeek | City of Moorhead, MATBUS |
| Julie | Bommelman | City of Fargo, MATBUS |
| Maegin | Elshaug | City of Fargo Planning (alternate for Nicole Crutchfield) |
| Jeremy | Gorden | City of Fargo Transportation Engineering |
| Ben | Griffith | Metro COG |
| Cole | Hansen | Cass County Planning |
| Jace | Hellman | City of Horace – Community Development Director |
| Robin | Huston | City of Moorhead Planning |
| Matthew | Jacobson | Clay County Planning |
| Clay | Lexen | Moorhead Engineering |
| Don | Lorsung | City of Dilworth Community Development |
| Aaron | Nelson | West Fargo City Planning |
| Mary | Safgren | MnDOT – District 4 |
| Brit | Stevens | NDSU – Transportation Manager |
| Wayne | Zacher | NDDOT – Local Government Division |

Members Absent:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nicole | Crutchfield | City of Fargo Planning (alternate present) |

Others Present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adam | Altenburg | Metro COG |
| Paul | Bervik | Metro COG |
| Jaron | Capps | Metro COG |
| Cody | Christianson | Bolton & Menk |
| Jim | Dahlman | Interstate Engineering / City of Horace |
| Dylan | Dunn | Moore Engineering |
| Dan | Farnsworth | Metro COG |
| Chelsea | Levorsen | Metro COG |
| Casey | Scherer | SMART |
| Michael | Maddox | Metro COG |
| Aiden | Jung | Metro COG |
| Erika | Shepard | MnDOT |
| Kristen | Sperry | FHWA-ND |
| Sam | Trebilcock | Houston Engineering |
| Scott | Middaugh | KLJ |
| Brent | Muscha | Apex Engineering |
| Brian | King | HDR |
| Dena | Ryan | FHWA-MN |
| John | Forman | Ulteig |
| Matthew | Huettl | HDR |
| Steven | Strack | Houston Engineering |
| Wade | Frank | Stantec |

# CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

# The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am, on June 13, 2024 by Chair Griffith.

# Approve the 554 TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Griffith asked if there were any questions about revisions to the 554th TTC Meeting Agenda.

***Motion:* Approve the 554th TTC Meeting Agenda**

**Mr. Lorsung moved, Seconded by Ms. Bommelman**

**MOTION, PASSED**

**Motion carried unanimously**

# APPROVE May 9, 2024 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Griffith asked if there were any questions or changes to the May 9, 2024 TTC Meeting Minutes.

***Motion:* Approve the May 9, 2024 TTC Minutes.**

**Mr. Hellman moved, Seconded by Ms. Elshaug**

**MOTION, PASSED**

**Motion carried unanimously**

# Public Comment Opportunity

# No Public Comments were made or received.

# 2023-2024 UPWP Amendment #5

# Mr. Maddox presented Amendment #5 to the 2023-2024 UPWP.

# The proposed amendment to the 2023-2024 UPWP are as follows:

### Dilworth 8th Avenue Extension Study – This project will look at the extension of 8th Avenue through Dilworth’s growth area from 34th Street to 60th Street as well as the northward extension of Main Street. The study will also look at intersection treatments and land use considerations along the corridor. **Project Budget:** $150,000 ($120,000 CPG, $30,000 local Match)

### Kindred Comprehensive Plan – This was originally going to be an in-house effort conducted by staff, but because of the availability of CPG funding is being offered as consultant-led effort. Kindred approached Metro COG last year to create a comprehensive plan for them as they are experiencing growth as a result of their proximity to the FM Region. **Project Budget:** $100,000 ($72,000 CPG, $28,000 local match).

### West 94 Area Transportation Plan – This project was programmed in Amendment #4 for the City of West Fargo. After selecting a consultant and going through scoping negotiations, an additional task was identified, which was additional TDM modeling and O/D study that may impact the reconfiguration of the Main Avenue/I-94 Interchange. **Project Budget:** $25,000 ($20,000 CPG, $5,000 local match)

### West 94 Area Transportation Plan – The total project cost of the study was $300,000, with $150,000 being programmed to occur in 2024. In coordinating with the consulting firm selected to complete the project, they think they can utilize $200,000 in 2024. Staff is therefore adjusting the programming for this project. West Fargo is providing 100% of the local match in 2024, so they will be unaffected by the change in programming.

### Heartland Trail Alignment Analysis – This project has a total budget of $250,000, with $125,000 being programmed for 2024. In coordination with the project consultants, they believe they can accomplish 75% project completion in 2024. Therefore, Metro COG is adjusting the programming accordingly ($187,500). The project sponsors (Moorhead, Dilworth, Glyndon, and Partnership 4 Health) will need to provide the additional $12,500 in local match in 2024 so that the project can move forward with a more aggressive schedule

### Ms. Van Beek asked why Kindred is part of the UPWP amendment, Mr. Maddox noted that Kindred has no comprehensive plan currently, and has felt the impact of our regional growth. Furthermore, Mr. Maddox stated that Kindred has become an associate member of Metro COG and we help out our local jurisdictions by providing this type of work.

### Mr. Farnsworth noted to the committee that the jurisdictions involved with the Heartland Trail will have to provide an additional local match this year, and if the local match can’t be met, the project might have to go on hold.

### Mr. Gorden asked why there are no projects in Fargo in this amendment. Mr. Maddox noted that with the additional funding Metro COG received, the caveat was that those funds must be used before the end of the year. Mr. Maddox also noted that the projects discussed with Mr. Gordon were much more complex in nature and would likely not be fully completed before the end of the year.

***Motion:* Recommended Approval of the 2023-2024**

**UPWP Amendment #5 to the policy board**

**Mr. Nelson moved, Seconded by Ms. Huston**

**MOTION, Passed**

**Motion Carried with NO votes from Mr. Gorden and Ms. Van Beek**

# 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 8

# Mr. Bervik presented the 2024-2027 TIP Amendment #8. The public comment period was open on May 29, 2024 and was published in the Forum. The public meeting was held on Thursday June 13, 2024 during the regularly scheduled TTC Meeting. Public comments will be accepted till 12:00 p.m. on June 13th, 2024. No public comments have been received for the 2024-2027 Tip amendment #8

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

### **Modification of Project 1240005:** City of Casselton construction of a new shared use path along Governor’s Drive from 8th Street South to 37th Street Southeast (2024). Combining the phases of the project into one bidding document and updating the project limits, project description, total project cost, and local cost.

### **Modification of Project 9220025:** NDDOT rehabilitating the west bound I-94 bridge at the Red River including deck overlay, approach slabs, and structure repair (2025). Updating total project cost and cost breakdown.

### **Modification of Project 9240032:** NDDOT rehabilitating the east bound I-94 bridge at the Red River including deck overlay, approach slabs, and structure repair (2025). Updating total project cost and cost breakdown.

### **Modification of Project 9200030:** NDDOT repairing I-94 concrete pavement from Veterans Boulevard to the Red River east bound (2026). Moving the project year from 2025 to 2026.

### **Modification of Project 9200032:** NDDOT repairing I-94 concrete pavement from Veterans Boulevard to the Red River west bound (2026). Moving the project year from 2025 to 2026.

### **Removing Project 9241054:** NDDOT repairing I-94 concrete pavement from Veterans Boulevard to the Red River east and west bound (2025). Removing redundant project. See 9200030 and 9200032.

# Mr. Gorden noted that there will be lane reductions on I-94 for three years, and Mr. Zacher noted that he will check if the University Drive deck could be completed in 2026.

***Motion:* Recommended Approval of 2024-2027**

**TIP Amendment #8 to the Policy Board**

**Mr. Gorden moved, Seconded by Ms. Safgren**

**MOTION, PASSED**

**Motion carried unanimously**

# Dilworth 8th Avenue N Extension Study Request for Proposal (RFP)

# Mr. Maddox presented the Dilworth 8th Avenue N Extension Study RFP.

Metro COG met with each jurisdiction over the last couple of months to discuss each community’s planning needs so that Metro COG can utilize its remaining Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funds. The City of Dilworth indicated that they were interested in studying the extension of 8th Avenue from 34th Street, eastwards to 60th Street, as well as the northward extension of Main Street to intersect with 8th Avenue (through the area where Bob Marshall field is currently). Alternative intersection design treatments, such as roundabouts, at major intersections along the current and future alignment of 8th Avenue will also be considered.

8th Avenue would act as a collector roadway upon its completion, as it would provide access directly from residential areas in Dilworth to Walmart and the East-Ten Shopping Center, without having to utilize US Highway 10. The roadway would traverse Dilworth’s primary growth areas north of existing development. A future 8th Avenue would also provide access to a regional park facility that the City of Dilworth is currently developing.

Additional consideration within the framework of the study includes an analysis of future land uses and development patterns along 8th Avenue. Developers have expressed interest in areas adjacent to the new regional park, that would be along the 8th Avenue corridor. In order to ensure a logical development pattern and roadway network, Metro COG and the City of Dilworth would like the consultant to integrate an analysis of land use and development in areas adjacent to the future alignment into its alternatives analysis for the extension of the roadway.

# The budget for the Dilworth 8th Avenue Extension Study is $150,000 ($120,000 CPG and $30,000 local match). The project must be substantially completed by December 31, 2024, in order to fully utilize Metro COG’s 2024 CPG funds.

# The City of Dilworth has also put forth a concept that they would like to connect Main Street to 8th Ave. N. Mr. Lorsung noted that the north parcel of the park has been purchased, and a purchase agreement for the south parcel is in place.

***Motion:* Recommended approval of the Dilworth**

**8th Ave. N Extension**

**Study RFP to Policy Board**

**Mr. Lorsung moved, Seconded by Mr. Hellman**

**MOTION, PASSED**

**Motion carried unanimously**

# Kindred Comprehensive & Transportation Plan RFP

# Mr. Altenburg presented the Kindred Comprehensive & Transportation Plan RFP

# Metro COG and the City of Kindred are in the process of initiating a comprehensive plan for the city. This plan will examine existing conditions and economic, demographic, and social trends in the city and surrounding area, as well as an in-depth look at transportation and related infrastructure needs. Emphasis will also be placed on an assessment of existing land use patterns, an analysis of supplementary planning strategies, goals and policies, and an action and implementation matrix to achieve community objectives and initiatives.

# The project would be a consultant-led study funded in part with federal transportation planning funds with a not-to-exceed budget of $100,000. A proposed cost split would require $28,000 for a local match with the remaining $72,000 coming from Metro COG’s federal Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funds. This cost split is also based in part on scope of work tasks that are eligible or ineligible for federal transportation planning funds.

# To better aid the local match requirement, Metro COG has proposed that the $28,000 local match be split evenly between the City of Kindred and Cass County. Important roadway corridors including County Highway 15 and County Highway 18 will be analyzed as part of a citywide transportation plan to improve mobility and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicular traffic.

***Motion:* Recommend Policy Board approval of the**

**Kindred Comprehensive and Transportation Plan RFP**

**Mr. Hansen moved, Seconded by Ms. Huston**

**MOTION, PASSED**

**Motion carried unanimously**

# Metro Railroad Needs Study RFP

# Mr. Griffith presented the Metro Railroad Needs Study.

1. In early 2023, BNSF Railroad approached Metro COG and the local jurisdictions in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area, indicating their interest in conducting a study of various railroad crossings along the different rail lines throughout Metro COG’s metropolitan planning area (MPA).
2. The potential closure of at-grade rail crossings and quiet zones are areas of concern for each of the local jurisdictions. A draft proposal of railroad crossing study sites was reviewed by Metro COG and local jurisdictions’ staff members late last year to identify any glaring issues and there were none.
3. The Policy Board has identified this study as a high priority since it potentially affects every local jurisdiction within the urbanized area. The total budget for the Metro Railroad Needs Study is $400,000 and BNSF has indicated its willingness to contribute the required local match and overmatch to the programmed CPG funds. This is a complex study and it is expected to run well into 2025, hence our eagerness to get it underway.

# Ms. Van Beek requested we look at a waiver allowing busses to cross rail tracks without stopping. Chair Griffith noted that those concerns have come up in other discussions and will be part of the scope of the study.

***Motion:* Recommend Policy Board approval of the release of the Metro Railroad Needs Study Request for Proprosals (RFP)**

**Mr. Lorsung moved, Seconded by Mr. Gorden**

**MOTION, PASSED**

**Motion carried unanimously**

# Agency Updates

## City of Fargo

### 42nd St. Bridge closed for up to 60 days – 32nd Ave has reduced lanes – Bridge Deck has been poured for the 52nd Ave. & Sheyenne River – Reduced Speed Limit on 52nd. Ave (40 MPH)

## City of Moorhead

### CIP projects underway

## City of West Fargo

### Process of moving into new City Hall

## City of Dillworth

### Groundbreaking for new fire station – Working on second mixed use district – Comprehensive plan next year

## City of Horace

### Nothing new to Update

## Cass County

### Livestock regional planning grant

## Clay County

### Development code update – Passed Cannabis zoning ordinance

## MNDOT

### Passenger Rail Study

## NDDOT

### Staffing Changes

# Additional Business

# The MTP will hold public engagement at West Fargo Cruise Night on June 20, 2024, and the Fargo Street Fair on July 18th - 20, 2024.

# Chair Griffith noted Metro COG is interviewing for a new office manager. An interview is set up for June 14, 2024.

# Adjourn

# The 554 Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on June 13, 2024 at 10:57 A.M

# Mr. Gordon moved to Adjourn, Mr. Nelson Seconded

# THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD July 11, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aiden Jung, Dan Farnsworth, and Adam Altenburg