

**538th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, March 9, 2023 – 10:00 am**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Nicole	Crutchfield	City of Fargo Planning
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Jace	Hellman	City of Horace – Community Development Director
Matthew	Jacobson	Clay County Planning
Don	Lorsung	City of Dilworth Community Development
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Jordan	Smith	MATBUS (alternate for Julie Bommelman)
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Tom	Soucy	Cass County Highway (alternate for Jason Benson)
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division

Members Absent:

Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering (alternate present)
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS (alternate present)
Robin	Huston	City of Moorhead Planning
Kelly	Krapu	Freight Representative - TrueNorth Compliance Service
Aaron	Nelson	West Fargo City Planning
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Paul	Bervik	Metro COG
Ethan	Bialik	Moore Engineering
Jaron	Capps	Metro COG
Jim	Dahlman	Interstate Engineering/City of Horace
Lance	Dasher	Metro COG – Executive Director Candidate
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Brenda	Derrig	City of Fargo Engineering
Dylan	Dunn	Moore Engineering
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Wade	Frank	Stantec
Sharijad	Hasan	NDSU/ATAC/UGPTI
Matthew	Huettl	HDR
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Maelo	Maldonado	Confluence
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission
Ayden	Schaffler	Metro COG
Erika	Shepard	MnDOT
Kalvin	Strecker	Houston Engineering
Kent	Wolf	Ameresco

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on March 9, 2023 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 538 TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the 538 TTC Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Approve the 538 TTC Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Lorsung moved, seconded by Ms. Puppe

MOTION, PASSED.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVE February 9, 2023 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the February 9, 2023 TTC Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approve the February 9, 2023 TTC Minutes.

Mr. Hellman moved, seconded by Ms. Crutchfield

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

5. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #5

Mr. Bervik presented Amendment #5 to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. A public notice was published in The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, which advertised the public meeting, detailed how to request more information, and provided information on how to make public comment regarding the proposed amendment. The public notice advertised that any public comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, March 16, 2023. As of the writing of this memo, no written comments have been received.

The proposed amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP is as follows:

1. **Modification of Project 9200031:** NDDOT is rehabilitating the 25th Street I-94 interchange (2023). The project cost increased by 37.8%.
2. **Modification of Project 9231006:** Chip seal coat on US-81 (19th Avenue North) from Dakota Drive to I-29 (2023) in Fargo, ND. The project cost increased by 44.5%. Federal, state, and local funding adjusted accordingly.
3. **Modification of Project 9231005:** NDDOT will be reconstructing the I-94 interchange at Lynchburg. (2023) The project year shifted from 2024.
4. **New Project 4235031:** Purchase of a new paratransit bus and related equipment for Fargo Transit (2024).
5. **New Project 4235032:** Electric Vehicle Readiness Study across all Metro COG jurisdictions (2023).

Motion: Recommend approval of Amendment 5 of the Metro COG 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Board.

Mr. Soucy moved, seconded by Mr. Lorsung

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Red River Greenway Study

Mr. Del Rosario and Mr. Farnsworth presented the final report for the Red River Greenway Study.

Mr. Del Rosario explained that the Study focuses on enhancing and expanding the existing greenway on the Fargo side of the Red River. The study looks at filling existing greenway gaps, extending the greenway to the north and the south along the Red River, and connecting to and incorporating Drains 27 and 53 and their associated amenities. Mr. Del Rosario and Mr. Farnsworth described the various components of the plan to the TTC.

Mr. Lorsung asked if any wildlife or natural habitat preservation efforts were studied or included. Mr. Del Rosario said that the local Audubon Society was included as a stakeholder, and one of the pop-up public input events was held at the Annual Birding Event last summer.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the Red River Greenway Study Final Report

Ms. Crutchfield moved, seconded by Mr. Hellman

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

***Mr. Jacobson left the meeting**

7. 2050 MTP Update – Consultant Selection

Mr. Maddox presented SRF with subconsultant HDR as the highest-ranked consultant for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. Two firms proposed on the Request for Proposals, the other being KLJ Engineering, with subconsultants Bolton & Menk, and Alliant Inc. The consultant selection panel met with and interviewed the consultant teams on March 3, 2023 to further understand each team's technical qualifications, project approach, task deliverables, and past project experiences. The selection was based upon scoring criteria, written technical proposals, and the in-person interviews.

Upon coming to agreement on the top ranked team, SRF's sealed cost proposal was opened. The proposed project budget is within the \$400,000 programmed in the UPWP. Metro COG will work with the consultant to finalize the scope of work. Mr. Maddox explained that the project budget sometimes varies based on these negotiations. Metro COG has not had the opportunity to work with the

team on a refined scope and fee. Staff is confident that the final scope of work and fee will not exceed the amount budgeted for this study.

The MTP serves as the foundational document for transportation decision-making, including funding priorities, in the Fargo Moorhead region.

Mr. Hasan asked if this MTP update will include performance-based planning. Mr. Maddox said that during the last MTP update, this was a relatively new concept, but it will likely be included and expanded in the 2050 update.

**Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of SRF Consulting Group with subconsultant HDR as the selected team recommended by the study's consultant selection panel to complete the study; and recommend Policy Board approval for the Executive Director to enter into a contract with said consultant team for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update.
Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Mr. Hellman
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.**

8. ND Urban Grant Program Solicitation, FY 2025-2026

Chair Gray presented the North Dakota Urban Grant Program Solicitation for FY 2025-2026. In mid-January, NDDOT distributed a notification and materials to local jurisdictions and MPOs regarding the solicitation period for the Urban Grant Program, FY 2025-2026. North Dakota's Urban Grant Program is aimed at infrastructure improvements in core city areas.

The City of Fargo is submitting an application for Broadway between Main Ave and 6th Ave N in the heart of downtown Fargo. The proposed project would replace the existing brick pavers in the intersections and crosswalks at 2nd Ave N, 3rd Ave N, 4th Ave N, and 6th Ave N. The project would also replace or relocate the existing ADA ramps on Broadway between Main Avenue and 6th Avenue N.

Ms. Gray referred the TTC to the letter of support for this project which, upon approval from the Policy Board, will be provided to the City of Fargo for inclusion in their application.

Mr. Gorden said that the total cost is estimated for \$3.75M, with \$3.5M being Federal funds.

**Motion: Recommend the letter of Metro COG support to the Policy Board for the City of Fargo's Urban Grant Application.
Mr. Lorsung moved, seconded by Mr. Gorden
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.**

9. ND Urban Regional Program Solicitation, FY 2027

Chair Gray presented the North Dakota Urban Regional Program for FY 2027.

The City of Fargo is submitting two applications for this program. One is full street reconstruction of S University Drive between 13th Ave S and 18th Ave S. The cost estimate is \$30.9M, \$20M being Federal funds.

The other application is for Main Avenue between 25th Street and I-29 and between I-29 and 45th Street. This project would consist of concrete pavement repair and bridge expansion joint replacement. The cost estimate is \$16M, \$8M being Federal funds requested through the grant application.

Ms. Gray referred the TTC members to letters of support for these projects. System preservation is a key pillar of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and these two corridors are extremely important to metropolitan mobility. Upon approval by the Policy Board, these letters will be signed and provided to Mr. Gorden for inclusion with the Urban Regional Applications.

Motion: Recommend the letter of Metro COG support to the Policy Board for the City of Fargo's Regional Program Applications.

Mr. Gorden moved, seconded by Mr. Smith

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Project Solicitations, FY2024 and FY2025

Chair Gray presented the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Project Solicitations for FY2024 and 2025. Metro COG will be accepting projects for federal fiscal years 2024 and 2025. FY2026 will be programmed at future solicitation.

Chair Gray presented the inaugural CRP application form, noting that the form was drafted using other TMAs as examples. She also briefly explained the instructions to the application. The document for instructions highlights the types of projects eligible for funding as well as the information that Metro COG will be looking for in the application. She stated that the applications will be due April 28th and this will be changed from the date included in the draft application forms.

11. 2023 Bicycle & Pedestrian Count Report

Mr. Bervik presented the 2023 Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Report. These counts are performed manually and occur once a year in September.

Metro COG also has five automated bicycle and pedestrian counters. These counters collect data 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Metro COG compiles the data from both the manual counts and automated counters and develops a report. The purpose of the report is to provide data regarding local bicycle and pedestrian activity to the public, elected officials, interested persons, parks departments, local planners and engineers, and more. This information also informs Metro COG of bicycle and pedestrian usage throughout our planning area. In some cases, the data is thorough and on-going, due to the use of counting equipment installed along the facility. In other

cases, the date is simply a snapshot of a certain day of the year. Guidance is used from the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project when counting bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

12. Letter of Support – Moorhead Bluestem Bridge Funding Application

Mr. Farnsworth presented a Letter of Support for the Moorhead Bluestem Bridge Funding Application. Metro COG will be providing a letter of support to the City of Moorhead for the funding of the bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Red River connecting Bluestem in Moorhead to neighborhoods and multimodal connections in south Fargo.

The City of Moorhead is working with Senator Klobuchar's and Senator Smith's offices in requesting \$4 Million in Congressional Direction Spending to go toward Moorhead's portion of the bridge.

Mr. Atkins said that the bridge would be a complimentary addition to Fargo's updated trail system in the same area. Efforts are underway to connect all of the trails throughout Moorhead.

13. Agency Updates

Metro COG – Chair Gray reminded the committee that she will be retiring in the next couple of months. She encouraged everyone to come and meet all of the candidates today, tomorrow, and early next week. She added that two RFPs are currently open for proposals, ending soon.

Fargo – Growth Plan/Future Land Use Plan contracts awarded; 32nd Avenue Construction starting soon, 64th / 76th Avenue Environmental document kick-off

Moorhead – 11th Street Underpass preliminary projects this summer

Clay County – Mill & Overlay projects planned

Dilworth – Finished Public Participation aspect of TH10 study, Downtown Land Use study underway

Horace – Downtown Plan RFP in works with Metro COG

Cass County – CR17 (52nd – 64th) bid awarded, Prosper Bridge Project bid awarded

West Fargo – Downtown Master Plan RFP, Main Ave development discussion with city Commission

14. Additional Business

No additional business.

15. Adjourn

The 539 Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on March 9, 2023 at 11:35 a.m.

**THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL
BE HELD April 13, 2023, 10:00 A.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant