

Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Wednesday, August 16, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting – Virtual & In-person
In-person: Metro COG Conference Room
Virtual: link provided below
AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approve minutes from February 15th, 2023 meeting - **Attachment** Action Item
3. Public input opportunity Public Input
4. Project updates Informational Item
 - a. DGF Safe Routes to School Plan
 - b. Clay County Heartland Trail Extension
5. Future automated bike/ped counter locations - **Attachment** Discussion Item
6. TA / CRP / STBG funding solicitation update - **Attachment** Information Item
7. 2024-2025 Bike/Ped Committee citizen rep - **Attachment** Information Item
8. Other business

If citizens wish to comment on an agenda items, please email comments to farnsworth@fmmetrocog.org. To ensure your comments are received prior to the meeting, please submit them by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting and reference which agenda item your comments address. If you would like to appear via video and/or audio for comments or questions, please provide your e-mail address and contact information to the above e-mail at least one business day before the meeting.

For Public Participation, please REGISTER with the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81615674058?pwd=Y01Ta0trK2hXdVA4T3ZPd1prUEU2UT09>

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

Metro COG is committed to ensuring all individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, age, national origin, disability/handicap, sexual orientation, and/or income status have access to Metro COG's programs and services. Meeting facilities will be accessible to mobility impaired individuals. Metro COG will make a good faith effort to accommodate requests for translation services for meeting proceedings and related materials. Please contact Savanna Leach, Metro COG Executive Secretary, at 701-532-5100 at least five days in advance of the meeting if any special accommodations are required for any member of the public to be able to participate in the meeting.

121st Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
February 15th, 2023 – 3:00pm
Hybrid Meeting – Virtual / In-person (Metro COG Conference Room)

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Luke Mormon, City of Fargo Planning
Jace Hellman, City of Horace
Grace Puppe, Cass County
Joe Anderson, City of Fargo Police
Patrick Hollister, PartnerSHIP 4 Health
Luke Grittner, MATBUS
Andrew Wrucke, City of West Fargo Engineering
Peyton Mastera, City of Dilworth
Matt Jacobson, Clay County
Aaron Murra, NDDOT – Fargo District
Bob Walton, NDDOT – Fargo District
Cheryl Stetz, Cass County Public Health
Christine Holland, River Keepers

Others Present:

Paul Bervik, Metro COG
Ari Del Rosario, Metro COG
Terry Steen, Citizen/Flatlands Cycling Club
Justin Kristan, Bike Walk North Dakota

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:03 pm. Both virtual and in-person attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approve minutes from November 9th, 2022 meeting

A motion to approve the November 9th minutes was made by J. Hellman and seconded by G. Puppe. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

3. Public input opportunity

Terry Steen a member of the public and a representative of Flatlands Cycling Club provided the Committee with background and information about Flatlands Cycling. Flatlands Cycling Club is a non-profit organization which began as a bicycle racing club but is looking to focus more on community bicycling events with the goal to boost cycling in the Fargo-Moorhead area. A website will be up and running from this club in a week or so.

4. Project updates

FM Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

D. Farnsworth gave the group a brief update on the status of the FM Metro Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The plan was recently adopted in January. Farnsworth showed the Committee where the plan could be found on Metro COG's website and encouraged jurisdictions to refer to the plan as they plan for future bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Fargo Red River Greenway Study

A. Del Rosario and D. Farnsworth gave a 15-minute presentation on the Fargo Red River Greenway Study. The study is in final draft stage and is anticipated to be adopted in March. D. Farnsworth showed the Committee the website where the final draft study can be found. The website also includes an informational video.

DGF Safe Routes to School Plan

D. Farnsworth gave the Committee a brief update on the status of the Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Safe Routes to School Plan. The plan was kicked off in the summer of 2022 and is anticipated to be complete by the summer of 2023. The plan going smoothly, however delays with the construction at the Dilworth School have caused the study team to hold off field observations at that school until construction is complete later this winter/early spring.

Clay County Heartland Trail

D. Farnsworth provided an update on the status of the Clay County Heartland Trail. Farnsworth noted that not much progress has been made on the Clay County Heartland Trail efforts in the last few years, however Metro COG has been providing technical assistance as a bonding bill is currently being put together. A bonding bill is currently being developed which is requesting \$2.25 Million for funding of the Heartland Trail between Park Rapids and Moorhead. The bill is just being introduced to the Minnesota Senate. Farnsworth also noted that Metro COG will begin a Heartland Trail study in 2024.

P. Mastera pointed out that the idea has been to construct the trail from east to west, however he's been suggesting recently that the trail should be constructed from west to east and eventually the trail could meet in the middle. The Heartland Trail is a priority for the City of Dilworth and would like to see a more formulated plan in the future to assist the Heartland Trail in receiving funding. M. Jacobson echoed P. Mastera's comments.

5. Discuss & revise criteria for TA grant scoring & ranking

A discussion to revise the scoring/ranking criteria for Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant applications was held since the Committee wished to revisit the Environmental Justice (EJ) portion of the criteria at the last meeting. At the last meeting the Committee felt that projects within close proximity to an EJ area should also receive points. Therefore, Metro COG developed several maps which showed buffers around the EJ areas. These maps included: no buffer, a 350 ft buffer, a 1/8 mile buffer, and a 1/4 mile buffer. After

discussion amongst the Committee members, the ultimate decision was to keep the criteria as-is. While members felt like a 1/4 mile buffer would be a reasonable distance to award points to a project, upon seeing the 1/4 mile buffer map much of the Fargo-Moorhead urbanized area was covered in the 1/4 mile buffer. The result of using this buffer would result in the vast majority of the project getting points, thereby not setting project apart from one another.

A motion to keep the TA scoring criteria for the EJ areas as-is was made by J. Hellman and seconded by P. Mastera. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. New bicycle/pedestrian count equipment

P. Bervik provided the Committee with a presentation on Metro COG's new bicycle/pedestrian count equipment. Bervik brought in a new bicycle/pedestrian counter to show to the Committee, and also showcased Metro COG's old counters which are no longer in service. Bervik noted the challenges the old counters faced and showed how the new ones are more discrete, user-friendly, and count more precisely. Bervik also provided the Committee with an idea of the future expansion of Metro COG's automated bicycle and pedestrian program.

J. Kristan noted that he'd like to see bicycle facilities on 9th St NE and Center St in West Fargo between Main Ave and 12th Ave. He seemed in favor of doing before and after bicycle/pedestrian counts before and after these potential reconstruction project.

7. Other business

J. Kristan noted two bicycle-related bills that are making their way through the ND legislature right now. The first is House Bill 1506 which would change the law if a person was to be pulled over intoxicated while riding a bicycle. Currently if someone is riding a bicycle while intoxicated, they can get a ticket and points which would go on their record. This proposed bill would still include a ticket for bicycling intoxicated but no points would go on the individual's record.

The next is a resolution which pertains to North Dakota share the road safety week which started in 2015 as the result of two bicyclist fatalities. Currently the third week of June is ND share the road safety week. Kristan feels this should occur in May to align with National Bike Month. This resolution is making its way through the house and senate and Kristan hopes to bring awareness to this share the road safety week.

There was no other additional business. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.



Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan
Council of Governments

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To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
From: Paul Bervik, Assistant Transportation Planner
Date: August 11, 2023
Re: **Future Automated Bike/Ped Counter Locations**

Metro COG recently purchased multiple pedestrian counters. Metro COG has been utilizing the data collected to inform funding decisions. Increasing the number of these pedestrian counters will be valuable going forward to analyze the efficacy of funding decisions and to help inform future funding decisions. Metro COG would like the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee to assist with proposing and prioritizing potential future pedestrian counter locations.

Requested Action: Create prioritized list of potential future pedestrian counter locations.

To: Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
From: Dan Farnsworth, Metro COG
Date: August 11, 2023
Re: **TA / CRP / STBG solicitation update**

Metro COG is planning to release a joint grant application which would include the Transportation Alternatives (TA), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding opportunities. Jointly releasing these grant applications with the same due date will help streamline the solicitation process for both Metro COG and the local jurisdictions. Tentatively, Metro COG is looking to release this joint application in early October with a tentative plan to have applications submitted to Metro COG by late November.

The **Transportation Alternatives (TA)** grant is specific to bicycle/pedestrian-related infrastructure projects and is estimated to have the following funding amounts within the urbanized area:

- Urbanized area ND¹ - \$850,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2026 and \$860,000 in FY 2027
- Urbanized area MN² - \$140,000 in FY 2026 and \$140,000 in FY 2027

Metro COG plans to solicit TA for both FYs 2026 and 2027 within the urbanized area as part of this application. Projects located outside of the urbanized area will be solicited through the respective states' solicitation process and in cooperation with Metro COG.

The **Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)** is a newer funding source as part of the 2021 Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. CRP can be used for bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure projects. CRP funding within Metro COG's metropolitan planning area is estimated to have the following amounts:

- Metropolitan planning area ND³ - \$1,160,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2026 and \$1,180,000 in FY 2027
- Metropolitan planning area MN⁴ - \$120,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2026 and \$120,000 in FY 2027

Metro COG plans to solicit CRP for both FYs 2026 and 2027 within the metropolitan planning area as part of this application.

Lastly, the **Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)** provides funding for various transportation projects, which can include bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure projects. STBG funding within Metro COG's urbanized area is estimated to have the following amounts:

- Urbanized area ND¹ - \$10,484,210 in fiscal year (FY) 2027
- Urbanized area MN² - \$900,000 in FY 2027

Metro COG plans to solicit STBG for FY 2027 within the urbanized area as part of this application.

¹ Includes: Horace, Fargo, West Fargo, small portion of Cass Co, & possibly Harwood

² Includes: Dilworth, Moorhead, and small portion of Clay Co

³ Includes: Casselton, Fargo, Harwood, Horace, Kindred, Mapleton, West Fargo, and portions of Cass Co

⁴ Includes: Barnesville, Dilworth, Glyndon, Hawley, Moorhead, Sabin and portions of Clay Co



To: Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
From: Dan Farnsworth, Metro COG
Date: August 11, 2023
Re: **2024-2025 Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee citizen representative**

The citizen representative position for the Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee serves a two-year term. The current representative, Kurt Kopperud's, term will expire December 31st, 2023 and a new representative will assume the position January 1st, 2024.

In preparation for a new citizen representative, Metro COG plans to advertise for a new representative using the **attached** application. The goal would be to advertise for the position September 1st with applications due by September 30th.

However, if the Committee feels the two-year term is too short, given the fact that the Committee meets quarterly, there can be discussion to see if the Committee feels a longer term would be more appropriate.

**CITIZEN APPLICATION FOR
THE METROPOLITAN BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE**

Application due date: September 30, 2023

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Phone (optional):

Email:

City of Residence:

Do you work for a company that contracts with Metro COG?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE FARGO-MOORHEAD AREA?

REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE?

PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOURSELF (200 WORDS OR LESS):

ARE YOU INVOLVED IN ANY ORGANIZATIONS, CLUBS, ETC., THAT RELATE TO BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITIES, ADVOCACY, OR SERVICES?

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW YOU TYPICALLY UTILIZE THE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN NETWORK IN THE FARGO-MOORHEAD AREA.

TYPICALLY, WHAT IS YOUR AVAILABILITY ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS BETWEEN 3:00 PM AND 5:00 PM? ARE YOU ABLE TO BE REGULARLY AVAILABLE DURING THAT TIME ONCE EVERY THREE MONTHS?

Thank you! We appreciate your interest in being part of the Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee. The selected applicant will serve a two-year term. Committee meetings typically occur quarterly on the third Wednesday of the month from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm at Metro COG's office (Case Plaza, Suite 232, 1 - 2nd St N, Fargo, ND). A virtual attendance option is also available for the meetings (via Zoom).

All applications will be reviewed by our evaluation committee. Once a selection has been made all applicants will be notified. If you have any questions you can contact Dan Farnsworth (Metro COG) at 701-532-5106 or farnsworth@fmmetrocog.org

Please return this form to Dan Farnsworth – farnsworth@fmmetrocog.org

Or mail to:

Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
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