

**100th Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
January 17th, 2018 – 3:00pm
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Shane Bakken, Clay County – proxy
Jason Gates, Citizen representative
Hali Durand, Cass County
Christine Holland, River Keepers
Dylan Ramstad Skoyles, Great Rides
Barrett Voigt, City of Fargo Planning – proxy
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering
Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health
Patrick Hollister, PartnerSHIP 4 Health
Jane Butzer, MnDOT
Kim Citrowske, City of Moorhead Planning
Joe Anderson, Fargo Police Department
Tim Solberg, City of West Fargo Planning
Tyler Kirchner, Fargo Park District

Others Present:

Dave Bietz, Fargo Park District
Spencer McCombs, City of Moorhead GIS
Max Nelson, NDSU Nursing
Anna Pierce, Metro COG
Christina Mackley, NDSU Nursing
Katie Pavlick, Fargo Cass Public Health

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:03 pm. D. Farnsworth welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approve minutes from December 6th, 2017 meeting

It was noted that “99rd” should be “99th” at the heading of the meeting minutes. It was also noted that the last name for Luke M. is Mormon. The corrections were noted and will be changed. A motion to approve the September 20th minutes with the suggested changes was made by J. Atkins and seconded by D. Ramstad Skoyles. The minutes were passed unanimously.

Introduce new Fargo Park District Representative

D. Farnsworth took the opportunity to note that the current Fargo Park District representative, Vic Pellerano, recently retired so a new replacement was needed to fill his seat. Tyler Kirchner and Dave Bietz from the Fargo Park District were present at the meeting and introduced themselves. D. Bietz noted that Tyler Kirchner will be the new representative for the Fargo Park District. Metro COG will include the both of them on the MailChimp email list and include T. Kirchner on the direct mailing list.

3. Bicycle Friendly Community Re-designation

D. Farnsworth noted that the Fargo-Moorhead's existing Bicycle Friendly Community status will expire in August of 2018. Therefore, Metro COG will plan to begin work on the new application shortly. Metro COG plans to submit the application to the League of American Bicyclists by the August 2018 deadline. Metro COG may ask various jurisdictions for some data and information to help fill out the application. The Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee can also expect to review the application at some point. Metro COG hopes to increase the community's designation from "Bronze" to "Silver".

4. Follow-up item – metro-wide interactive GIS bikeways map

Metro COG followed-up with the committee regarding progress made researching the possibility of a metro-wide GIS bikeways map. D. Farnsworth noted that the Metropolitan GIS committee will be meeting January, 26th and this will be a topic discussed. Creating such a map could be a great benefit to the public as they could see up-to-date bikeways using a single online resource. This could be particularly beneficial as they are out-and-about and wish to use their smartphones for navigation.

S. McCombs showed the group the map that the City of Moorhead has created which would be used as the inspiration for a metro-wide map.

5. Follow-up item – discussion of bicycle commuter routes

There was discussion about bicycle commuter routes as discussed at the September 20th meeting. The intent of the discussion was to identify routes that are used more highly by commuters and are of higher importance. This could be used to prioritize maintenance and snow removal along such routes.

There was some discussion about current snow removal policies. D. Bietz noted that when Fargo Park District clears trails of snow, they prioritize routes near schools so that kids can affectively get to and from school.

The committee seemed interested in pursuing this topic. D. Farnsworth asked the local jurisdictions (West Fargo, Fargo, and Moorhead) to send him a map of routes that are of high importance before the next meeting and the committee can further discuss this topic at the next meeting.

6. Designation of sidepaths in FM Area

D. Farnsworth brought information to the committee regarding the difference between sidepaths and shared-use paths, noting that both FMWA and AASHTO differentiate between the two. Sidepaths would be pathways along roadways while shared-use paths are considered paths within parks and along greenways. Currently, we don't differentiate such paths in our area.

Some members of the committee were opposed to any changes to the designation noting that it would just add another layer of complexity to the network and datasets.

Others on the committee felt it would be good to differentiate the paths, especially when displaying them on maps so that riders could pick which type of path they would prefer to ride on. Parents might want to know which type of path to have their kids ride on.

Due to mixed opinions on this issue, it was decided that it would be best to table this topic and maybe bring up such a topic when the next FM bikeways maps are created. Other ideas could include naming those paths that are along greenways instead.

7. Follow-up item – local park/trail curfews

D. Farnsworth followed-up with the committee regarding the topic that has been discussed about park safety, lighting, curfews as it relates to trails within park property. He noted the three separate park curfew laws for the jurisdictions of West Fargo, Fargo, and Moorhead.

The discussion begins about 1 ½ years ago when a Fargo Commissioner expressed some concerns regarding park safety, lighting, and curfews. These concerns were believed to be linked to the fatality of a person who was riding a bike down an embankment in Fargo at dark and hit a barricade at high speeds.

After discussion with the committee, the committee felt it would be best to; first talk to the Commissioner and see if he would like us to pursue his concerns further. If he wishes for us to pursue this topic further, we can plan to sit down with a representative from the Parks departments and Police departments of West Fargo, Fargo and Moorhead to see if there are any issues regarding this topic and if so, see if it would be worthwhile to propose any changes to trail/park lighting and/or park curfew times. The committee felt it would be beneficial to have uniform curfew laws around the FM Area. If successful, Metro COG/Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee could come up with an official recommendation/guide regarding this matter (similar to Metro COG's Complete Streets policy statement).

8. Progress of BIKE FM Group

D. Farnsworth provided a brief update on the progress of BIKE FM (Bicycle Information, Knowledge, and Education in Fargo-Moorhead). Due to Metro COG's current staff shortage, BIKE FM has not been meeting regularly but Metro COG has plans to add an additional Planner which could assist with the BIKE FM coordination. D. Farnsworth noted the BIKE

FM has recently been accepted to be under the umbrella of the Bicycle Alliance of MN. Being part of the Alliance opens opportunities for BIKE FM such as assistance from the Alliance and an avenue for donations so BIKE FM can pursue their goals.

9. Other business and citizen comments

P. Hollister distributed postcards to the committee regarding an upcoming conference in Rochester MN. The conference is called Bike + Walk Minnesota 2018 and will be held April 29 – May 1, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.