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You receive this newsletter because you are identified as person and/or agency who is considered important to the implementation of Metro COG projects and programs. If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter or you wish to begin receiving this newsletter electronically, please contact Kate Wurtzler at:

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## The City of Fargo 2nd Street/Downtown Flood-Control Project

Residents and workers in downtown Fargo may have recently noticed signs of a major construction project occurring near City Hall and the library. The activity is the beginnings of a significant undertaking designed to further protect downtown from spring flooding and prepare for redevelopment in the area surrounding 2nd Street and 3rd Ave North. Once completed, the City will have established both permanent flood protection and more recreational opportunities in the project area.

The 2nd Street/Downtown Flood Control Project, originally known as option 1F, was approved by the Fargo City Commission in December of 2013. The project calls for a number of permanent floodwalls, ranging in height from approximately 6 to 15 feet, to be built along the western banks of the Red River. In addition to the permanent walls, removable floodwalls and storm water lift stations will be built to support and bolster flood containment in flood emergency scenarios.

Construction of the flood mediation devices will necessitate altering the alignment of roads in the immediate vicinity of

the floodwall area. Upon project completion, 2nd Street will be shifted slightly to the west and 3rd Avenue will be altered to terminate at 3rd Street instead of connecting to 2nd Street.

In addition to safeguarding the city from floods along the Red River, the project calls for redeveloping areas along 2nd Street and creating a number of additional pedestrian and recreational amenities in the area. The nearly 3-acre parking area along 2nd Street will be redeveloped for commercial use, and other areas within the Disturbance Zone will be turned into green spaces. The project is just one part of a potential redevelopment of the area stretching along 2nd Avenue to downtown, which may in time lead to many significant cultural, communal, and civic improvements in the immediate area.

For more information on the 2nd Street/Downtown Flood Control Project, please visit the City of Fargo's project webpage.



**PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY!**

Look for this symbol

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Principal Planner

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Dan Farnsworth.....Transp. Planner

Kate Wurtzler.....Executive Secretary

## FM Area named Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community

Metro COG is proud to announce that the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area was named a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community by the league of American Bicyclists in November. The Fargo-Moorhead community joins 326 communities from across the country in this honorable award. The designation is given to communities which show a commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investments in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies.

In November 2013 Metro COG began pursuing Bicycle Friendly Community designation for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area. After nine months of gathering information necessary for the application, Metro COG submitted the application to the League of American Bicyclists. Since the communities in the FM Area work closely together, it was fitting to have the application submitted for the FM Metro Area, which includes the cities of West Fargo, Fargo, Moorhead, and Dilworth.

Five tiers are designated by the League of American Bicyclists for this award. They include Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond. Currently there are 326 Bronze, 71 Silver, 21 Gold, 4 Platinum, and no Diamond communities in the United States. Minnesota has 15 Bicycle Friendly

Communities and, as of November, North Dakota has two Bicycle Friendly Communities. Both the Fargo-Moorhead area and Greater Grand Forks became the first communities in North Dakota with the designation.

In addition to the recognition, the application process is a great way a community to gain insight on its specific strengths and weaknesses in regards bicycle-friendliness. Once the League of American Bicyclists has reviewed the application, they provide a 'report card' so the community may see which areas require improvement. This is valuable feedback that allows even a "bicycle-friendly" community to continue to improve for its cyclists.

Metro COG is proud to have been able to help the Fargo-Moorhead area achieve this desired recognition. Metro COG would like to thank staff and members of the public who assisted in the application process. If desired, the FM area may continue to apply in hopes of achieving a higher designation (i.e. silver or gold).

Metro COG hopes to assist in coordinating an award ceremony in late spring or early summer for the new designation.

For more information regarding Bicycle Friendly Communities, contact Dan Farnsworth at farnsworth@fmmetrocog.org or at 701-232-3242, extension 35.



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## 2015 Hawley Comprehensive & Transportation Plan

In January, Metro COG began work on the 2015 Hawley Comprehensive & Transportation Plan. This plan, when complete, will provide a blueprint for future activities and development while helping to guide prospective actions by the City of Hawley and the community. It is envisioned that, through the plan process, community goals, objectives, and policies will be developed which will incorporate long-range considerations with short-range decisions and actions. Throughout the process, citizens will be asked their thoughts and opinions on ways to improve the quality of the community, taking into consideration social, economic, and physical factors.

A major focus of the plan will include the development of a sidewalk improvement plan for the City of Hawley. This plan would show the prioritization of potential sidewalk improvements and how these improvements would tie in with existing sidewalk and multimodal networks throughout the city. Consideration will also be given to the proposed Heartland Trail extension, including recommended trail uses and possible limitations of width and land use restrictions.



### Hawley Comprehensive & Transportation Plan Public Open House

**Wednesday, February 25th**  
**Hawley City Council Chambers**  
**5:30pm to 7:30pm**

*Come and share your ideas for the City of Hawley as we kick off the first public involvement meeting for the Hawley Comprehensive & Transportation Plan. For additional information, please contact Adam Altenburg at 701.232.3242, extension 34, or [altenburg@fmmetrocog.org](mailto:altenburg@fmmetrocog.org).*

## Metro Profile

The end of the year ushers in the availability of the final 2014 data, and with it the start of the update to our annual Surveillance and Monitoring Report. Based on feedback from the public, our Transportation Technical Committee, the Policy Board, and other stakeholders, we will be making a number of changes to the 2015 iteration of the report. The first such change is the title itself: starting in 2015, the former "Surveillance and Monitoring Report" will be known simply as the Metropolitan Profile. We feel this small change better reflects the subject matter in the report. What began as an inventory of roadway system changes has evolved into a comprehensive analysis

of select socioeconomic, demographic, transportation, and project-related characteristics for the greater metro area.

Our primary objective is to create a product that best serves the needs of our stakeholders and the public. We welcome and encourage any public input as we continue to re-think and revise the report. If there's any information that you find particularly useful or should you have any ideas on what you think is missing in the Profile, we'd love to hear about it.

Please direct any inquiries or suggestions to Dave Burns, Principal Planner/GIS Coordinator, at 701.232.3242, extension 36 or [burns@fmmetrocog.org](mailto:burns@fmmetrocog.org). We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

## Clay County Heartland Trail Public Involvement Meetings

In the last week of January, two public involvement meetings were held for the Clay County Heartland Trail which Metro COG is currently studying in cooperation with the Clay County Heartland Trail Task Force. The meetings were held on the evenings of Tuesday January 27th and Thursday January 29th with the Tuesday meeting held at the Hawley High School commons and the Thursday meeting held at the Dilworth Community Center. Both meetings were well attended with over 45 attending the Hawley meeting and over 50 attendees at the Dilworth meeting.

The meetings were open-house style with Metro COG staff and Clay County Heartland Trail Task Force members facilitating the meetings and answering attendees' questions. Poster boards were displayed which showed the three trail alignment alternatives and additional information regarding the trail. A seven-question survey was also provided which included areas for public comments. In total 59 surveys were completed.

After reviewing the surveys and public comments, the proposed trail sections from Moorhead to Buffalo River State Park and from Buffalo River State

Park to Hawley were found to be the most desired by the public. Of the three trail alignment alternatives presented at the meeting, Alternative 2 was found to be the most popular. The surveys also showed that the most desired form of travel on the trail would be bicycle followed by walking/running, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, in-line skating, and lastly horse-back riding.

Valuable comments were gathered at the two meetings. Comments ranged from citizens excited for the future trail to property owners concerned of the trail's presence near their property. Metro COG will consider all comments when moving forward with the planning of the trail.

Metro COG plans to meet with the Clay County Heartland Trail Task Force in the near future to review the results, comments, and ideas brought forth at the public meetings. At this time, the Task Force will also discuss the next steps for the planning of the trail.

For more information regarding the Clay County Heartland Trail, contact

Dan Farnsworth at [farnsworth@fmmetrocog.org](mailto:farnsworth@fmmetrocog.org) or at 701-232-3242, extension 35.

