

128th Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
March 12th, 2025 – 3:00pm
Hybrid Meeting – Virtual / In-person (Metro COG Conference Room)

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Cole Hansen, Cass County Planning
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering
Forrest Steinhoff, City of Moorhead Planning
Jeremy Gorden, City of Fargo Engineering
Kurt Kopperud, Citizen Representative
Peyton Mastera, City of Dilworth
Christine Holland, Riverkeepers
Maegin Elshaug, City of Fargo Planning
Aaron Murra, NDDOT – Fargo District
Amy Zundel, West Fargo Parks
Luke Grittner, MATBUS
Jace Hellman, City of Horace

Others Present:

Ben Griffith, Metro COG
Paul Bervik, Metro COG
Aiden Jung, Metro COG
Aiden Bragonier, Bolton & Menk
Kyle Ten Napel, Houston Engineering
Jason Pike, (Citizen)

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Minutes from December 4th, 2024 meeting

A quorum was not present at this meeting. Therefore, the December 4th meeting minutes were not approved. The December 4th minutes will be brought forward at the next meeting for approval.

3. Public input opportunity

While there were non-members (potential public) present at the meeting, no public comments were brought forward during the public comment opportunity.

4. Updated Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee members

With some new members on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee, D. Farnsworth reviewed the current list of members on the Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee with the Committee. New members since the last meeting include: Amy Zundel (West Fargo Parks) and Terry Steen (Citizen Representative). It was noted that there is currently a vacant seat for West Fargo Planning since Leslie McGillivray-Rivas is no longer with the city of West Fargo.

5. Bicycle Friendly Community Report Card

D. Farnsworth went through the Bicycle Friendly Community report card which was provided to Metro COG when the Fargo-Moorhead community obtained bronze designation by the League of American Bicyclists in January. Per the report card, the F-M community receiver higher scores in the categories of Engineering and Evaluation/Planning while receiving lower scores in Education, Encouragement, and Equity/Accessibility.

There was discussion about how local bicycle/pedestrian projects can be quantified as a way of tracking progress. It was suggested that Metro COG and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee could possibly develop a method for tracking the implementation of bicycle/pedestrian projects and improvements.

The Committee then reviewed the “Feedback to Improve” which the League of American Bicyclists provided in the report card. One of the feedback items listed was – *Encourage more local businesses, agencies and organizations to promote cycling and seek recognition through Bicycle Friendly Business programs.* D. Farnsworth noted that Metro COG will reach out to businesses and jurisdictions to encourage them to apply for Bicycle Friendly Business.

Another feedback item was – *Expand bicycle wayfinding to more strategic locations around the community.* There was some discussion around this item. Farnsworth noted that he would like to work with jurisdictions about improving bicycle wayfinding in the future.

There was then discussion about the need for more bicycle safety education for both adults and children, followed by discussion about recommendations for more and higher quality bicycle parking (which meets APBP standards).

6. Clay County Heartland Trail Study Update

D. Farnsworth provided the Committee with an overview of the Heartland Trail Study in Clay County, discussing the alignment, phasing, and next steps. A draft plan is anticipated to be sent to the public within a couple weeks with a final plan and adoption anticipated in May/June.

7. West Fargo Safe Routes to School Plan Update

A. Jung discussed the recently kicked-off West Fargo Safe Routes to School Plan with the Committee. This plan, which will be developed in-house by Metro COG, will be a two-year process with schools located north of I-94 studied in 2025 and schools south of I-94 in 2026. Since the West Fargo School District includes schools in Harwood and Horace, those schools will be included as well. C. Hansen asked if Cass County could be part of the plan's study review committee since several schools are next to county roadways. Metro COG will forward Cole Hansen the meeting invite, which he can then forward to the proper county staff member.

A. Jung discussed that the plan won't include West Fargo Public Schools located within the city of Fargo, with the exception of Meadowlark Elementary which was constructed after completion of the Fargo Safe Route to School Plan.

It was also suggested that West Fargo Parks be included on the study review committee too. Metro COG will forward A. Zundel the meeting invite.

8. Fargo-Moorhead Bike Map App Update

D. Farnsworth provided a brief overview of the Fargo-Moorhead bike map app and noted the challenges they are having with the app developer. Metro COG provided the app developer with the latest bikeways in August of 2024 and the developer has yet to implement the updates, despite over 20 back-forth emails. D. Farnsworth stated that Metro COG can no longer depend on this app developer and another solution will need to take place.

Farnsworth noted that they have been looking into potential new app developers, but noted the costs of other developers far exceeds the cost allocated for the existing app developer.

J. Atkins suggested Metro COG should consider Field Maps and noted that Moorhead uses that for various purposes and is satisfied with the product. Field Maps is an ESRI tool which Metro COG already has a license to. Atkins suggested getting in touch with Moorhead's GIS lead, Michael. J. Hanks also noted that Horace uses Field Maps. Metro COG will follow-up to learn more about the potential use of this tool to possibly substitute the current version of the Fargo-Moorhead bike map app.

9. Agency Updates

Dilworth

P. Mastera noted that the state is in the design phase of Hwy 10 in Dilworth, which will include improved sidewalk/path along Hwy 10. Mastera also noted the Dilworth is updating their comprehensive plan.

Horace

J. Hellman mentioned that Horace is planning for a continuous shared use path along the west side of Drain 27 from the Fargo city limits to the FM Diversion southern embankment.

Fargo

J. Gorden listed several projects that are being designed or constructed in Fargo. These include:

- A shared use path along the Red River in the vicinity of the VA hospital
- Phase II of a shared use path along the Red River between 32nd Ave S and 40th Ave S in south Fargo
- A crossing of Rose Creek in south Fargo
- A shared use path on the west side of Drain 27 near Deer Creek neighborhood

Moorhead

J. Atkins noted that Moorhead will be reconstructing 34th St which will include the reconstruction of the shared use path. While under construction, they plan to have the bicycle/pedestrian detour on a dedicated on-street facility because otherwise the bike/ped detour would be up to two miles.

Atkins also noted that (for the first time) Moorhead is gathering ride quality using the ride quality index (RQI) on the shared use paths in Moorhead. This will help Moorhead determine which paths should be prioritized for replacement.

F. Steinhoff mentioned that Moorhead plans to looking into improved bicycle parking in Moorhead.

West Fargo

A Zundel noted that West Fargo Parks is interested in connecting downtown West Fargo to Armour Park with a bridge across the Sheyenne River. She also noted that they are looking at a potential bicycle safety park at one of the parks in West Fargo. D. Farnsworth expressed excitement for a bicycle safety park noting the ongoing need in the Fargo-Moorhead area for better bicycle safety education.

Zundel also noted improvements to existing paths which would include mill & overlay projects and replacing paths with concrete.

10. Other business

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