

**122<sup>nd</sup> Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting**  
**August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 3:00pm**  
**Hybrid Meeting – Virtual / In-person (Metro COG Conference Room)**

**Members Present**

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG  
Aaron Murra, NDDOT - Fargo District  
Payton Mastera, City of Dilworth  
Andrew Wrucke, City of West Fargo Engineering  
Cheryl Stetz, Cass County Public Health  
Joe Anderson, City of Fargo Police  
Patrick Hollister, PartnerSHIP 4 Health  
Forrest Steinhoff, City of Moorhead Planning  
Jeremy Gorden, City of Fargo Engineering  
Kurt Kopperud, Citizen Representative  
Rosemary Bruce-White, MnDOT – District 4  
Maegin Elshaug, City of Fargo Planning  
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering

**Others Present:**

Rocky Schneider, Fargo Planning Commission/Metro COG Policy Board  
Paul Bervik, Metro COG  
Ayden Schaffler, Metro COG  
Ben Griffith, Metro COG  
Blue Weber, Citizen  
Greg (Tehven), Citizen/Community Organizer

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting began at 3:04 pm. Both virtual and in-person attendees introduced themselves.

**2. Approve minutes from February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting**

A motion to approve the February 15<sup>th</sup> minutes was made by P. Mastera and seconded by M. Elshaug. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

**3. Public input opportunity**

One member from the public was present at the meeting but no public comments were made.

**4. Project updates**

### **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 is now complete with the adoption of the plan scheduled for the next day (Aug 17<sup>th</sup>) at Metro COG's Policy Board meeting. Farnsworth showed the Committee where they could find the plan online.

### **Clay County Heartland Trail**

D. Farnsworth provided an update on the status of the Clay County Heartland Trail. Metro COG will be kicking off a \$250,000 consultant-led study of the Clay Co Heartland Trail in the beginning of 2024. Metro COG is just starting the RFP and hopes to release it in a month or two.

Farnsworth also noted that advocates of the Heartland Trail (in Clay, Becker, and Hubbard Counties) and working with the MN Legislature on bonding bill funding for the Heartland Trail from Park Rapids to Moorhead to the tune of \$1.875 Million.

## **5. Future automated bike/ped counter locations**

P. Bervik of Metro COG provided a background of Metro COG's current bicycle and pedestrian counting program. He discussed where the existing automated counters are located and where annual manual counts are conducted. Bervik noted that Metro COG plans to purchase one to two automated counters each year and is looking to discuss with the Committee where those counters should be located.

A map was provided of 11 locations Metro COG feels are worth considering. There was then discussion by Committee members of some locations. J. Atkins suggested that the proposed counter in southeast Moorhead could be located along the path between Village Green Blvd and 20<sup>th</sup> St. Atkins also noted that the counter near Horizon Middle School could be located further west along the path on the south side of 12<sup>th</sup> Ave as the path might be grade separated under 34<sup>th</sup> St in the future. He also feels there would be value in placing a counter on 11<sup>th</sup> St to see how many people are utilizing the 11<sup>th</sup> St corridor between north Moorhead and MB Johnson Park.

D. Farnsworth noted that the current technology isn't able to count bikes/pedestrians located on the street (non-protected bike lanes, wide shoulders) as the counters would also count vehicles.

A. Wrucke felt it wasn't necessary to have both the downtown Sheyenne St and drain 45 counters as similar users might be using both corridors. He felt an east-west corridor could have a counter instead of both downtown Sheyenne and drain 45.

P. Mastera noted that he'll think of a good place for a counter in Dilworth.

Metro COG will ask the Committee to provide any feedback of counter locations within the next few days and then Metro COG will incorporate any feedback into a survey, which will be sent to the Committee to rank the counter locations. These rankings will be used to determine which locations to install the counters first.

## **6. TA / CRP / STBG funding solicitation update**

D. Farnsworth notified the Committee that Metro COG is planning to send out a joint solicitation for TA (Transportation Alternatives), CRP (Carbon Reduction Program), and STBG (Surface Transportation Block Grant). The tentative schedule is to open up this solicitation in early October and have applications submitted by late November.

## **7. 2024 – 2025 Bike/Ped Committee citizen rep**

The citizen representative position for the Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee serves a two-year term. The current representative, Kurt Kopperud's, term is scheduled to expire December 31st, 2023 and a new representative is planned to assume the position January 1st, 2024. However, Metro COG is open to discussing whether the citizen representative term should be longer than two years.

The Committee discussed if it would be beneficial to extend the term length of the citizen representative seat, and it was decided to keep the length as two years but give the representative the option of two additional years if they so choose. It was also suggested that it may be beneficial to have two citizen representatives.

It was ultimately decided that there would be two citizen representatives and the years of the appointment would stagger. Therefore, every year there would be the solicitation for a new citizen representative and each representative would serve a two-year term. However, at the end of their two-year term, the opportunity would be given to the representative to serve an additional two years if they choose. If they choose to serve another term, another representative will not be solicited. If they wish not to serve another term, Metro COG will solicit for a new citizen representative. A motion to move forward with this procedure was made by J. Atkins and seconded by P. Mastera. The motion was passed unanimously.

K. Kopperud wishes to serve another two years. Therefore, his term will expire on December 31, 2025 and Metro COG will not solicit for another citizen rep until next year.

## **8. Recreation Summit**

Rocky Schneider, a member of the Fargo Planning Commission and the Metro COG Policy Board, notified the Committee about a planned event scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> called the Recreation Summit. R. Schneider and Greg Tehven are helping coordinate this even which might be a four-hour event which could include speakers from ND Parks, ND Skateboarding

Association, FM Trailbuilders, Fargo Parks, Detroit Mountain, Norris Design, and Kelly Magelky – an acclaimed mountain biker.

The purpose of the Summit would be to get the public excited and involved in outdoor recreation and to help fund a mountain biking park (pump tracks) which could be located in Fargo.

Schneider is seeking ideas and feedback from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee. The Committee also has connections to the bicycle community and can assist in getting the word out. Schneider mentioned that committee members can email him or D. Farnsworth with any ideas or suggestions.

## **9. Other business**

There was no additional business. The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 pm.