

**531st Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, July 14, 2022 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS
Nicole	Crutchfield	City of Fargo Planning
James	Dahlman	City of Horace/Interstate Engineering (alt for Russ Sahr)
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Robin	Huston	City of Moorhead Planning
Matthew	Jacobson	Clay County Planning
Peyton	Mastera	City of Dilworth Administration (alt for Don Lorsung)
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division

Members Absent:

Don	Lorsung	City of Dilworth Planning (alternate present)
Aaron	Nelson	West Fargo City Planning
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Russ	Sahr	City of Horace Planning (alternate present)

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Paul	Bervik	Metro COG
Ethan	Bialik	Moore Engineering
Angie	Bolstad	Stantec
Jaron	Capps	Metro COG
Luke	Champa	SRF Consulting
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Dylan	Dunn	Moore Engineering
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Sharijad	Hasan	ATAC
Jace	Hellman	City of Horace
Will	Kerns	Ulteig
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Brent	Muscha	Apex Engineering
Dave	Overbo	WSB
Anna	Pierce	MnDOT
Bobbi	Retlzaff	FHWA MN
Ayden	Schaffler	Metro COG
Jordan	Smith	MATBUS
Tom	Soucy	Cass County Highway Engineering
Kristen	Sperry	FHWA ND
Steve	Strack	Houston Engineering

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on July 14, 2022 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 531st TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the 531st TTC Meeting Agenda.

**Motion: Approve the 531st TTC Meeting Agenda.
Mr. Mastera moved, seconded by Ms. Huston
MOTION, PASSED.
Motion carried unanimously.**

3. APPROVE June 9, 2022 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the June 9, 2022 TTC Meeting Minutes.

**Motion: Approve the June 9, 2022 TTC Minutes.
Mr. Benson moved, seconded by Mr. Zacher
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.**

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

5. 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #6

Mr. Del Rosario presented Amendment #6 to the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A public notice was published in The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, which advertised the public hearing, detailed how to request more information, and provided information on how to make public comment regarding the proposed amendment. The public notice advertised that public comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, July 21, 2022. As of the writing of this memo, no written comments have been received.

The proposed amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP is as follows:

- 1. Modification of Project 4200017:** Fargo Transit capital purchase to replace two 35-foot fixed route vehicles (2022). The funding source is being modified from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program - Urban (STBGP-U) to the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).

Mr. Zacher said that FHWA is still considering if this additional project falls under the Carbon Reduction Program. Ms. Sperry said that FHWA did approve this, and is now under review with FTA.

Ms. Pierce asked what the SBTGU funds will be used for, Mr. Zacher said that these will go back into the NDDOT pool for other projects.

Mr. Del Rosario said there is also an administrative adjustment included, but does not need an amendment, of a 20% decrease in project total for a Barnesville project.

Ms. Van Beek said that MATBUS added a project for \$20,000 using 5310 funds for FY2022, and said this will likely need an amendment. Ms. Gray said that this project might not be able to added to this amendment at this time.

Motion: Recommend approval of Amendment #6 of the Metro COG 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Board.
Ms. Bommelman moved, seconded by Ms. Van Beek
MOTION, PASSED (16-0-1) Mr. Atkins abstained due to missing the discussion on this item
Motion passed

6. Draft Metro COG 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Del Rosario presented the project list for the draft 2023-2026 TIP. A legal notice will be printed in the July 20, 2022 edition of The Forum to begin the official TIP comment period. This comment period will officially begin on July 21, 2022, which corresponds to Metro COG's regularly scheduled Policy Board meeting. The Draft TIP will be available for review on the Metro COG website.

As the development of the TIP continues, Metro COG staff will be refining all the necessary components of the TIP, including glossary with definitions and acronyms, "locally funded projects of note" referenced from local jurisdictions' Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs), financial plan and fiscal constraint, overview of federal aid programs, performance measures, and environmental considerations.

In addition to minor annual updates to all sections of the Draft 2023-2026 TIP, Metro COG staff will also be delineating Federal Highway and Federal Transit money more carefully throughout the document. The updates will expand upon efforts made last year to track applicable Highway and Transit funds that may be subject to a direct allocation when Metro COG's Urbanized Area (UZA) becomes a Transportation Management Area (TMA). Sections of the document where this delineation may occur will include but shall not be limited to the following sections of the Draft TIP: Financial Plan and Fiscal Constraint, Overview of Federal Aid Programs, Performance Measures, and Environmental Considerations.

Mr. Zacher asked if this draft included Metro COG's local project list regarding TMA status. Ms. Gray said this has not yet been integrated due to a project list not being finalized yet.

Mr. Gorden said that there will be a change to a Fargo project in regarding to budget amount.

Ms. Safgren said that Moorhead is slated to receive \$500,000 towards the Center Avenue portion of the 11th Street Underpass, and is curious if this is included in

the draft TIP project list. Mr. Atkins said that he has not yet been made aware of this funding, and Ms. Gray said Metro COG would make note of this to include into the draft.

Ms. Pierce said that there is an update to the HSIP funding and that they are currently accepting applications. She said these will likely need to be added into the TIP/STIP as well.

Mr. Gorden said that the 32nd Ave Project for 2024 will likely also need a budget update.

Motion: Recommend opening a public comment period for the Draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Board.

Mr. Gorden moved, seconded by Ms. Bommelmann

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Interstate Operations Analysis Contract Amendment #1

Ms. Gray presented Amendment #1 to the Interstate Operations Analysis Study. The additional work described in Amendment 1 includes the preparation of traffic projections using a "build-out" type of development scenario, for which the job and household projections will be provided by Metro COG. This will allow the ring route analysis to be completed using more of a complete development scenario for the metro area.

Metro COG and our local partners have future land use plans, household and job projections that have been completed as part of comprehensive plans, growth area plans, AUARs, corridor studies and sub-area analyses that can be used to conduct more of a "build-out" type of analysis, going beyond the magnitude of trips generated by the current 2045 travel demand model. With this analysis, we hope to be able to come to a more informed conclusion about the value of planning for and preservation of a corridor for a future ring route type of roadway facility.

Motion: Recommend approval of Contract Amendment #1 for the Interstate Operations Analysis to the Policy Board.

Mr. Benson moved, seconded by Ms. Crutchfield

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Transportation Alternatives Program – Application Process (FY 2024-2025)

Mr. Farnsworth presented an updated application process for the Transportation Alternatives Program, starting for FY 2024. With the anticipated designation of Metro COG's urbanized area as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) a direct sub-allocation of Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds is anticipated beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2023. With TA projects already selected for FY 2023 funding, Metro COG is developing an official process and instructions for TA solicitation for future funding years.

These particular instructions are intended for use for FY 2024 and 2025 applications but may be used in the years thereafter.

Also included in these instructions is the scoring methodology which will be used in scoring TA applications. Please note that the scoring methodology is the same as used in recent years' TA scoring.

Ms. Gray said that Metro COG is seeking input from the TTC as to when these applications should be due. She said it could potentially be end of September or October, and that we want to get projects prioritized and selected by the Bike/Ped Committee, TTC, and Policy Board to ensure sufficient time for project development. TTC members said any time in the fall is sufficient for completing applications.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the TA instructions as shown in the attachment.

Mr. Gorden moved, seconded by Ms. Crutchfield

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program

Mr. Altenburg presented the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program as one of the new programs created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The aim of this program is to support regional and local efforts to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

The program will provide \$5 billion over five years for regional and local initiatives focused on all users: pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, micromobility users, and commercial vehicle operators. SS4A will develop tools to help strengthen a community's approach to roadway safety and to save lives. Up to \$1 billion is available in FY 2022 for grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

The program provides funding for either action plans or implementation grants. Action plan grants will help develop, complete, or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan. The funds can go toward various activities, including planning, safety analysis, public engagement, equity, data collection, and more.

Implementation grants will help execute strategies or projects consistent with an existing action plan. To apply for an implementation grant, an eligible applicant must have a qualifying action plan. Applicants for implementation grants can self-certify that they have one or more plans that meet the eligibility requirements for an action plan.

Eligible applicants include (among others) metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), counties, and cities. The deadline for grant submissions is September 15, 2022. Metro COG is asking if the TTC wishes to recommend Policy Board support for Metro COG to apply for an SS4A grant to complete a safety action plan.

Motion: Consider a recommendation of support for Metro COG to pursue a grant for completion of a Safety Action Plan under the SS4A program.

Mr. Gorden moved, seconded by Ms. Bommelman

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

10. TMA Transition Update – Policy Board Bylaws

Ms. Gray stated that Metro COG's transition to a TMA in 2023 would necessitate a change in the make-up of our Policy Board.

Federal guidance on the public transit provider representative states that one individual must be designated as a Policy Board member representing transit only, and that this individual may not also serve in another role on the Policy Board. For example, a City Commissioner from Fargo who is already on the Policy Board may not serve as the representative of public transit providers. A separate representative must be designated. One designated person may serve as the representative for all public transit providers in the metro area.

NDDOT and MnDOT representatives are currently ex-officio members. As a TMA, a voting member may be required from each state. Based on a review of the Policy Board membership of other TMA MPOs, this is unclear, as most show their DOT members as non-voting.

Major modes of transportation in addition to public transit are also required to be represented on the Policy Board, and some TMA MPOs include a representative of their major commercial airport. This seems unclear, and Metro COG will be asking for further guidance from FHWA. It may come down to a decision from our Policy Board. Further information will be provided.

11. Solicitation of Freight Representative for Transportation Technical Committee

Ms. Gray said that the TTC bylaws call for a freight representative on the TTC. In the recent past, Mark Wolter was our freight representative. Since Mark's retirement earlier this year, Metro COG has not had a freight representative, and began the solicitation process in late June.

Metro COG posted a notice in the Fargo Forum, and on the agency website, with an application and due date of July 31, 2022.

Ms. Gray asked the TTC to share the information.

12. Additional Business

Fargo – 32nd Ave S Construction awarded bid, should start next spring. 52nd Ave S design is slated for completion and bid opening in November 2022. Public Input opportunity soon for 2nd Ave Pedestrian bridge. Planning Commission recently heard brief updates of current Metro COG studies.

Moorhead – 20th Street Completion party Monday 6/18, open for driving on Friday 6/22. 12th Ave S RR crossing project starting soon. Center Ave project continues, 4th St intersection open soon.

Dilworth – First Hwy10 Corridor Study public input open house occurred recently, and SRTS kick-off meeting with Metro COG.

Horace – Public Comment period for Land Use Plan update, based on Comp Plan update. Subdivision projects continue.

Cass County – Subdivision land use updates. Construction updates.

NDDOT – FHWA reached out to census for 2020 update, final numbers may be released early FY2023. NDDOT asking legal in regards to partial apportionment.

Transit – LinkFM running for Street Fair.

13. Adjourn

The 531 Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on July 14, 2022 at 11:45 a.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD August 11, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant