

111th Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
July 15th, 2020 – 3:00pm
Virtual Meeting / Metro COG Conference Room

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Bob Walton, NDDOT
Patrick Hollister, PartnerSHIP 4 Health
Maegin Elshaug, City of Fargo Planning
Jeremy Gorden, City of Fargo Engineering
Chris Garty, Citizen Representative
Peyton Mastera, City of Dilworth
Malachi Petersen, City of West Fargo Planning (proxy for Tim Solberg)
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering
Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health
Joe Anderson, Fargo Police Department
Grace Puppe, Cass County Planning
Kim Citrowske, City of Moorhead Planning
Barret Voigt, City of Horace
Matthew Jacobson, Clay County Planning
Christine Holland, Riverkeepers

Others Present:

Cindy Gray, Metro COG
Luke Champa, Metro COG
John Struchynski, Citizen
James Burg, Citizen
Kevin Zavoral, Citizen

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:00 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approve minutes from October 16th, 2019 meeting

Since a quorum was not present at the December 11th meeting, the October 16th minutes were brought forward to the Committee at this meeting for approval. A motion to approve the October 16th minutes was made by B. Walton and seconded by M. Petersen. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

3. Approve minutes from December 11th, 2019 meeting

A motion to approve the December 11th minutes was made by P. Mastera and seconded by M. Elshaug. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

4. Public input opportunity

No public comments were made during this opportunity.

5. FM Greenway Recreation Master Plan

L. Champa provided the Committee with a presentation on the FM Greenway Recreation Master Plan.

The FM Greenway Recreation Master Plan is a plan being developed by Metro COG in conjunction with a consulting firm to identify recreation opportunities and a framework to achieve such opportunities along the FM Area Diversion Project. The presentation included maps, timelines, and other information pertinent to the study. In addition, the Committee was encouraged to fill out a public survey which is open until July 17th.

B. Walton asked if existing railroad lines were considered and if discussions had occurred with the railroads as part of this study. L. Champa and C. Gray believe these lines were considered as part of the study, however direct conversations were not had with the railroad companies as part of this study. Rather the FM Area Diversion Project has been in correspondence with the railroad companies.

C. Garty believes this would be a great asset to the FM Area, particularly for the bicycling community. Bicyclists are often looking for long continuous routes with little vehicular traffic so they can ride longer distances safely. Garty pointed to rural roads that cyclists use today, one of which involved a fatal accident with a bicyclist north of Fargo.

6. North Dakota Active Transportation Summit

D. Farnsworth mentioned that the first annual ND Active Transportation Summit will be held from 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm on July 23rd. This event will be held virtually and is organized by the North Dakota Active Transportation Alliance in partnership with other partners. This event will bring together walkers, runners, bicycle riders, advocates, and agencies from across the state of ND to discuss active transportation and make connections amongst the various interested parties.

A flyer of the event was provided in the meeting's agenda packet.

7. 2020 Bicycle & Pedestrian Count Report

D. Farnsworth showed the Committee Metro COG's draft 2020 Bicycle & Pedestrian Count Report. In 2013 Metro COG stated an annual program consistently counting bicycle and pedestrian traffic in the area. In 2014 Metro COG also deployed five automated

bicycle/pedestrian counters in the area. This report shows all Metro COG's bicycle/pedestrian count data since 2013.

Farnsworth went through the report with the Committee showing the Committee various data and trends. A few questions and errors were found when reviewing the report. These included:

- What does the 'Average' column refer to in the table in the Automated Counter section?
 - Metro COG will look into this and clarify in the report
- MnDOT has an automated counter on the trail along 8th St at the I-94 interchange. Is data available from this counter?
 - Metro COG believes data is available from this counter and will include the data in the report

Metro COG hopes to bring this report with the above revisions to the TTC and Policy Board in August.

8. Changes in bike/ped activity due to COVID

D. Farnsworth provided the group with bicycle / pedestrian activity data from Metro COG's automated bicycle & pedestrian counters. Farnsworth wanted to show the Committee the change in bicycle & pedestrian activity as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

When looking at the data, it can be seen that bicycle/pedestrian activity was significantly less than normal at the counter along Broadway in downtown Fargo beginning in March 2020. Meanwhile bicycle/pedestrian activity was considerably higher along the Milwaukee Trail in Fargo and along the Eagle Run trail in West Fargo during that same time.

The counter at the Lindenwood/Gooseberry Park Bridge was significantly lower in June 2020 as compared to previous years. Metro COG is unsure why this location is showing such low numbers. Metro COG will look further into this and see if there could be any equipment issues at this location.

It was noted that the percentages comparing the average year to 2020 in the memo were incorrect. Metro COG will look into this and revise.

9. Results of Transportation Alternatives applications

In December, the Transportation Alternatives applications were brought forward to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee for review, scoring, and ranking. Metro COG recently received notice of the awarded and non-awarded projects. Below are the results of the projects submitted within Metro COG's planning area:

- West Fargo – Drain 45 Shared Use Path Phase 2
 - Awarded full request of \$290,000

- Horace / Cass County – CR 17 Shared Use Path
 - Awarded full request of \$186,260
- Fargo – Deer Creek / Drain 27 Shared Use Path
 - Not awarded. Requested \$290,000
- Moorhead – 60th Ave S Bridge Bicycle & Pedestrian Crossing
 - Not awarded. Requested \$288,000

10. Other business

D. Farnsworth mentioned that the Fargo Moorhead Bike Map App, which was launched in spring of 2019, is currently being updated to show the latest trails. Metro COG currently has an intern gathering locations of all the new bikeways (and sidewalks). Once all new bikeways have been located, Metro COG will work with the app developer in including these into a revised app. In addition, Metro COG is making other improvements to the app.

B. Walton brought up the status of the roadway reconstruction project planned on N. University Dr. (Fargo) between 32nd Ave N and 40th Ave N. It was mentioned that while it's been planned for years to have a shared use path on the west side of the roadway, the FAA is opposed to a path at this location as it is located under the flightpath of one of the runways. It will even be a challenge to have a path on the east side of the roadway due to FAA restrictions. So the City of Fargo will work as best they can to have a path along the roadway corridor, however the path may need to be as far east as 10th St due to stringent FAA restrictions.

It was also mentioned that 19th Ave N (Fargo) just south of the airport is slated for reconstruction in the next few years. It is anticipated that there will be pushback from the FAA to keep the path on the north side of the roadway as this is also under the flightpath of another runway.

C. Garty notified the Committee that additional mountain bike trail has been added to Iwen Park in south Fargo. Roughly two miles of trail have been in place at Iwen Park for the past few years, now the FM Trailbuilders have added an additional two miles of trail from Iwen Park to the Lions Conservancy. This equates to roughly four miles of continuous mountain bike trail at that location.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 pm.