

Agenda Item 1c, Attachment 1

**583rd Policy Board Meeting
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
TUESDAY, November 17, 2020 – 4:00 pm
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Duane	Breitling	Cass County Commission
David	Fenelon	Horace City Council
John	Gunkelman	Fargo Planning Commission
Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council
Steve	Jesme	Dilworth City Council
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission
Brad	Olson	West Fargo City Commission
Dave	Piepkorn	Fargo City Commission
Arlette	Preston	Fargo City Commission
Rocky	Schneider	Fargo Planning Commission
Scott	Stofferahn	Fargo Planning Commission (alternate for John Strand)
Sara	Watson Curry	Moorhead City Council

Members Absent:

Tony	Gehrig	Fargo City Commission
Amanda	George	West Fargo City Commission
Johnathan	Judd	Moorhead City Council
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission (alternate present)
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Mike	Bittner	KLJ
Baird	Bream	Cambridge Systematics/NDDOT
Luke	Champa	Metro COG
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Wade	Kline	KLJ
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Stewart	Milakovic	NDDOT
Bob	Walton	NDDOT – Fargo District

- 1a. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS, convened**
The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, on November 17, 2020 by Chair Olson, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.
- 1b. Approve Order and Contents of Overall Agenda, approved**
Chair Olson asked for approval for the overall agenda.

MOTION: Approve the contents of the Overall Agenda of the November 17 2020 Policy Board Meeting.

Mr. Jesme moved, seconded by Mr. Fenelon

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

1c. Past Meeting Minutes, approved

Chair Olson asked for approval of the Minutes of the October 15, 2020 Meeting.

MOTION: Approve the October 15, 2020 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Stofferahn moved, seconded by Ms. Preston

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

1d. Monthly Bills, approved

Chair Olson asked for approval of the November 2020 Bills as listed on Attachment 1d.

MOTION: Approve the November 2020 Bills List.

Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Mr. Breitling

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Olson asked for approval of Items a-d on the Consent Agenda.

- a. October Month End Report
- b. Section 5339(b) Transit Grant Application
- c. Cass Clay Food Partners Agreement for Services 2021
- d. MnDOT State Planning Grant 2021

MOTION: Approve Items a-d on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Breitling moved, seconded by Mr. Gunkelman

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3. REGULAR AGENDA

3a. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

No MOTION

3b. MATBUS Transit Authority Study

Mr. Maddox presented the final report for the Transit Authority Study. The goal of the MATBUS Transit Authority Study was to streamline the MATBUS governance structure, clarify the decision-making process, and identify local funding sources that could possibly fill future funding gaps.

The Study found both a short and long-term recommendation that address the governance structure, identify funding gaps and funding mechanisms that could be employed to fill such gaps, and guidelines for the implementation of the recommendations which include a rudimentary legal analysis. The governance recommendations included the following: Short-Term – Creation of a Transit Director position within Metro COG that would implement the recommendations of the study. This person would be an advocate for the regional transit system with the direct task of working with the jurisdictions to coordinate and deliver transit service on a regional scale; Long-Term – Creation of a “transit authority” only on North Dakota side of our region. This would be a new political subdivision that could either be attached to Metro COG or a stand-alone organization with the power to levy taxes to support transit operations; and, the Ultimate Goal – Creation of a bistate transit authority with coverage in both the Minnesota and North Dakota portions of our region.

The interim recommendation does not address the funding issue, but rather is meant as a stepping stone to start implementing the recommendations of the study given their complicated nature. It is likely to take years of negotiation, drafting of legal documents, formation of an organization, and ultimately legislative action to move forward with the other recommendations, which also address the funding issue. The interim recommendation is geared toward finding a person who can move the process forward in the coming years. However, even the interim recommendation will require cooperation and effort to draft the necessary agreements to fund and institute a Transit Director position at Metro COG. After adoption of the Study – starting in 2021 - Metro COG, MATBUS, and city administration from Fargo and Moorhead will need to work together to prepare a specific strategy to implement the interim recommendation.

Mr. Olson asked what the next steps would be after this study is approved. Mr. Maddox said there would need to be work done with both jurisdictions and the creation of a director under Metro COG's agency. Mr. Olson also asked if there was a timeline or goal timeline for the creation of that interim director. Mr. Maddox said there is no timeline, as there is much work to do before starting the process.

Ms. Watson Curry asked if there are any plans of presentations to legislatures so they will know when to expect it ahead of the legislative process. Mr. Maddox said that it is not planned yet, but anticipates this happening with Director.

MOTION: Approve the MATBUS Transit Authority Study

Mr. Jesme moved, seconded by Ms. Mongeau.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3c. 76th Avenue South Corridor Study

Mr. Maddox presented the 76th Avenue Corridor Study final report. The study focuses on identifying contextual options and roadway alternatives that can be used in future decision-making on the functionality and purpose of the corridor.

Two alternatives are included, one looking at an option that focuses primarily on mobility, and the other, a more traditional context that focuses more heavily on access to adjacent land uses. The timeline for future visioning of this corridor is well beyond the traditional 25 year planning horizon.

MOTION: Approve the 76th Avenue South Corridor Study
Mr. Breitling moved, seconded by Mr. Jesme.
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

***Ms. Mongeau left the meeting at 4:50pm**

3d. Northwest Metro Transportation Plan

Ms. Gray introduced Mr. Bittner and Mr. Kline from KLJ, who presented the final report for the Northwest Metro Transportation Plan. The plan seeks to provide a long-range blueprint for future expansion needs within the northwestern growth area of the FM metro. Recommended transportation needs identified included future street capacity, traffic controls, multimodal facilities, as well as high-level planning estimates for infrastructure costs associated with future transportation facilities.

MOTION: Approve the Northwest Metro Transportation Plan, pending final approval by the Fargo City Commission and the West Fargo City Commission
Mr. Fenelon moved, seconded by Mr. Piepkorn
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3e. Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance

Ms. Gray presented the BCBSND Health, Dental, and Vision insurance for 2021. She noted that there was no major increase in rates, but had budgeted for an increase for 2021.

Ms. Watson Curry praised Ms. Gray for being very compassionate for Metro COG staff and making the effort to keep rates competitive.

MOTION: Authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreement with BCBSND for the health, dental, and vision insurance plans discussed.
Ms. Watson Curry moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3f. Minnesota Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan PAC

Ms. Gray said that MnDOT is in the early stages of preparing the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP). The plan will set policy and priorities for transportation in Minnesota. A separate committee that addresses equity in transportation as well as two technical committees are also being formed.

A policy-level representative from Greater Minnesota MPOs has been requested by MnDOT staff. Ideally, this individual would be an elected official, but MnDOT understands that this could also consist of an agency director. Seeing as how

our region is one of the farthest from the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Ms. Gray volunteered Metro COG to represent Greater Minnesota MPOs on the Policy Committee, but asked the board if any members would be interested in serving that position.

Ms. Watson Curry and Mr. Jesme requested memos to present to their respective councils.

3g. December Policy Board Meeting Date

Ms. Gray said that the December FM Diversion Authority meeting was rescheduled for the same time as the December Policy Board meeting. Mr. Olson said that this Tuesday rescheduling for the November meeting on Tuesday of the same week worked well, and suggested the same for December.

4. Additional Business

Clay County Grant Request for Highway Improvement Plan – Metro COG was asked to write a letter of recommendation for an HSIP Grant for a dangerous intersection in Clay County. Mr. Hendrickson reiterated that the intersection is very dangerous.

NDDOT/Cambridge Systematics presented an update to the Transportation Connection, NDDOT's statewide transportation plan. Specifically, an interactive funding performance tool, and asked board members to share it.

5. Adjourn

**MOTION: Adjourn the 583rd Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board
Mr. Breitling moved, seconded by Mr. Gunkelman
MOTION, passed.
Motion carried unanimously.**

The 583rd Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Tuesday, November 17, 2020 was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020, 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant