

To: Cognizant Agencies
From: Luke Champa, Metro COG
Date: March 23, 2021
Re: **Amendment #3 to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area**

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) held a virtual public hearing via Zoom Video Communications on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. to consider public comments regarding a proposed Amendment #3 to the 2021-2024 TIP. The public comment period officially ended at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, March 18, 2021, prior to Policy Board action on the Amendment #3. Amendment #3 to the 2021-2024 TIP is listed on the subsequent pages of this letter and detailed in Attachment 1.

The proposed amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP reflects additional and updated federally funded projects within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), the addition of lump sum project phases, and minor changes to language found within the TIP document text.

An official public notice was published in the Forum of Fargo-Moorhead on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 advertising the public hearing and opening the public comment period. Public engagement processes for the proposed 2021-2024 TIP amendment were pursuant to the adopted Metro COG Public Participation Plan (PPP). Public comment was accepted by Metro COG until 12:00 p.m. (noon) March 18, 2021, providing a 15-day comment period. No public comments were received by Metro COG neither verbally during the public hearing nor by written statement.

The Transportation Technical Committee recommended and the Policy Board approved the attached amendments at the regularly scheduled March 18, 2021 meeting. The updated TIP project sheet reflecting the amendment and scanned public notice are also attached.

Regards,



Luke Champa
Assistant Transportation Planner

Attachments: (1) 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #3 Project Sheet
(2) Official Public Notice Scan

1. **Addition of Project 8213004:** West Central Communities Action, Inc. project for mobility management (2021). The total project cost is \$56,700 of which \$45,360 (80%) is funded through Federal Section 5310, \$5,670 (10%) through State funds, and \$5,670 (10%) through local funds.
2. **Addition of Project 4213005:** Fargo Transit project for phase 2 of the Ground Transportation Center (GTC) renovation, renovation of the building exterior (2021). The total project cost is \$2,148,024 of which \$1,798,024 (83.7%) is funded through Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding apportioned to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for urban areas, \$280,000 (13%) through Federal Section 5339 funds, and \$70,000 (3.3%) through local funds.
3. **Modification of Project 4190003:** City of Fargo project for the reconstruction of 32nd Ave S (2021). The total project cost remains \$10,400,000 of which the Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Urban (STBGP-U) funds remain \$4,700,000 (45.2%), the addition of \$808,620 in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funds apportioned to the State of North Dakota and distributed through the County and Urban Roads programs, and local funds decreased 14.2% from \$5,700,000 to \$4,891,380.
4. **Addition of Lump Sum Projects:** Lump sums are being included for fiscal year 2021 for three phases: Preliminary Engineering (PE) (project 9213006), Right-of-Way (ROW) (project 9213007), and Utilities (project 9213008). Lump sums are shown for all North Dakota projects in the MPO boundaries that have not had the project phase already authorized. Some projects may not be in a bid opening until 2024 but phases of project authorizations could be made in 2021. Lump sums include various projects which encompass various federal funding programs and various local funding sources.

PE lump sum total cost is \$2,402,000 of which \$1,943,000 is funded through Federal funds, \$227,000 through State funds, and \$232,000 through local funds.

ROW lump sum total cost is \$4,000 of which \$3,000 is funded through Federal funds, and \$1,000 through State funds.

Utilities lump sum total cost is \$4,000 of which \$3,000 is funded through Federal funds and \$1,000 through State funds.

5. **Text modifications (pages 10-11 and 26-27):** In coordination with NDDOT, Metro COG is proposing a revision to the Regionally Significant Project definition within the TIP document. The goal of this change is to refine the definition so as to limit the number of projects that will be defined as Regionally Significant moving forward. Unforeseen repercussions of defining projects as regionally significant has been felt in the federal funding authorization process. The new direction will require that Regionally Significant projects and individual regionally significant project phases be tracked more thoroughly (separately), something that Metro COG, the other MPOs in North Dakota, and NDDOT were not doing up to this point. The new definition of Regionally Significant Projects will help smooth out the federal funding authorization process for projects within the TIP/STIP and continue to improve coordination

efforts between Metro COG, NDDOT, and FHWA-ND. Please see below for the tracked changes to the Regionally Significant Projects text as found within the TIP:

Pages 10-11

“Regionally Significant Project: A Regionally Significant Project (RSP) is defined as follows:

1. A highway project consisting of the construction of a new interstate interchange, adding interstate through-lane capacity; or
2. Creating new roadways on new right-of-way, both financed with federal funds, which do not consist of an extension of the existing urban roadway network resulting from urban expansion; or
3. Creating a new transit building on newly purchased real estate.

~~Regionally Significant (RS) projects are projects that may not be funded with federal transportation funds, but involve major improvements to the transportation system in the Metro COG MPA. Metro COG may define regionally significant projects as one of three types:~~

- ~~1. Projects requiring an action by FHWA or the FTA, whether or not the projects are to be funded under Title 23 USC or Title 49 USC;~~
- ~~2. Projects funded by other federal agencies and not requiring action by FHWA or FTA; and~~
- ~~3. Projects that are not federally funded.”~~

Pages 26-27

“Regionally Significant Projects

~~Regionally significant (RS) projects are projects that may not be funded with federal transportation funds, but involve major improvements to the transportation system in the Metro COG MPA. Metro COG may define regionally significant projects as one of three types:~~

- ~~1. Projects requiring an action by FHWA or the FTA, whether or not the projects are to be funded under Title 23 USC or Title 49 USC;~~
- ~~2. Projects funded by other federal agencies and not requiring action by FHWA or FTA; and~~
- ~~3. Projects that are not federally funded.~~

A Regionally Significant Project (RSP) is defined as follows:

1. A highway project consisting of the construction of a new interstate interchange, adding interstate through-lane capacity; or
2. Creating new roadways on new right-of-way, both financed with federal funds, which do not consist of an extension of the existing urban roadway network resulting from urban expansion; or
3. Creating a new transit building on newly purchased real estate.

For Type 1 projects, typical TIP procedures apply and projects will be reported for all years of the TIP. Type 2 and 3 projects are listed for informational purposes only; however, are subject to the financial constraint of the overall TIP. In determining which Type 2 or 3 projects to include in the TIP, Metro COG staff, in consultation with state and local technical staff may consider the following criteria:

- ~~Any project that may be determined to cause a significant lasting (greater than one construction season) impact to a facility that carries a Federal Functional Classification (FFC) of Principal Arterial, Minor Arterial, or Collector that is included as part of Metro COG's approved Travel Demand Model (TDM); or~~
- ~~Any project that makes significant progress toward the goals and objectives as outlined within the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) including but not limited to, performance measures, congestion management, MTP policy direction, safety, or environmental justice.~~

All projects identified as RSPs projects appear within the project listings of the TIP document, and are denoted accordingly as being "RSP." RSPs projects have been identified ~~in local Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) as having an impact to a federal functional classified roadway~~ within the MPA as defined above. In addition, RSPs shall have all project phases broken out by fiscal year and may not be included in the Lump Sum project tables. RSPs also ~~Careful consideration shall be taken when designating RS projects, because they need to be included in the financial plan and fiscal constraint section of the TIP, as well as included in~~ the STIP, and are subject to formal TIP and/STIP modification procedures at the Metro COG and State level, respectively."

Lead Agency	Metro COG ID State Number	Project Year	Project Location	Length	Project Limits		Project Description	Improvement Type	Total Project Cost	Federal Revenue Source	Other Revenue Source	Revenue
					From	To						
Amendment 3												
West Central Communities Action, Inc.												
West Central Communities Action, Inc.	8213004 TRF-4003-21A	2021	Transit				Section 5310: West Central Minnesota Communities Action Inc. Mobility Management 7/1/21 thru 6/30/23	Operating Assistance	\$ 56,700	FTA 5310	State Local	\$ 45,360 \$ 5,670 \$ 5,670
Moorhead Transit												
Fargo Transit												
Fargo Transit	4213005	2021	Transit				Phase 2 Ground Transportation Center (GTC)Renovation Building Exterior Renovation	Transit Capital	\$ 2,148,024	CARES FTA 5339	Local	\$ 1,798,024 \$ 280,000 \$ 70,000
City of Fargo												
City of Fargo	4190003 22826 8206	2022	32nd Ave S		32nd St	25th St	Reconstruction of 32nd Ave S	Reconstruction	\$ 10,400,000	STBGP-U CRRSAA	Local	\$ 4,700,000 \$ 808,620 \$ 5,700,000 \$ 4,891,380
City of Moorhead												
City of West Fargo												
North Dakota Department of Transportation												
Minnesota Department of Transportation												
Clay County												

Lump Sums						
Metro COG ID	Project Phase	Phase Year	Total Phase Cost	Federal Share	State Share	Local Share
2021						
9213006	Preliminary Engineering (PE)	2021	\$ 2,402,000	\$ 1,943,000	\$ 227,000	\$ 232,000
9213007	Right-of-Way (ROW)	2021	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -
9213008	Utilities	2021	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -

*Lump sums shown are for all North Dakota projects in the MPO boundaries that have not had the project phase already authorized. Some projects may not be in a bid opening until 2024 but phases of project authorizations could be made in 2021. Lump sums are rounded up to the nearest \$1,000.

Public Hearing Notice: Amendment to the Metro COG 2021-2024 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Notice is hereby given that the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) has opened a public comment period and will hold a virtual public hearing via **Zoom Video Communications on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.** to consider public comments regarding proposed amendments to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the FM Metropolitan Area. To register for the Zoom meeting or for alternative participation options (phone, in-person, etc.), please visit www.fmmetrocog.org/TIP. The Metro COG TIP is the listing of significant surface transportation improvements scheduled for implementation over the next four years. Metro COG develops and maintains the TIP in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), county and municipal jurisdictions, and Metro Area Transit (MATBUS) of Fargo-Moorhead.

All comments received will be deliberated by the Metro COG Policy Board prior to consideration of the proposed TIP amendment. Metro COG is amending the 2021-2024 TIP in order to reflect recently updated and new projects. Please contact Metro COG if more specific information is required prior to the public hearing.

The public is invited to participate in this public hearing on **March 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**, or written comments may be submitted to Metro COG no later than 12:00 noon, March 18, 2021; at **Case Plaza, Suite 232, One Second Street North, Fargo, ND 58102**. Contact Luke Champa, Assistant Transportation Planner at (701) 532-5107 (email: champa@fmmetrocog.org) if additional information is required.

Metro COG is committed to ensuring all individuals regardless of race, color, gender, age, national origin, disability/handicap, sexual orientation, or income status have access to Metro COG's programs and services. Alternative participation options will be accommodated upon request.

Metro COG will make a good faith effort to accommodate requests for translation services for meeting proceedings and related materials. Please contact Savanna Leach, Metro COG Office Manager, at (701) 532-5101 at least five days in advance of the March 18, 2021 meeting if any special accommodations are required for any member of the public to be able to participate in the meeting.

(Mar. 3, 2021)

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