

**516th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Robin	Huston	City of Moorhead Planning
Matthew	Jacobson	Clay County Planning
Kim	Lipetsky	Fargo Cass Public Health
Peyton	Mastera	City of Dilworth Administration
Aaron	Nelson	Fargo City Planning
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Russ	Sahr	City of Horace Planning
Jordan	Smith	MATBUS (alternate for Lori Van Beek)
Tim	Solberg	City of West Fargo Planning
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager
Mark	Wolter	Freight Representative, Midnite Express
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division

Members Absent:

Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering
Jaclynn	Maahs	Concordia College
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Angela	Bolstad	Stantec
Luke	Champa	Metro COG
James	Dahlman	Interstate Engineering / City of Horace
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Evan	Enarson-Hering	NDDOT / Cambridge Systematics
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Matthew	Huettl	HDR, Inc
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Stewart	Milakovic	NDDOT
Kristen	Sperry	FHWA
Steven	Strack	Houston Engineering
David	Sweeny	SRF
Kyle	Weiler	HDR, Inc

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on March 11, 2021 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 516th TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the 516th TTC Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Approve the 516th TTC Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Sahr moved, seconded by Ms. Bommelman

MOTION, PASSED.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVE February 11, 2021 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the February 11, 2021 TTC Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Zacher stated that in the minutes, he is seeing reference to NDDOT's PM 1&2 adoption, and MnDOT's PM3 adoption, but he has questions about how this is described because it is inconsistent with the resolutions he received. Mr. Del Rosario said that after the TTC meeting, there was a change in the safety targets that was identified by MnDOT. Based on the new information, there was a slight change in the recommended targets prior to the Policy Board meeting. Both NDDOT and MnDOT's safety targets were consistent, based on the new information, and since they were consistent, Metro COG recommended that both DOTs Performance Measures and Safety Targets be adopted for the respective parts of the metro area. Chair Gray stated that the minutes would be reviewed and clarified if necessary, and that a notation will be added to reflect the update that occurred between TTC and Policy Board for the future reference of anyone researching PMs.

Motion: Approve the February 11, 2021 TTC Minutes, revised as discussed.

Mr. Sahr moved, seconded by Ms. Safgren

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

5. 2021 FM Area-Wide Traffic Counts Consultant Selection

Mr. Farnsworth presented GHA as the highest-ranked consultant for the 2021 FM Area-Wide Traffic Counts. The sealed cost proposal came in under the budgeted amount of \$130,000. Three proposals total were received and each of the teams was interviewed.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of Metro COG entering into a contract with GHA for the 2021 Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area-Wide Traffic Counts

Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Mr. Gorden
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.

6. Fargo-Moorhead Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update RFP

Mr. Farnsworth presented the Fargo-Moorhead Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update Request for Proposals (RFP). The Bike & Ped Plan is updated every five years, the last plan was completed in-house by Metro COG staff. The budget for this project is \$170,000.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update RFP

Mr. Solberg moved, seconded by Ms. Lipetzky
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.

***Mr. Mastera joined the meeting at 10:29 a.m.**

***Mr. Solberg left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.**

7. 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #3

Mr. Champa presented Amendment #3 to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A public notice was published in the Forum of Fargo-Moorhead on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, advertising the public hearing. The public notice advertised that public comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, March 18, 2021. No written comments have been received.

The proposed amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP is as follows:

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%) if 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%) if 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. Mr. Champa directed the TTC members to the memo in the packet and the power point slide where the proposed changes are shown through the use of track changes to show the changes to the Regionally Significant Projects definition as found within the TIP. The proposed language, as shown below, was reviewed with the TTC.

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.”

Pages 26-27 “Regionally Significant Projects: 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.

Mr. Champa explained that all projects identified as RSPs will appear within the project listings of the TIP document, and are denoted accordingly as being “RSP”. RSPs have been identified within the MPA as defined above. He added that RSPs shall have all project phases broken out by fiscal year and may not be included in the Lump Sum project tables. RSPs also need to be included in the financial plan and fiscal constraint section of the TIP, included in the STIP, and are subject to formal TIP and STIP modification procedures at the Metro COG and State level, respectively.

Mr. Zacher said that the “lump sum” table is considered an intermediate step, and in the future, the individual breakdowns will need to be shown in the years programmed.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of Metro COG 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #3

Ms. Huston moved, seconded by Mr. Gorden

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Federal Functional Classification Update

Mr. Maddox presented an update on the Federal Functional Classification Update. The last functional classification update was completed in 2007, and was due for an update. An update including updated roads and boundaries was submitted to NDDOT several times over the past year and a half or so for review, but has not yet been approved.

9. Surface Transportation Bill Letter of Support to Senator Cramer

Chair Gray received an email from Senator Cramer’s office, forwarded from both Mr. Solberg and Mr. Raso in regards to the upcoming Surface Transportation Bill update. Mr. Cramer’s aides were requesting input on infrastructure priorities with respect to the passing of the new infrastructure surface transportation bill, as Mr. Cramer is the ranking member on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Environment and Public Works. Chair Gray met with the Executive Committee to discuss the content of Metro COG’s input in the form of a letter. Most of the input Metro COG provided two years ago is still valid. Ms.

Gray reviewed the main points of that input as well as a couple of additional points that would be added to the letter.

10. Agency Updates

West Fargo: Sheyenne Street public input meeting on Monday. Tim Solberg is also the new City of West Fargo assistant administrator, and that the Planning Director position is open and advertised until next Friday.

Fargo: 64th Ave S project starting up, University Drive starting soon. 2nd Street Pedestrian Bridge project awarded \$2.4M from the Urban Grant Program. GTC exterior bidding.

Moorhead: Underpass updates. Comp Plan underway. Potential pedestrian island on 4th Avenue/8th Street south.

Dilworth: no updates

Horace: no updates

Cass County: no updates

Clay County: Clay County Comp Plan update.

NDDOT: Diversion Authority/Corps of Engineers opening bids.

MnDOT: Safe Routes to School Program demonstration projects opening up for application

11. NDDOT Transportation Connection

Mr. Milakovic and Mr. Enarson-Hering provided an update on the NDDOT Transportation Connection. The final draft document is available for review and comment.

12. Additional Business

No additional business.

13. Adjourn

The 516th Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on March 11, 2021 at 11:22 a.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD April 8, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant