

# Agenda Item 1c, Attachment 1

**587th Policy Board Meeting  
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments  
Thursday, March 18, 2021 – 4:00 pm  
Zoom Web Conference**

**Members Present:**

Amanda	George	West Fargo City Commission
Matthew	Gilbertson	Moorhead City Council
John	Gunkelman	Fargo Planning Commission
Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council
Jim	Kapitan	Cass County Commission
Steve	Lindaas	Moorhead City Council
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission
Julie	Nash	Dilworth City Council
Brad	Olson	West Fargo City Commission
Dave	Piepkorn	Fargo City Commission
Arlette	Preston	Fargo City Commission
Rocky	Schneider	Fargo Planning Commission
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission

**Members Absent:**

Tony	Gehrig	Fargo City Commission
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission

**Others Present:**

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Baird	Bream	NDDOT/Cambridge Systematics
Luke	Champa	Metro COG
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
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 March 18, 2021 by Vice Chair Nash, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

**1b. Election of Metro COG Policy Board Officers**

Ms. Gray explained that with the recall of Chair Dave Fenelon, his last Metro COG role was to chair the Executive Committee meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. He informed Metro COG at that time, that he would no longer be able to serve in his role, and that the City of Horace would be working on various committee assignments given the new make-up of the City Council. Metro COG recommends that we move forward with the order of Chair and Vice Chair roles as identified in the in the Policy Board Chair and Vice Chair Rotation Schedule in our Policy Board Bylaws. The rotation documented in Metro COG's organizational documents identifies a City of Dilworth representative as being the Chair and a City of Fargo representative as being the next Vice Chair. This would result in the election of Vice Chair Julie Nash (Dilworth) to Policy Board Chair, and Dave Piepkorn (Fargo) to Vice Chair. This change also results in the addition of those officers to signatory powers to Metro COG's financial accounts.

**MOTION: Elect Vice Chair Julie Nash to Chair, and Dave Piepkorn to Vice Chair of the Policy Board.**

**Mr. Kapitan moved, seconded by Mr. Olson**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**1c. Approve Order and Contents of Overall Agenda, approved**

Chair Nash asked for approval for the overall agenda.

**MOTION: Approve the contents of the Overall Agenda of the March 18, 2021 Policy Board Meeting.**

**Mr. Strand moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**1d. Past Meeting Minutes, approved**

Chair Nash asked for approval of the Minutes of the February 18, 2021 Meeting. Mr. Olson noted that Agenda Item 1b denotes Mr. Olson as chair, where it should say Chair Fenelon. Ms. Leach said she will make the revision.

**MOTION: Approve the February 18, 2021 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.**

**Mr. Kapitan moved, seconded by Mr. Lindaas**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**1e. Monthly Bills, approved**

Chair Nash asked for approval of the March 2021 Bills as listed on Attachment 1d.

**MOTION: Approve the March 2021 Bills List.**

**Mr. Kapitan moved, seconded by Mr. Schneider**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Nash asked for approval of Item a on the Consent Agenda.

- a. February Month End Report

**MOTION: Approve Item a on the Consent Agenda.  
Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson  
MOTION, passed  
Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. REGULAR AGENDA**

**3a. Public Comment Opportunity**

No public comments were made or received.

**3b. 2021 FM Area-Wide Traffic Counts Consultant Selection**

Mr. Farnsworth presented GHA as the highest-ranked consulting firm 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 all three teams were interviewed.

**MOTION: Approval of the selection of GHA as the consultant for the 2021 Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area-Wide Traffic Counts and authorization of the Executive Director to enter into contract with GHA after negotiations.  
Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Ms. Mongeau.  
MOTION, passed  
Motion carried unanimously.**

**3c. Fargo-Moorhead Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update Request for Proposals**

Mr. Farnsworth presented the request for proposals (RFP) for the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update. 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: Approval of the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update RFP.  
Ms. Preston moved, seconded by Mr. Lindaas.  
MOTION, passed  
Motion carried unanimously.**

**3d. 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (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. 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."

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.

All projects identified as RSPs 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. 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 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."

The public hearing was opened. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

**MOTION: Approve Amendment #3 to the Metro COG 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

**Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Ms. Mongeau**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### **3e. Response to Senator Cramer – Input on Surface Transportation Bill**

Ms. Gray said that this letter was discussed at the March Executive Committee. Metro COG's input from two years ago was reviewed, and additional input was discussed. A letter to Cramer's legislative aide was sent by the requested date of

Monday, March 15, 2021. Ms. Gray reviewed the main points of our input with the Policy Board.

**3f. NDDOT Transportation Connection Update**

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

**4. Additional Business**

No additional business

**5. Adjourn**

The 587th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, March 18, 2021 was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

**THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD April 15, 2021, 4:00 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach  
Executive Assistant