

# Agenda Item 1d, Attachment 1

**595th Policy Board Meeting  
 Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments  
 Thursday, November 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
Steve	Lindaas	Moorhead City Council
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission
Julie	Nash	Dilworth City Council
Dave	Piepkorn	Fargo City Commission
Arlette	Preston	Fargo City Commission
Rocky	Schneider	Fargo Planning Commission
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission
Jeff	Trudeau	Horace City Council

**Members Absent:**

Tony	Gehrig	Fargo City Commission
Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council
Jim	Kapitan	Cass County Commission
Brad	Olson	West Fargo City Commission
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission

**Others Present:**

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Brenda	Andrews	City of Barnesville
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
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 18, 2021 by Chair Nash, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

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

Chair Nash asked for approval for the overall agenda. Ms. Gray asked that an additional agenda item, consisting of a Minnesota Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) application, be added to the Regular Agenda, just after the Public Comment Opportunity.

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

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

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Chair Nash asked for approval of the Minutes of the October 21, 2021 Meeting.

**MOTION: Approve the October 21, 2021 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.**

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

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**1d. Monthly Bills, approved**

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

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

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

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a. October Month End Report
- b. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee Citizen Representative

**MOTION: Approve Items a-b on the Consent Agenda.**

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

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. REGULAR AGENDA**

**3a. Public Comment Opportunity**

No public comments were made or received.

**\*\* MnDOT HSIP Solicitation of Projects**

Mr. Farnsworth presented the MnDOT District 4 submittal for a rural interchange lighting project for the MnDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program Solicitation (HSIP). The materials and applications were received after the due date of November 19<sup>th</sup>, however, Metro COG wishes to accommodate the application since we still had the opportunity to bring it to Policy Board for approval.

Ms. Mongeau asked who would be responsible for cost of maintenance and operations of this lighting. Ms. Gray said it was likely MnDOT, as it is along the highway. Mr. Walton said in NDDOT that it could be split, depending on the jurisdiction.

Brenda Andrews with the City of Barnesville said that this is the first the city is hearing about this project and application, and is also curious about the cost implications of maintenance and operations associated with the project. Mr. Lindaas found at the bottom of paperwork submissions "Ottertail Power

Company.” Ms. Gray said she will get Ms. Andrews in touch with the District 4 representatives in regard to this project.

**MOTION: Approve the MnDOT District 4 rural interchange lighting project for the Minnesota Highway Safety Improvement Program Solicitation and subsequent submittal of proper project application materials and letter of support from the Metro COG Policy Board to MnDOT District 4 by the November 24, 2021 deadline.**  
**Ms. Mongeau moved, seconded by Mr. Lindaas**  
**MOTION, passed**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3b. 2021 Metro Profile**

Mr. Del Rosario presented the final draft of the 2021 Metro Profile. The annual report is put together by Metro COG to provide a snapshot of the Fargo-Moorhead metro area based on data from the previous year. The report is split into five sections, consisting of a community profile, roadways, freight, bike & ped, and transit. Mr. Del Rosario highlighted insights from each of the sections.

**MOTION: Approve the final draft 2021 Metro Profile**  
**Ms. George moved, seconded by Mr. Lindaas**  
**MOTION, passed**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3c. 25<sup>th</sup> Street South Corridor Study Request for Proposals**

Mr. Maddox presented the 25<sup>th</sup> Street South Corridor Study Request for Proposals (RFP). The study area is from 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South to 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The purpose of this study is to analyze the needs of the corridor in advance of future roadway projects and replacement of failing concrete. Metro COG has budgeted \$125,000 to complete this study, \$100,000 CPG, \$25,000 local match provided by the City of Fargo. The RFP release date is slated for approximately November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Preston stated that she hoped this study would look at the residential implications and it would not be “just another corridor study.” Mr. Maddox said that residential factors would likely be identified and integrated into the study.

**MOTION: Approve the 25<sup>th</sup> Street South Corridor Study Request for Proposals.**  
**Ms. Preston moved, seconded by Mr. Schneider**  
**MOTION, passed**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3d. MnDOT 2022 Agreement**

Ms. Gray presented the 2022 Agreement with MnDOT. The amount of state funding to Metro COG for 2022 is the same as 2021, in the amount of \$26,820. The MnDOT funds and 20 % local match have been accounted for in the 2022 UPWP.

**MOTION: Approve the State of Minnesota Grant Agreement or 2022 and the attached resolution documenting the Policy Board’s approval.**  
**Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Mr. Gunkelman**  
**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3e. 2022 Health Insurance Contract with BCBSND**

Ms. Gray presented the 2022 Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield North Dakota. In 2021, the premium did not increase. For 2022, the premiums increased by 3.2%. With the High Deductible plan, Metro COG offers a Health Savings Account, with agency funding up to 50% of the employee's deductible (\$2,700 total for Single, \$5,400 for family plans).

**MOTION: Authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with BCBSND for the health, vision, and dental insurance plans described above and in the attachments for 2022.**

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

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3f. Greater NW Passenger Rail Coalition**

Ms. Gray gave a brief presentation and update on the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Coalition. The Coalition, which is a grassroots group of interested jurisdictions, state coalitions, and entities such as economic development and tourism agencies, is promoting a proposal to get passenger rail network in the northwest region of the United States. This is consistent with legislation within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which includes federal funding for passenger rail expansion. Discussion included current ridership, advantages of having a passenger rail service that connects Fargo-Moorhead to Bismarck, Dickenson and beyond, and if rail travel is the transportation of the future. Ms. Gray stated this is consistent with the efforts of All Aboard Minnesota, which has successfully added a second passenger rail line daily between Chicago and the Twin Cities Metro Area, and their efforts include further work to add a daily service line with daytime hours of arrival and departure in Fargo-Moorhead.

**3g. December Meeting Date**

Ms. Gray presented the discussion of the December 2021 Policy Board meeting. In past years, Metro COG and the Diversion Authority have conflicting meeting times in the months of November and December. December is important for a quorum and regular members (non-alternates) due to the need to prioritize projects to be submitted to NDDOT for funding solicitation, approval of consultant selections for two projects, and year-end UPWP amendments to reflect changes in staff hours and budgetary modifications.

Discussion found that the normal time and date will suffice.

**4. Additional Business**

Ms. Gray let the board know that applicant Jaron Capps has accepted the Assistant Planner position, and will be starting January 3, 2022.

**5. Adjourn**

The 595th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, November 18, 2021 was adjourned at 5:09 pm.

**THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD December 16, 2021, 4:00 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach  
Executive Assistant