

Agenda Item 1c, Attachment 1

**597th Policy Board Meeting
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
Thursday, January 20, 2022 – 4:00 pm
Zoom Web Conference**

Members Present:

Matthew	Gilbertson	Moorhead City Council
Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council
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
Mary	Scherling	Cass County Commission
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission
Jeff	Trudeau	Horace City Council

Members Absent:

Tony	Gehrig	Fargo City Commission
Amanda	George	West Fargo City Commission
John	Gunkelman	Fargo Planning Commission
Rocky	Schneider	Fargo Planning Commission
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Brenda	Andrews	City of Barnesville
Jaron	Capps	Metro COG
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
Brent	Muscha	Apex Engineering
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 January 20, 2022 by Chair Piepkorn, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

1b. Election of Metro COG Policy Board Officers

Ms. Gray explained that per the Metro COG Policy Board bylaws, a new chair and vice chair must be elected at the end of each term. The rotation documented in Metro COG's organizational documents identifies a City of Fargo representative as being the next Chair and a City of Moorhead representative as being the next Vice Chair. This also grants the addition of those officers to signatory powers on Metro COG's financial accounts.

MOTION: Approve the election of Dave Piepkorn (Fargo) as Policy Board Chair, and Chuck Hendrickson (Moorhead) as Policy Board Vice Chair.

Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Ms. Mongeau

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

1d. Approve Order and Contents of Overall Agenda, approved

Chair Piepkorn asked for approval for the overall agenda.

MOTION: Approve the contents of the Overall Agenda of the January 20, 2022 Policy Board Meeting.

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Ms. Preston

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

1c. Past Meeting Minutes, approved

Chair Piepkorn asked for approval of the Minutes of the December 16, 2021 Meeting.

MOTION: Approve the December 16, 2021 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Mr. Olson

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

1d. Monthly Bills, approved

Chair Piepkorn asked for approval of the January 2022 Bills as listed on Attachment 1d.

MOTION: Approve the January 2022 Bills List.

Ms. Mongeau moved, seconded by Ms. Scherling

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Piepkorn asked for approval of Items a-c on the Consent Agenda.

- a. December 2021 Month End Report
- b. Metro COG 4th Quarter/Annual Report
- c. 2022-2025 TIP Administrative Adjustment #1

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

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Lindaas

MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3. REGULAR AGENDA

3a. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

3b. 25th Street Corridor Study Consultant Selection

Mr. Maddox presented KLJ as the highest-ranked consulting firm that proposed on and interviewed for the 25th Street Corridor Study. The City of Fargo would like to identify any improvements that could be made to improve vehicular circulation, improve bicycle and pedestrian movements, enhance the context/character of the roadway, and forward the goals of Fargo's Go2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Metro COG received four proposals from SRF Consulting Group, KLJ with subconsultant TC2, Bolton Menk with subconsultant Houston Engineering, and Stantec with subconsultant Quality Counts.

The study has a project budget of \$125,000 (\$100,000 COG - 80%, \$25,000 - local match provided by City of Fargo – 20%).

MOTION: Approval of KLJ with subconsultant TC2 as the preferred firm recommended by the study's consultant selection panel to complete the study, and approval for the Executive Director to enter into contract with said consulting team for the 25th Street Corridor Study.

Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Mr. Olson.

MOTION, passed (10 – 0 – 1) Mr. Gilbertson absent during the vote
Motion carried.

3c. TH10 Corridor Study through Dilworth Consultant Selection

Mr. Maddox presented Apex Engineering as the highest-ranking consulting firm that proposed on and interviewed for the US10 Corridor Study through Dilworth. The study will analyze the flow of traffic, and multimodal transportation needs along the corridor as well as context-sensitive features and the potential for redevelopment of existing land uses throughout the corridor.

The study has a project budget of \$160,000 (\$128,000 from federal CPG funds and \$32,000 from local funds provided by MnDOT). Metro COG received four proposals prior to the proposal deadline on Monday, January 29, 2021. Proposals were received from HDR, KLJ, Bolton & Menk, and Apex Engineering.

MOTION: Approve Apex Engineering as the preferred firm recommended by the study's consultant selection panel to complete the study, and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with said consulting team for the TH 10 Corridor Study through Dilworth.

Ms. Mongeau moved, seconded by Ms. Preston

MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3d. 2021-2022 UPWP Amendment #4

Ms. Gray presented Amendment #4 to the 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The amendment includes the following two changes: the reallocation of 190 staff hours from other categories to the Metro-wide Housing Needs Analysis, and the purchase of a license for StreetLight software, which is used across the metropolitan area for transportation planning, traffic studies, and traffic impact studies.

The purchase of StreetLight will use the \$20,000 in freed-up CPG and local match as a result of the contract with Fargo for project management of the Housing Needs Analysis, and \$29,500 in carryover funds from unused staff budget from 2021, for a total of \$49,500. Ms. Gray explained that local match will be needed on the \$29,500 portion of the funding, because Metro COG was unable to fill the new position approved in Amendment 2 until year-end, and therefore never billed local jurisdictions for this portion of the budget, since we didn't know if the funds would be used for a purpose that would be shared by all jurisdictions. Ms. Gray showed the local match amounts for each jurisdiction.

After this amendment, there will still be \$15,500 in unused carryover CPG funds, which could potentially be programmed at a future date. Ms. Gray stated that both the Executive Committee and the TTC recommended approval of this amendment.

Chair Piepkorn asked if there is an arrangement Metro COG can make with NDDOT, similar to the usage partnership with MnDOT previously for StreetLight. Ms. Gray said that NDDOT is currently working towards this, with a potential for such an arrangement toward the end of 2022.

MOTION: Approve Amendment 4 to the 2021-2022 UPWP, including the addition of the Metro-wide Housing Needs Analysis, the adjustment to staff hours as described, and the purchase of StreetLight using \$29,500 in 2021 operational carryover funds.

Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Ms. Nash

MOTION, passed (10 – 0 – 1) Ms. Mongeau being absent

Motion carried.

3e. Letter of Support – Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Coalition

Mr. Altenburg presented a Letter of Support for the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Coalition. The coalition has been seeking support from local and state governments on the development of a formal Working Group through congressional legislation, as well as other steps to restore passenger rail service. The proposed actions include the following:

1. Coordinate action by a bipartisan group in Congress representing the core of this region to work toward restoring passenger rail service to the Greater Northwest.
2. Formalize the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Working Group by congressional legislation to be convened by the Secretary of Transportation.

The group would be in charge of studying and developing service development plans for the Pioneer, North Coast Hiawatha, and other routes within the Greater Northwest region as determined by the Working Group. The goal of this group is to make the overall system more robust and resilient with enhanced national long- distance rail connectivity and greater economic and social wellbeing of rural America.

3. Allocate 25 percent of any congressionally authorized funding to restore and revitalize passenger rail service in the United States for rural long-distance routes through a combination of reinvestment in existing long-distance routes and expansion of the national rural long-distance network. The rural long-distance funding will include full funding for restoration of both the Pioneer and North Coast Hiawatha routes.
4. Pass the Interstate Rail Compacts Advancement Act, which authorizes the formation of up to ten Interstate Passenger Rail Compacts/Commissions, to carry the Working Group's studies forward to implementation.

In addition to nearly 55 Letters/Resolutions of Support from cities, counties, MPOs, and other entities across seven states, the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Coalition recently received support from a bipartisan group of U.S. senators including Senator Hoeven and Senator Cramer to establish a Greater Northwest Working Group.

MOTION: Sign the Letter of Support for the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Coalition for the Formal Creation of the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Working Group

Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Additional Business

Mr. Farnsworth shared a survey for the Minnesota Rail Crossing Safety Action Plan. There is a link to a survey and interactive map. There is a North Dakota Rail Crossing Safety Action Plan in development as well.

5. Adjourn

The 597th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, January 20, 2022 was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD February 17, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant