

**534th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, October 13, 2022 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering
Brenda	Derrig	City of Fargo Engineering (alternate for Jeremy Gorden)
Maegin	Elshaug	City of Fargo Planning (alternate for Nicole Crutchfield)
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Jace	Hellman	City of Horace – Community Development Director
Robin	Huston	City of Moorhead Planning
Matthew	Jacobson	Clay County Planning
Kelly	Krapu	Freight Representative - TrueNorth Compliance Service
Don	Lorsung	City of Dilworth Community Development
Aaron	Nelson	West Fargo City Planning
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Jordan	Smith	City of Fargo, MATBUS (alternate for Julie Bommelman)
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division

Members Absent:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS (alternate present)
Nicole	Crutchfield	City of Fargo Planning (alternate present)
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Paul	Bervik	Metro COG
Ethan	Bialik	Moore Engineering
Angela	Bolstad	Stantec
Jaron	Capps	Metro COG
Luke	Champa	SRF
Nancy	Chatelain	KLJ
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Becky	Hanson	NDDOT
Matthew	Huettl	HDR
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Brent	Muscha	Apex
Anna	Pierce	MnDOT
Kalvin	Strecker	Houston Engineering

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on October 13, 2022 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 534 TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the 534 TTC Meeting Agenda.

**Motion: Approve the 534 TTC Meeting Agenda.
Mr. Lorsung moved, seconded by Mr. Benson
MOTION, PASSED.
Motion carried unanimously.**

3. APPROVE September 8, 2022 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the September 8, 2022 TTC Meeting Minutes.

**Motion: Approve the September 8, 2022 TTC Minutes.
Mr. Lorsung moved, seconded by Ms. Huston
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.**

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

5. Public Participation Plan Update

Ms. Gray presented the update to the Public Participation Plan, an MPO-required document. Metro COG's last update to the plan was finished in 2016. Overall, the effort was aimed at: paring down the document and eliminating unnecessary material, and clarifying the timelines and extent of public notice requirements, requirements for public meetings, and the length of public review and comment periods. Examples from other MPOs were explored and many follow the same template and sections used in this update.

Metro COG staff convened and went through each type of project to determine the extent to which we were comfortable with the stated public notice requirements, comment periods, and minimum level of public engagement. For most types of projects, the document reflects that individual project scopes of work may place greater public engagement requirements on specific projects, but at a minimum, the requirements stated in the PPP must be met. After Policy Board approves, Metro COG will be opening the federally required 45-day comment period, initiated through the publication of a notice in The Forum, as well as through the additional means of providing notice used by Metro COG (email distribution, social media, website and press release).

**Motion: Recommend initiation of the 45-day public comment and review period of the PPP update to the Policy Board.
Mr. Benson moved, seconded by Mr. Zacher
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Transportation Alternatives & HSIP Solicitation Update

Mr. Farnsworth presented an update to the Transportation Alternatives and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) solicitation.

Ms. Safgren said that for FY 2027, solicitation would only include the areas outside of Moorhead and Dilworth, as those would fall under Metro COG. Mr. Zacher asked if it could potentially fall under the UZA, while still covering the Metro Urban area.

ND TA (Urban) – Solicitation process for applications opened August 2, and are due October 31, 2022. ND Urban TA projects are any projects within the ND portion of Metro COG's urbanized area. This would include the cities of Fargo, West Fargo, and the majority of Horace.

ND TA (Rural) – Solicitation opened the process for letters of intent (LOI) October 3, with LOI submission deadline November 4, 2022; January 13, 2023 is the deadline to submit the full application. Grant recipients will be announced April 14, 2023.

ND HSIP – Solicitation process opened October 4, and are due November 23, 2022.

MN HSIP – Solicitation process opened September 12, and are due November 2. Safety projects require a 10% local match with a funding maximum of \$750,000.

7. Transportation Management Area Transition Update

Ms. Gray provided an update on Metro COG's transition to a Transportation Management Area. Metro COG, NDDOT and MnDOT were notified by FHWA that the census bureau did not successfully complete the required steps to allow for designation of new Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) and new Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) by the end of Federal Fiscal Year 2022 (September 30, 2022). Therefore, the designations were unable to be made by FY23, which was October 1 of this year. The determinations are expected to be made sometime in the winter of 2022 or early spring of 2023. FHWA and FTA will not change their allocations and sub-allocations mid-way through the fiscal year, meaning the TMA designation will not take effect until October 1, 2023.

During discussions with the NDDOT regarding Metro COG's TIP, the MPO was advised to prepare the TIP assuming TMA designation and the resulting sub-allocations would occur. There is concern that the delay could potentially affect the STBG funded projects starting in 2023, including the projects chosen for the 2023 TA. One solution to this would be to request that NDDOT use Carbon Reduction Program funds for these 2023 TA projects.

Given this situation, Metro COG will hold off on STBG and Carbon Reduction Program solicitations for 2024-2027 projects to fill out these program years.

Mr. Zacher said that this hiccup is not necessarily a negative, as Metro COG and the NDDOT can use this time to smooth out the process, and use this opportunity as a “dry run” before the full transition.

8. Update on ND MPO Director’s Meeting with NDDOT/FHWA/FTA

Ms. Gray provided some highlights from the third quarter North Dakota MPO meeting with NDDOT. Due to the delay in transition to TMA status, many funding committees have not yet met. Metro COG MPO is on-track with the programming and spending of our CPG funds, currently operating in the 2022 consolidated planning grant. The three MPO Directors have committed to working collaboratively on the discussion of the CPG funding formula and scenarios, and have been asked to account for the possibility of Minot becoming an MPO starting FY 2024. The annual Carbon Reduction Program funding amount in ND will be just over \$1M, and \$106,000 on the MN side – discussion on the use of funds ranged from meaningful projects that we wouldn't have been able to do without the Carbon Reduction Program, or covering eligible costs of projects already in the TIP and mostly funded through STBG.

9. Moorhead Transit Asset Management Plan 2022 Update

Mr. Smith said the document needed to be updated by October 1, and Ms. Gray suggested we place this item on our November agenda so Lori, Julie, and Jordan can provide a brief presentation about the Plan.

10. Agency Updates

Fargo – Main Ave reconstruction and the 2nd Street Ped Bridge public input opportunities are planned for Tuesday, October 18, 45th St S construction from 52nd to 76th Avenue is nearly done and opening soon. Soliciting for consultant to update Land Use Plan.

Dilworth – Hwy 10 Public Input meeting December 7, Land Use planning update
Cass County – 76th Avenue S construction, CR18 construction

NDDOT – Ron Henke appointed new DOT director

FHWA – new bridge engineer hired, hiring for Environmental specialist

Metro COG – working on UPWP submission comments

11. Additional Business

No additional business.

12. Adjourn

The 534 Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on October 13, 2022 at 11:31 a.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD November 10, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant