

METROPOLITAN PROFILE 2021

Annual Report for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area



PREPARED BY

METROCOG
FM REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Adopted: November 18, 2021
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Dear Interested Persons, Stakeholders, Jurisdictions, Agencies and Organizations --

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) is pleased to present the Metropolitan Profile 2021 (Metro Profile), a document previously known as the Surveillance and Monitoring Report for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area. The data presented within this Profile pertains to the 2020 calendar year (January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020).

Metro COG began producing the Metropolitan Transportation Surveillance and Monitoring Report in 1981. Over time, this document has taken various forms in order to ensure compliance and compatibility with relevant surface transportation authorization. Under Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), the Metro Profile has become an essential performance management tracking tool.

The profile is structured to document and monitor the following:

- (a) Changes to the transportation system;
- (b) Demographic and socio-economic conditions;
- (c) Changes in land use patterns and/or development patterns;
- (d) Accuracy of projections/assumptions made within the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); and
- (e) Implementation of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

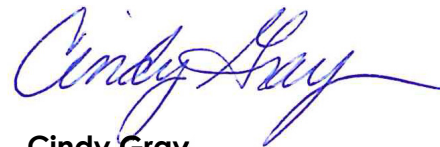
The Metro COG Policy Board believes this data to be critical to both accurately represent the state of the transportation network and to maintain and to implement elements of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program, such as the TIP, MTP, and regional Travel Demand Model (TDM).

It is Metro COG's goal to continue to enhance the ease and accuracy of collecting and reporting metropolitan transportation data; as well as improving accessibility to this information for all interested persons and stakeholders.

Any questions or comments on the content of this document should be directed to Metro COG. Supporting plans, studies, and other transportation data for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area is available by contacting Metro COG (701.532.5100), by email at metrococg@fmmetrocog.org, or visiting Metro COG's website at www.fmmetrocog.org.



Julie Nash
Chair, Metro COG Policy Board



Cindy Gray
Executive Director, Metro COG



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INTRODUCTION

Who is Metro COG?

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) is both the designated Council of Governments (COG) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the greater Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area. An MPO is a transportation policy-making organization comprised of representatives from local government and transportation authorities. The Federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1973 requires the formation of a MPO for any urbanized area with a population greater than 50,000. MPOs ensure that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing planning process, known as the “3-C” process.

What is the Metro Profile?

The 2021 Metropolitan Profile is separated into five chapters, each of which focuses on trends affecting the development patterns and transportation network of the Fargo-Moorhead MPA. Together the chapters provide a comprehensive snapshot of the conditions and trends affecting the metro area based on 2020 data (or the most recent data available).

The chapters are grouped into two sections:

- Community Profile
- Transportation

The Transportation section encompasses topics focused on the:

- Roadway System
- Freight & Interstate Travel
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Network
- Local & Regional Transit

Within each of these chapters are metrics that Metro COG tracks from year to year. These metrics are used to track progress towards goals set in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The goals in the MTP are developed with Metro COG’s vision, mission, and core functions in mind.



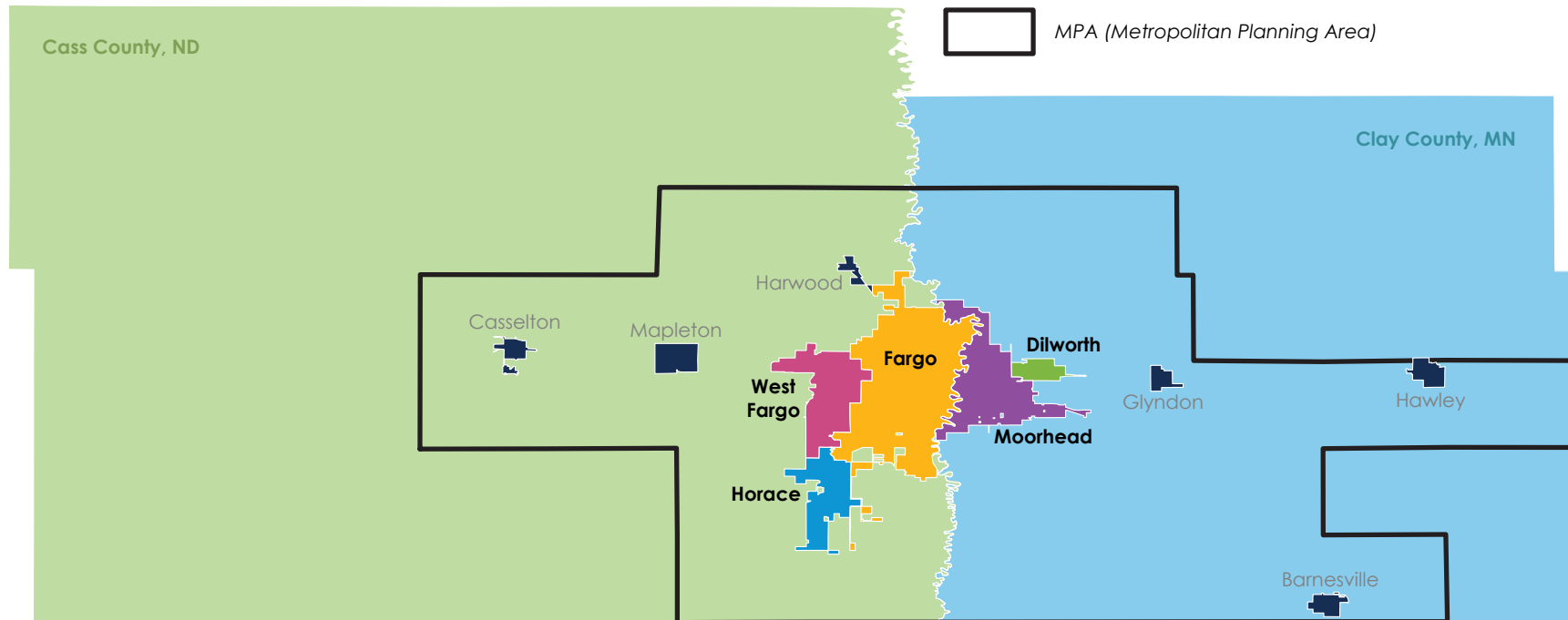
JURISDICTIONS

North Dakota

- Cass County- 1,768 sq mi
- Fargo- 49.74 sq mi
- West Fargo- 16.28 sq mi
- Horace- 11.55 sq mi
- Casselton- 1.98 sq mi
- Harwood- 1.20 sq mi
- Mapleton- 3.91 sq mi

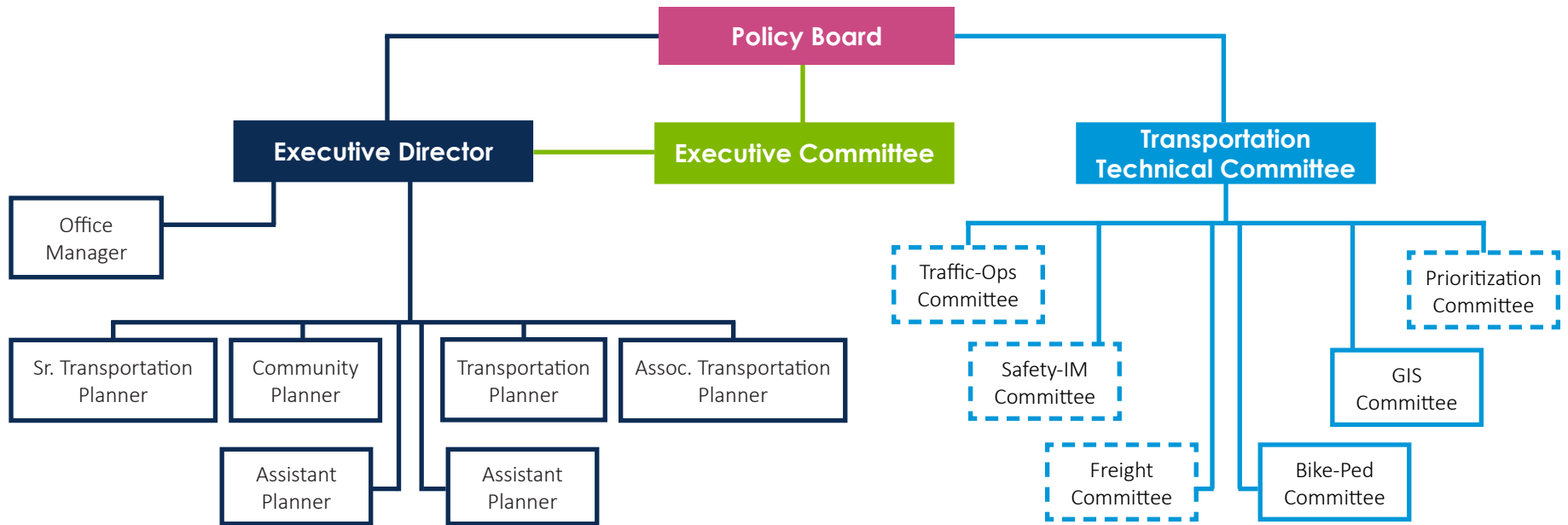
Minnesota

- Clay County- 1,053 sq mi
- Moorhead- 22.27 sq mi
- Dilworth- 3.21 sq mi
- Barnesville- 2.08 sq mi
- Glyndon- 1.58 sq mi
- Hawley- 2.46 sq mi



NOTE: Jurisdiction acreage was calculated from the GIS information provided by each jurisdiction. Associate Jurisdictions are depicted in navy, while the Member Jurisdictions are color coded by pink, purple, greens, bright blues, or yellow.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART (2021)



NOTE: Committees with dashed outlines denote those that do not meet regularly/those that are called upon as needed.

Metro COG
701.532.5100

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Assistant Planner / GIS Coordinator
Ari Del Rosario 701.532.5102

Assistant Planner
Vacant





VISION AND MISSION

Vision Statement

Provide quality, proactive regional planning services for a changing society.

Mission

1. Harmonize the activities of federal, state, and local agencies,
2. Render technical assistance
3. Encourage public participation in the development of the area

Core Functions

- Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Increase accessibility and mobility for people and freight.
- Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
- Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- Promote efficient system management and operation.
- Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
- Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.
- Enhance travel and tourism.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: COVID-19

COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2020, metro areas across the country were heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The health crisis limited in-person social activities, disrupted the economy, and altered the movement of people and goods in response to changing demands.

On May 18, Minnesota issued a stay-at-home order in response to the growing number of cases and deaths. Many jobs moved to remote work with the exception of essential workers such as those in healthcare, agriculture and critical retail.

A report further detailing the impacts of COVID-19 on traffic and bike ridership in the FM Metro using Streetlight and Strava data was conducted by Metro COG in 2021. You can find the report by clicking [here](#) or see “COVID-19 Analysis Report” in Additional Resources.

Highlights

The decennial census was conducted in 2020. In the past decade, the Fargo-Moorhead MSA has experienced faster population growth than the country as a whole. In particular, 2020 saw increased population growth in the MSA, reversing the trend of slowing growth since 2015. The population of the metro remains younger and more educated than national averages thanks to the number of higher education institutions in the area. The metro continues to diversify despite having lower rates of foreign-born individuals and those speaking a language other than English at home.

Despite an increase in unemployment rate due to the pandemic, Fargo-Moorhead fared better than the rest of the country on average. While house prices across the country notably increased, the metro’s housing market remained relatively stable during the same period as 2,252 new residential units were added metrowide.

Vehicle miles traveled notably decreased in 2020 as certain business activities were restricted, social gatherings were limited and some residents began to work-from-home. According to the Transportation Improvement Program, there were 4 major roadway projects constructed within the metro.

Conversely, the demand for freight increased. Truck travel times remained comfortably reliable despite the demand. However, the number of Amtrak rail and air passengers decreased significantly in response to pandemic restrictions.

There was an increase in bicycle and pedestrian activity as residents took care of their health and searched for recreational outdoor opportunities during the pandemic. Use of fitness tracking apps such as Strava gained usership and the metro’s bike network continued to expand.

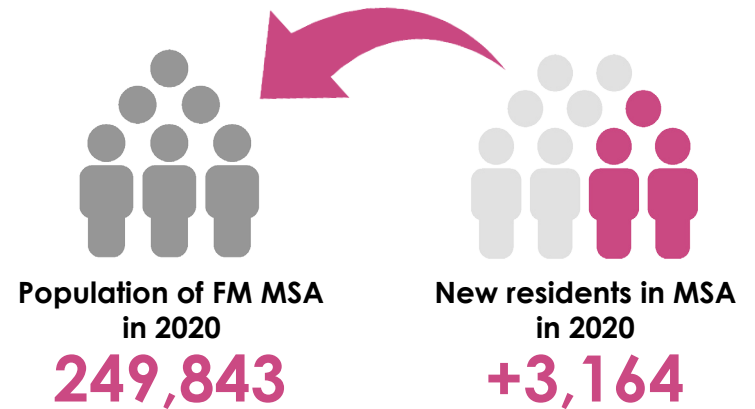
Public transit saw declines in ridership in 2020 largely due to the pandemic. The MATBUS and MAT paratransit fleet went fare-free from March 23 with financial aid from the CARES Act. As college classes went virtual, college ridership took a hit. Major renovations were undertaken at the Ground Transportation Center (GTC).



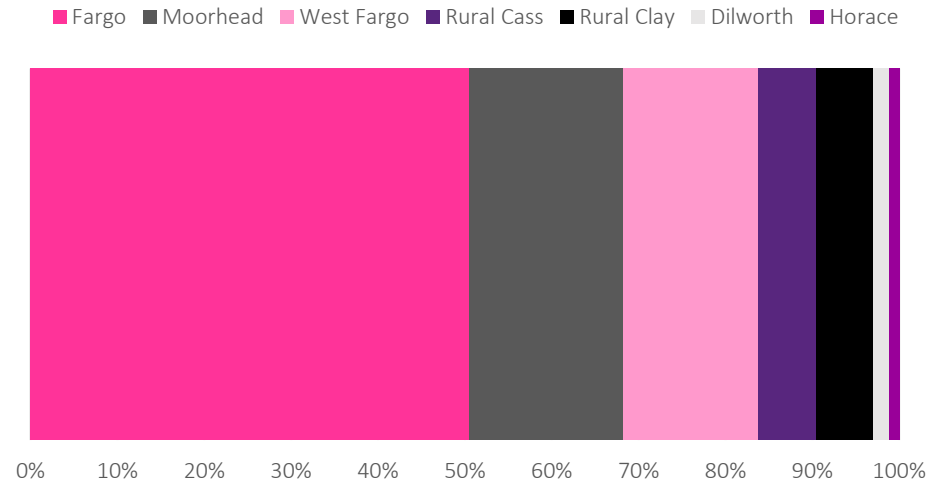
COMMUNITY PROFILE

Overview

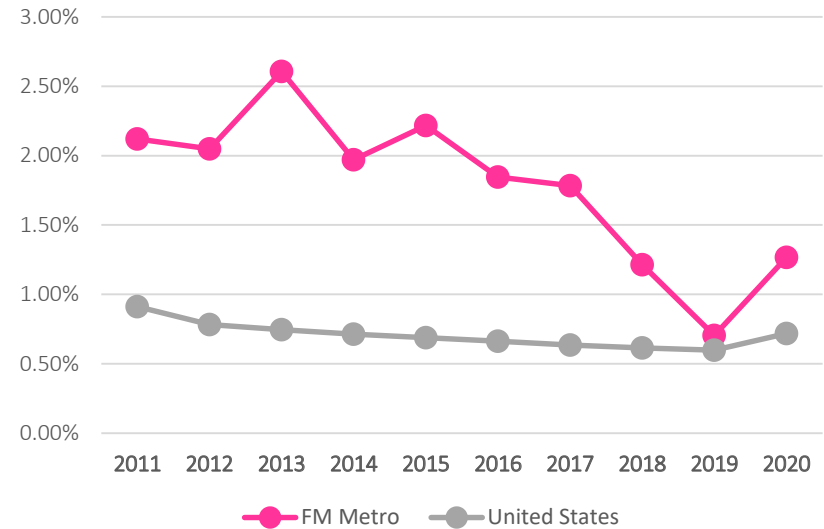
Percent population change (2010-2020)



Population by jurisdiction in 2020



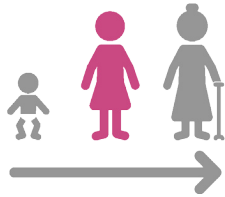
Annual population growth (2011-2020)



Sources in this section: Census data, American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, Federal Reserve Bank, Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Demographics



Median age*

FM MSA **33.5 yrs** | United States **38.2 yrs**



Foreign born^

FM MSA **6.7%** | United States **13.6%**



Speaks a language other than English at home^

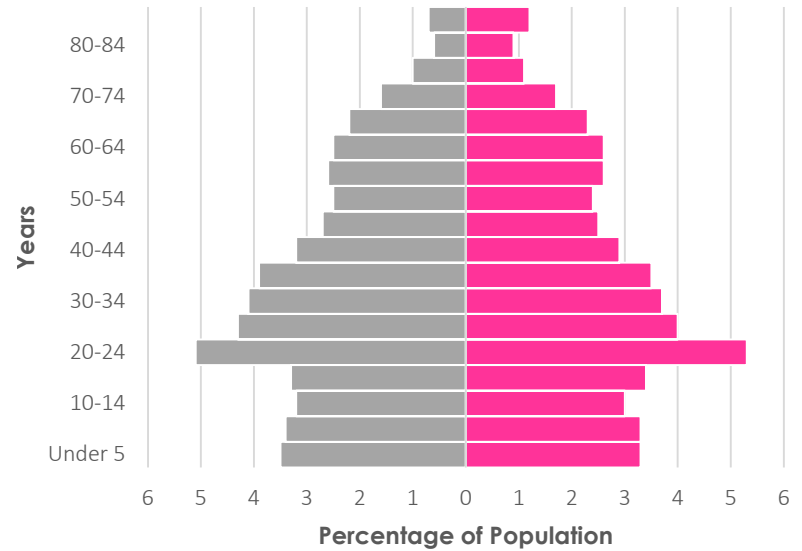
FM MSA **7.6%** | United States **21.6%**



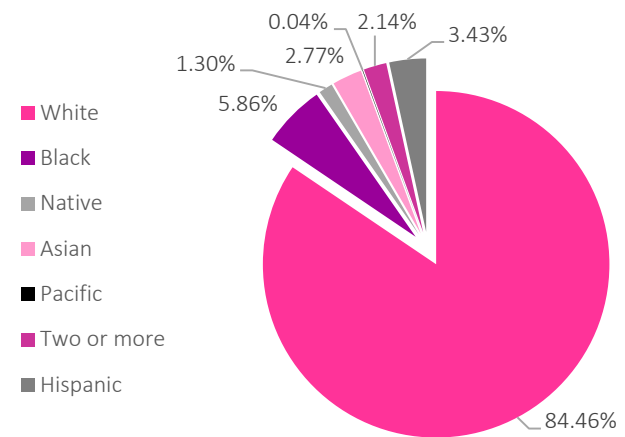
Bachelor's degree or higher^

FM MSA **38.6%** | United States **32.1%**

Age and sex distribution



Racial composition



*2019 data was the most recent available
^2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Employment



Average unemployment rate in 2020

FM MSA **4.35%** | United States **8.11%**



Percent in labor force[^]

FM MSA **74.5%** | United States **63.0%**



Median household income*

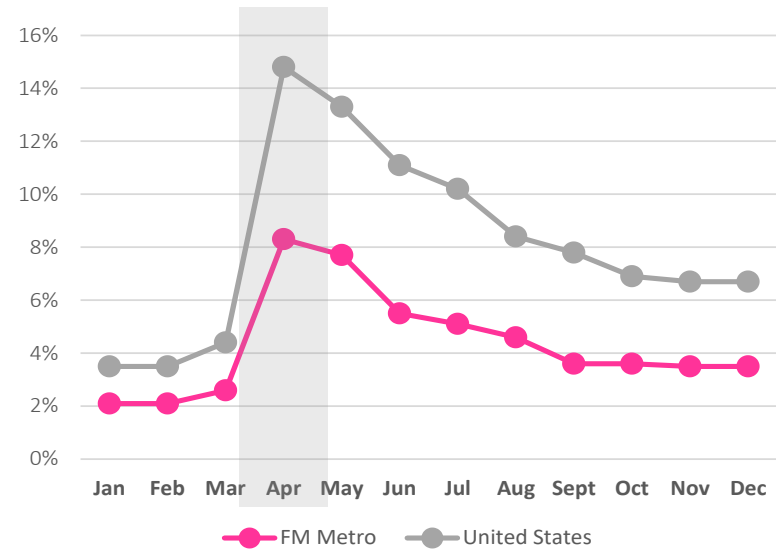
FM MSA **\$62,820** | United States **\$68,703**



Percent in poverty*

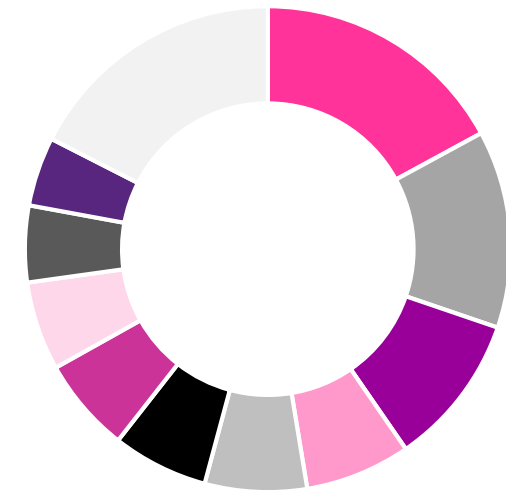
FM MSA **11.5%** | United States **10.5%**

Unemployment rate in 2020 by month



Top 10 industries ranked by employment

- Healthcare
- Government
- Retail
- Accommodation/Food
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Finance
- Wholesale Trade
- Professional Services
- Other Services
- Everything else



NOTE: For full industry titles and more comprehensive economic profile, please click [here](#) or see "Economic Profile" in Additional Resources.

*2019 data was the most recent available
[^]2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Housing



Average household size[^]

FM MSA
2.32

United States
2.62

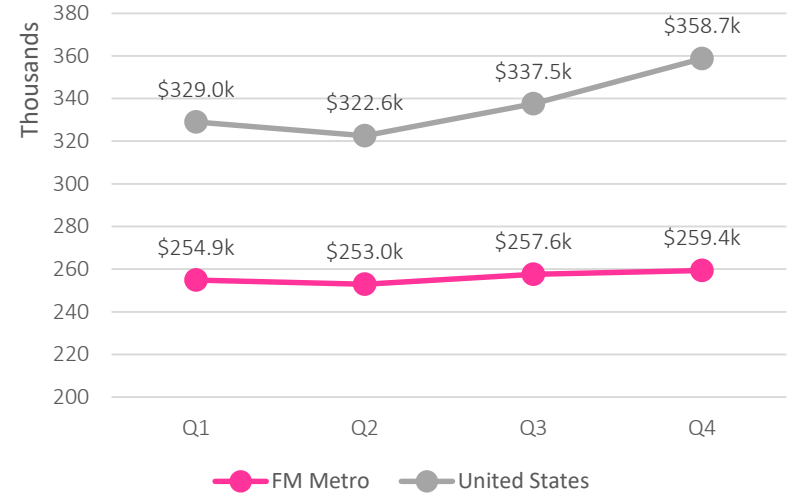


Owner-occupied rate[^]

FM MSA
56.1%

United States
64.0%

Median house price in 2020



112,592

Housing units metrowide*

1129

New single-family residential units

- +449** Fargo
- +374** West Fargo
- +86** Horace
- +129** Moorhead
- +17** Dilworth
- +37** Associate Jurisdictions

1123

New multi-family residential units

- +1019** Fargo
- +35** West Fargo
- +0** Horace
- +69** Moorhead
- +0** Dilworth
- +0** Associate Jurisdictions



1,976

Building permits issued in 2020

NOTE: For more in-depth information, please click [here](#) or see "Permits Plus" in Additional Resources.

*2019 data was the most recent available
[^]2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates

ROADWAYS

Overview



VMT per capita

FM Metro
9,328.8

United States
8,538.3



Average commute time in minutes[^]

FM Metro
17.4

United States
26.9

Auto Travel Time Reliability (Interstate)

ND Portion of the MPA
100%

MN Portion of the MPA
100%

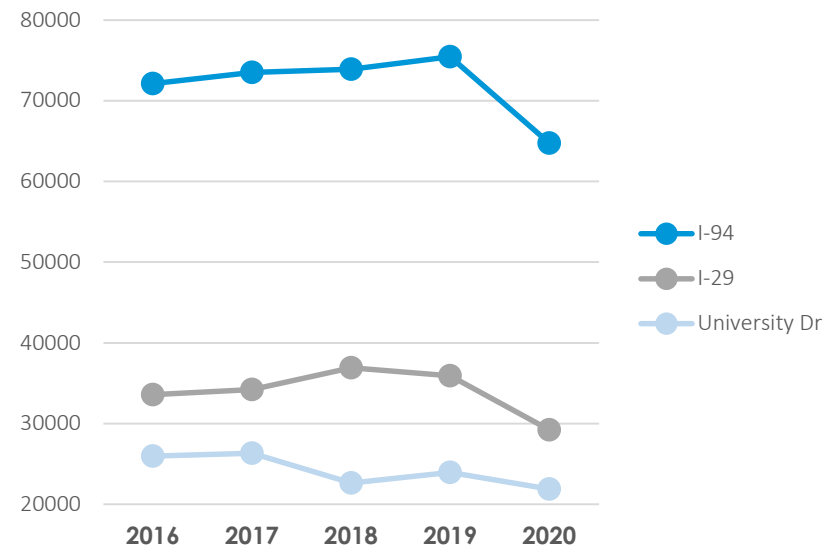
Auto Travel Time Reliability (Non-Interstate)

ND Portion of the MPA
67%

MN Portion of the MPA
85%

NOTE: For more information, please click [here](#) or see "Performance Measures" in Additional Resources.

Average Daily Traffic on I-94, I-29 and University Dr



Sources in this section: NDDOT, MnDOT, American Community Survey (ACS) estimates
[^]2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates

ROADWAYS Projects



Number of roadway projects in 2020

4

Fargo

- **64th Ave S** from 25th St S to 45th St S- New Construction

West Fargo

- **Sheyenne St** from Main to 7th Ave- Reconstruction

Moorhead

- **12th Ave S** from 5th St to SE Main- Rehabilitation

Phase 1 completed in 2020 (12th Ave S from 4th St to 20th St)

Clay County

- Bridge replacement on **CR 100, CR 93, CR 68** and **CSAH 21**- Reconstruction

NOTE: Only expected major roadway projects in the TIP listed for 2020 are included. Confirmed updates to the status of projects as of 2020 are italicized.

NOTE: For more information about the current TIP, please click image below or see "Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)" in Additional Resources.

Final 2022 -2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

For the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area

METROCOG
FM REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

September 2021

ROADWAYS

Safety & Pavement Condition Targets



NDDOT 2020 safety data

- 9** Number of fatalities
- 33** Number of serious injuries
- 4** Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries

MnDOT 2020 safety data

- 4** Number of fatalities
- 7** Number of serious injuries
- 1** Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries

NDDOT 2018-2021 pavement condition targets



- 75.6%** % of Interstate in good condition
- 3%** % of Interstate in poor condition
- 58.3%** % of non-Interstate in good condition
- 3%** % of non-Interstate in poor condition

MnDOT 2018-2021 pavement condition targets

- 55%** % of Interstate in good condition
- 2%** % of Interstate in poor condition
- 50%** % of non-Interstate in good condition
- 4%** % of non-Interstate in poor condition

NDDOT 2018-2021 bridge condition targets



- 60%** % of NHS bridges in good condition
- 4%** % of NHS bridges in poor condition

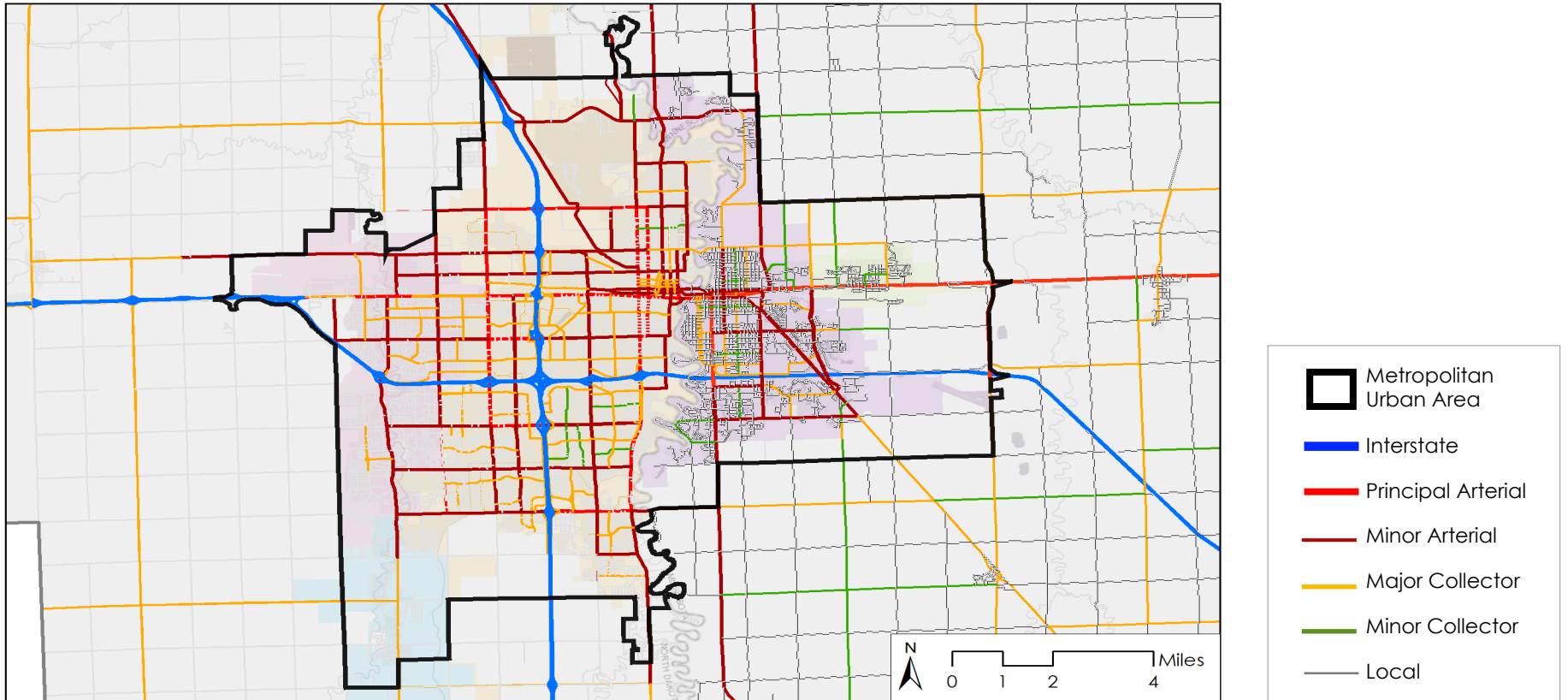
MnDOT 2018-2021 bridge condition targets

- 35%** % of NHS bridges in good condition
- 4%** % of NHS bridges in poor condition

NOTE: For more information, please click [here](#) or see "Performance Measures" in Additional Resources.

ROADWAYS

Functional Classification



NOTE: The North Dakota federal functional classification system is in the process of being updated.

MnDOT expects to begin the process of updating their functional class system in 2023.

FREIGHT

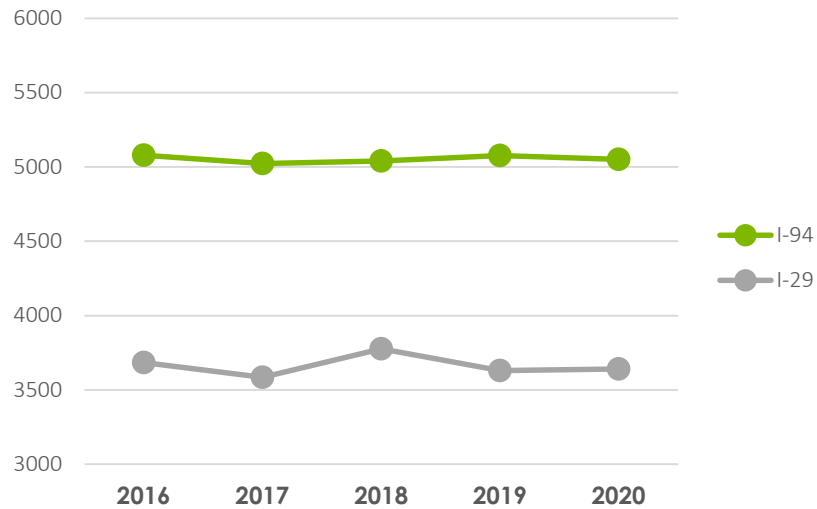
Overview



Air cargo total landed weight in 2020 (lbs)
420 million

Change from year previous
+7.5%

Truck ADT on I-94 and I-29



Truck Travel Time Reliability Index (TTTR)

Fargo-Moorhead
 MPA

1.16

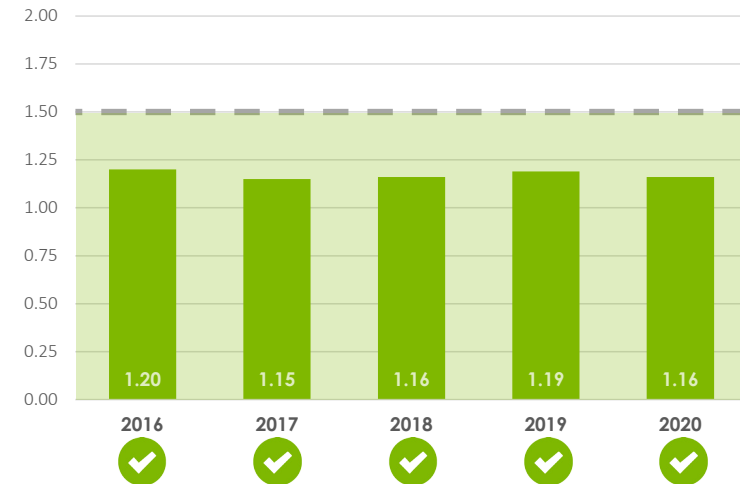
Minneapolis-St Paul
 MPA

1.41

TTTR target
 2020

1.50

TTTR Actual vs Target



Sources in this section: Hector International Airport, NDDOT, NPMRDS, Amtrak

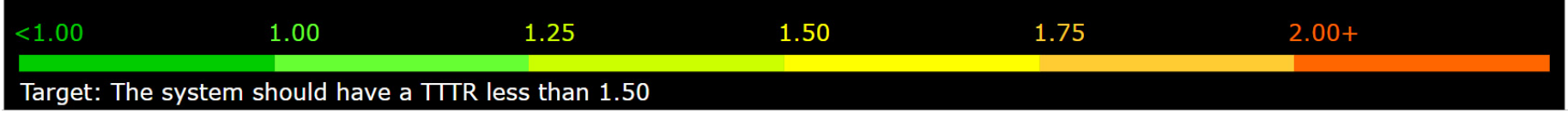
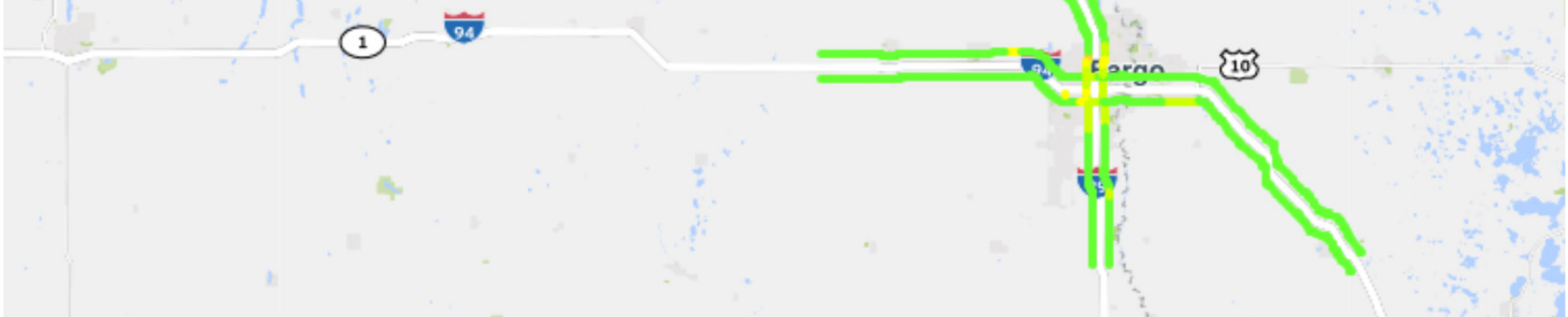
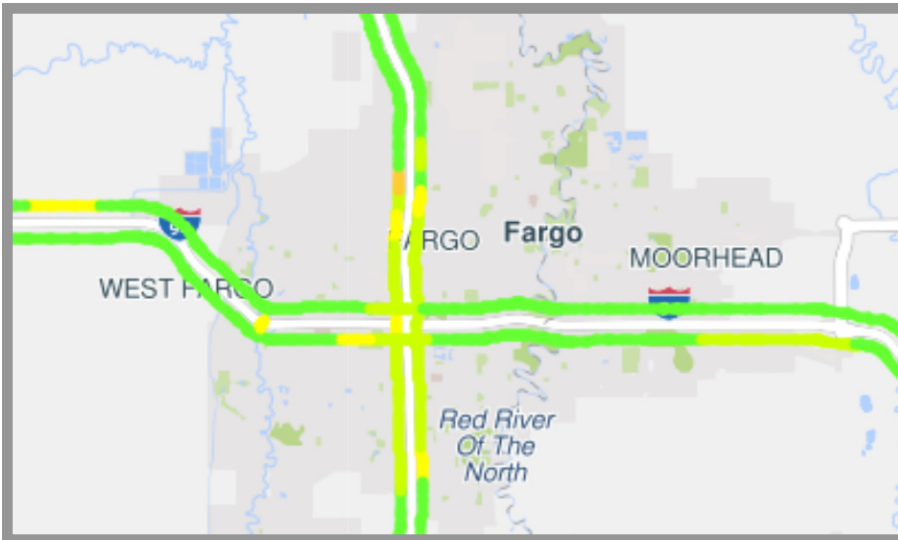
NOTE: For more information, please click [here](#) or see "Performance Measures" in Additional Resources.

FREIGHT Truck

Number of unreliable road segments

8

- I-29 northbound approaching 12th Avenue N/Exit 66 in Fargo
- I-29 southbound at 12th Avenue N/Exit 66 in Fargo
- I-29 southbound at Main Avenue/Exit 65
- I-29 southbound at the I-94 interchange/Exit 63 in Fargo
- I-29 northbound at 52nd Avenue S/Exit 60 in Fargo
- I-94 westbound from County Road 15/Exit 340 in Fargo
- County Road 17 northbound through I-94 in Fargo
- I-94 eastbound at 45th Street/Exit 348 in Fargo



FREIGHT

Rail and Air



Empire Builder passengers in 2020

253,486

Change from year previous

-39.8%

Fargo Amtrak station ridership in 2020

12,408

Change from year previous

-33.1%

NOTE: For more information, please click [here](#) or see "Fargo Amtrak Station" in Additional Resources.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19, Amtrak passenger rail service in ND was cut to 3 times a week (from daily) starting October, 2020.



FAR air passengers in 2020

478,604

Change from year previous

-49.1%

FAR enplanements (boardings) in 2020

238,508

Change from year previous

-49.4%








NOTE: For more information, please click [here](#) or see "Hector International Airport Year-End Statistics" in Additional Resources.

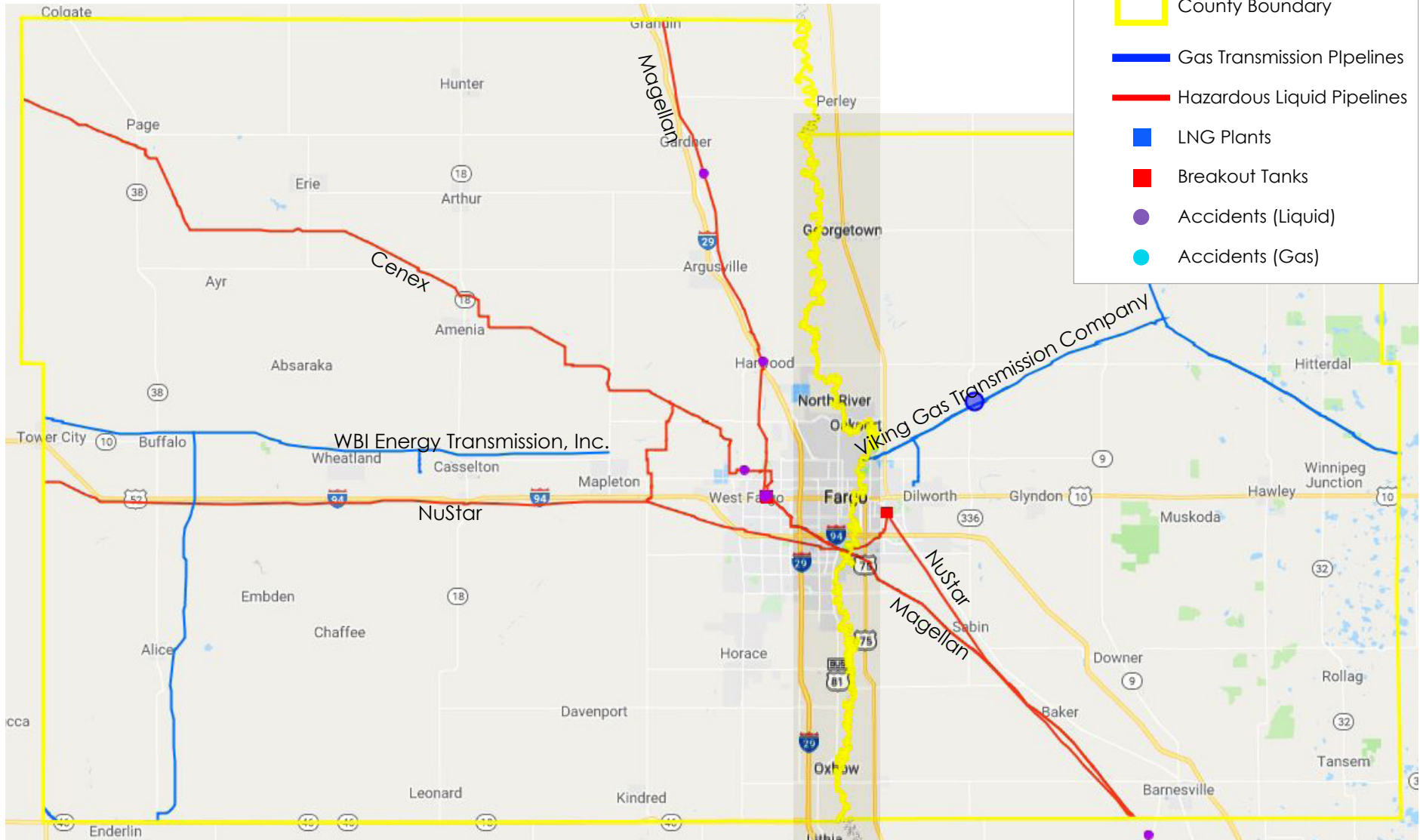
Airline	City	Market Share	Change from 2019
Delta	Minneapolis, Atlanta*	29%	-8%
United	Chicago, Denver	21%	-2%
Allegiant	Los Angeles*, Nashville, Orlando*, Phoenix	22%	-5%
American	Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix*	23%	6%
Frontier	Denver, Phoenix*	5%	0%

**denotes seasonal service*

FREIGHT Pipelines

LEGEND

-  County Boundary
-  Gas Transmission Pipelines
-  Hazardous Liquid Pipelines
-  LNG Plants
-  Breakout Tanks
-  Accidents (Liquid)
-  Accidents (Gas)



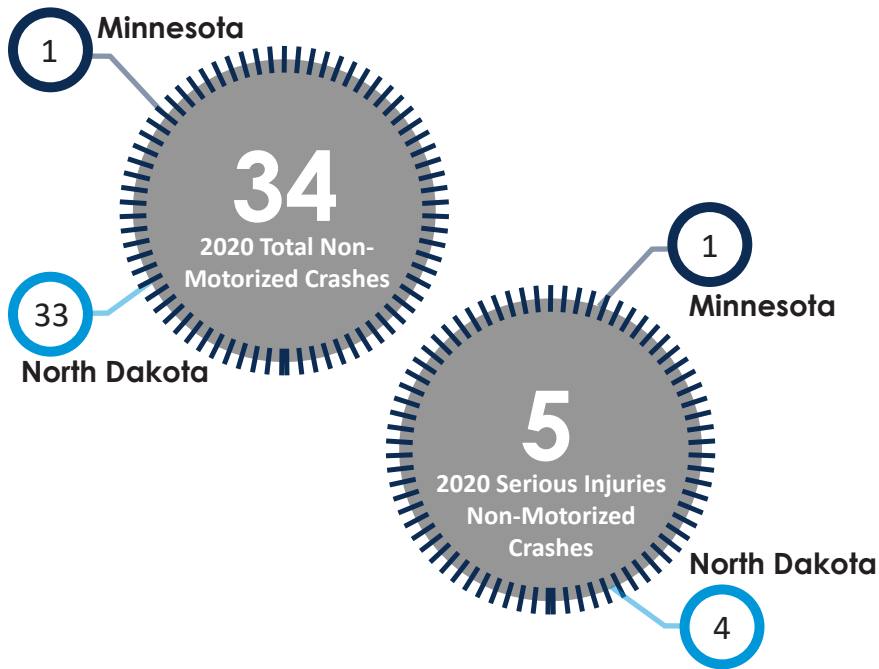
BIKE & PEDESTRIAN

Overview



Bike trips taken in 2020 on Strava
43,009

Change from year previous
+62.4%



1 Fatal Non-Motorized Crash in 2020 in the MPA

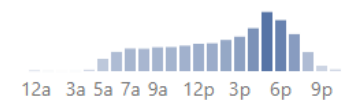
NOTE: For more information, please click [here](#) or see "Performance Measures" in additional resources.

Cass County, ND

Total activities
28,748



Volumes by hour



Volumes by day of week



Volumes by month of year

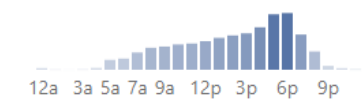


Clay County, MN

Total activities
14,261



Volumes by hour



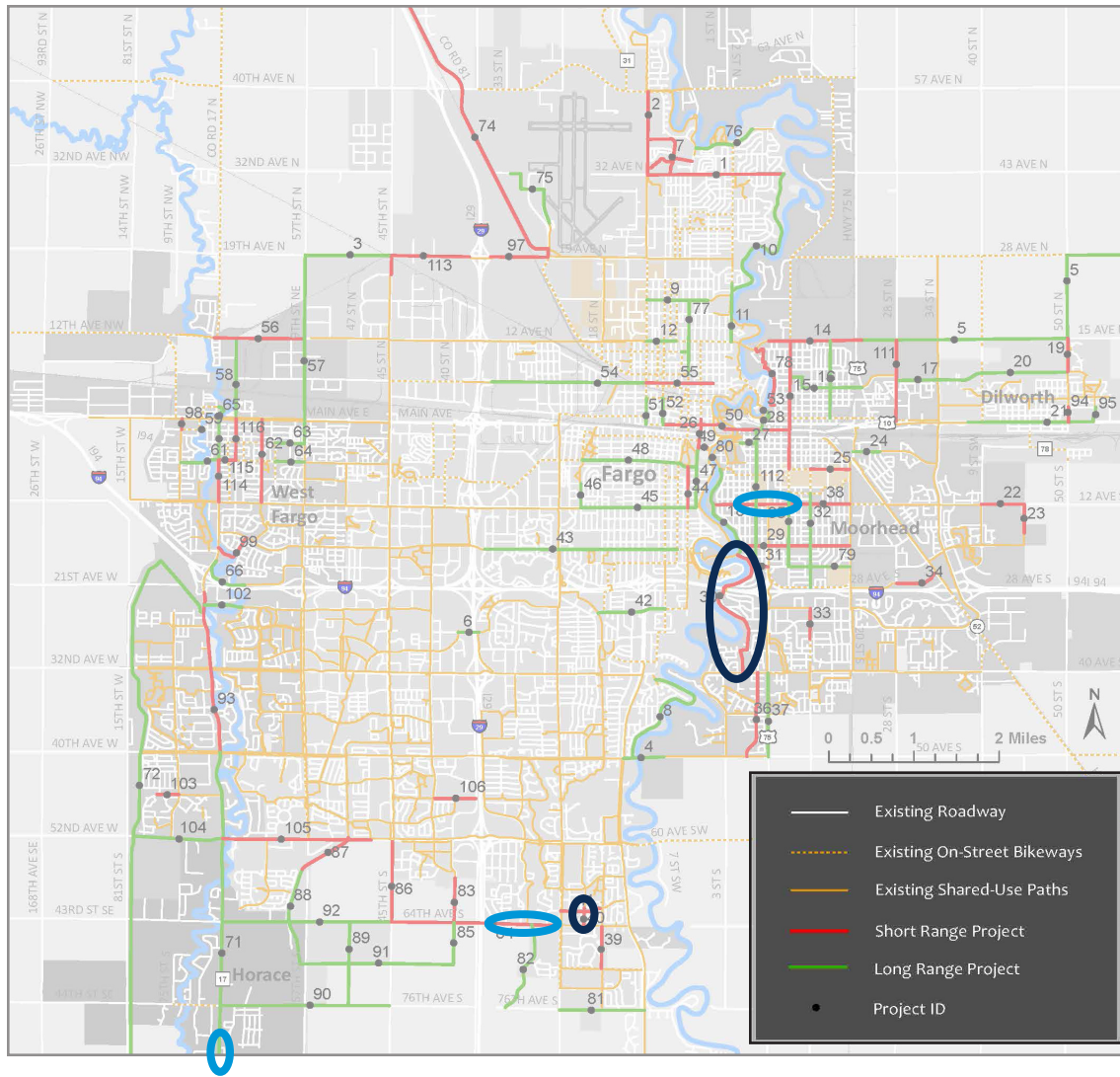
Volumes by day of week



Volumes by month of year



BIKE & PEDESTRIAN Projects



- Project **in-progress** in 2020
- Project **completed** in 2020

In-progress

- 12th Ave S** from 5th to 11th St S (38)
- CR 17** from 3rd Ave N to 81st Ave S (71)
- 64th Ave S** from 25th to 33rd St S (84)

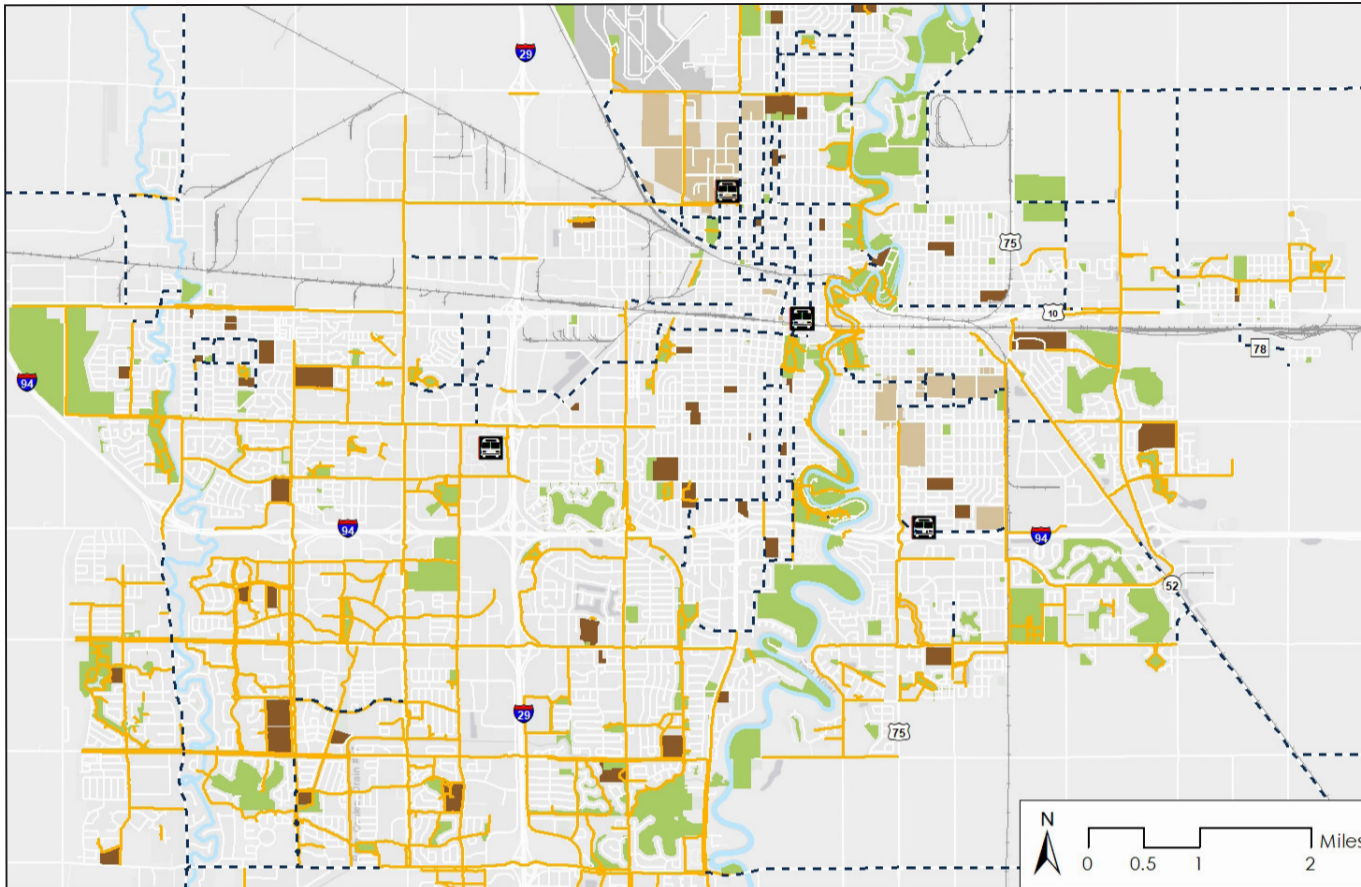
Completed

- Rivershore Dr S** from 22nd to 40th Ave S (30)
- 21st St S** from 62nd to 64th Ave S (40)



BIKE & PEDESTRIAN

Network map



LEGEND

- Bikeway
- Shared Use Path
- College / University
- Public / Private School
- Park
- River / Stream
- Railroad
- Bus Transfer Hub

NOTE: For the most up-to-date bike network map, please click [here](#) or see “Fargo-Moorhead Bike Map” in additional resources.



Fargo-Moorhead Bike Map

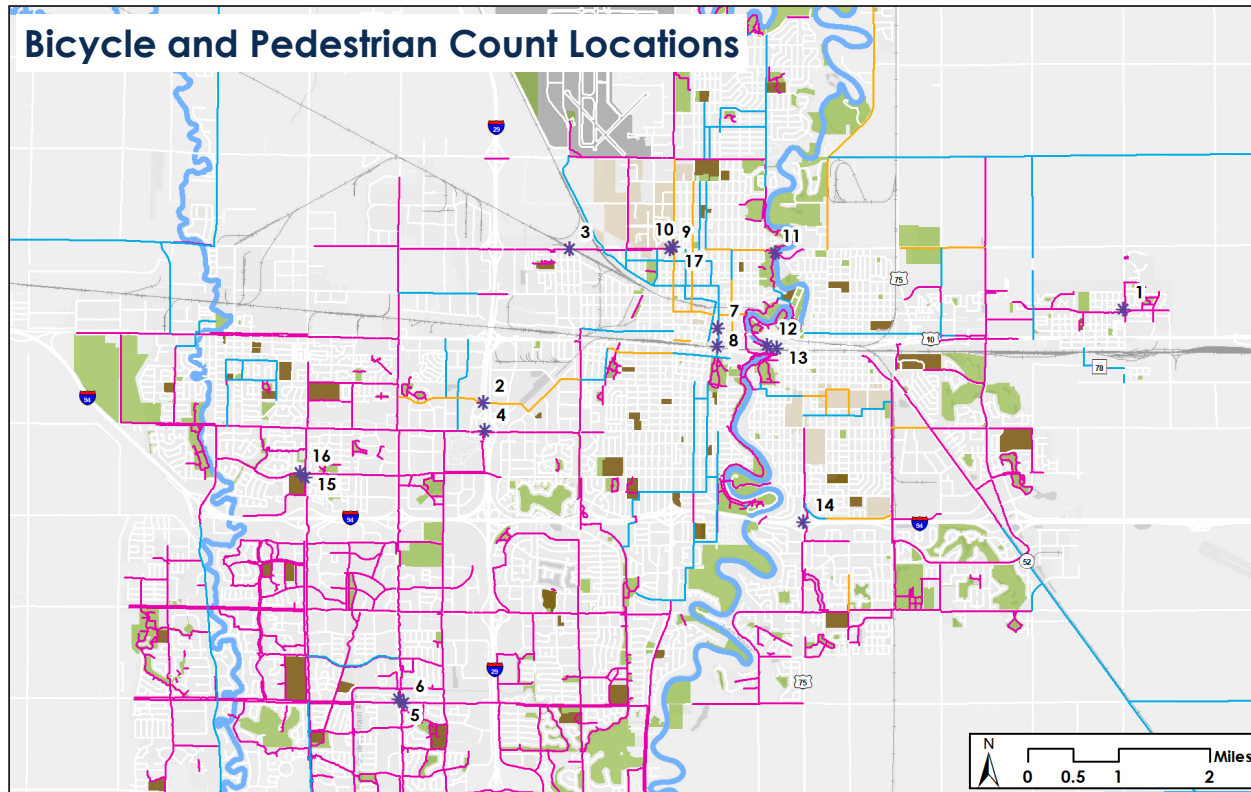
- The application is available on Google Play and the Apple App Store
- The bike map of the Fargo-Moorhead metro area includes locations of shared use paths (paths for biking and walking), bike lanes, and bikeable streets. Also included in the map are the locations of bike repair stations and bike lockers.

BIKE & PEDESTRIAN

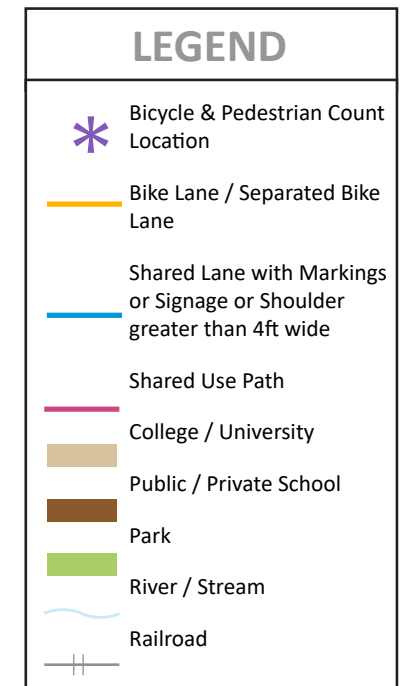
Counts

Annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts

- Both manual and automated bicycle and pedestrian counts have been taken since 2013 and 2014 respectively
- There are **automated counters** placed at **5 locations** in the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area that collect data **year-round**
- **Manual counts** are conducted at **16 locations** on a typical weekday in September **once a year for a four-hour period**
- For more information about the counts and count locations, please refer to the bicycle and pedestrian count report



NOTE: For more information about the most recent counts, please click [here](#) or see "Bike & Ped Count Report" in additional resources.



TRANSIT

Overview



Total MATBUS
passengers in 2020
1,318,732

Change from year
previous
-26.3%

Fargo/West Fargo
passengers in 2020
855,848

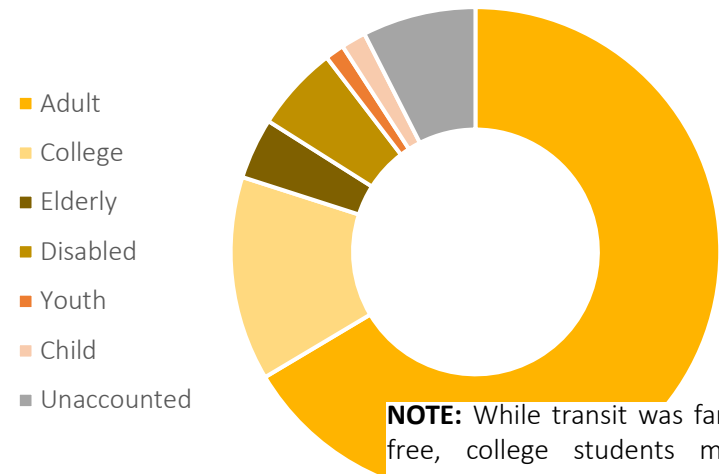
Change from year
previous
-34.6%

Moorhead/Dilworth
passengers in 2020
425,747

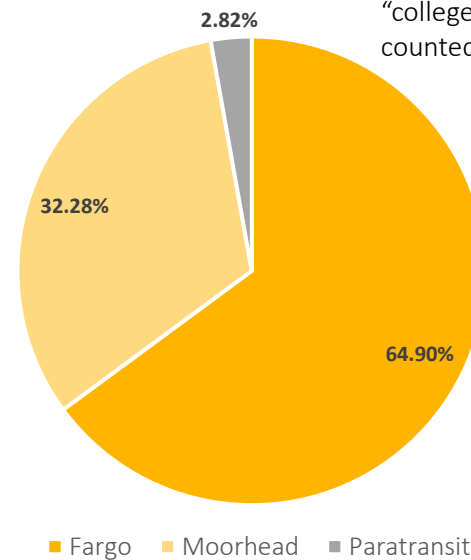
Change from year
previous
-11.5%

Paratransit passengers
in 2020
37,137

Change from year
previous
-30.4%



NOTE: While transit was fare-free, college students may not have shown their U-Pass for rides. As a result, some “college” riders may have been counted as “adult” in 2020.



TRANSIT

Projects

Route and Service Changes

- Added grocery delivery service for seniors and Paratransit-eligible riders
- Extra bus added to Route 4 during weekday peak ridership hours- 10:00am-7:00pm, May 8-June 25
- Extra bus added to Route 15 on Saturdays- May 9-July 1
- Route 15 reduced to 30-minute service on weekdays- October 26-November 16

Fares

- Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, implemented free fares on MATBUS and MAT Paratransit beginning March 23, 2020.

Marketing

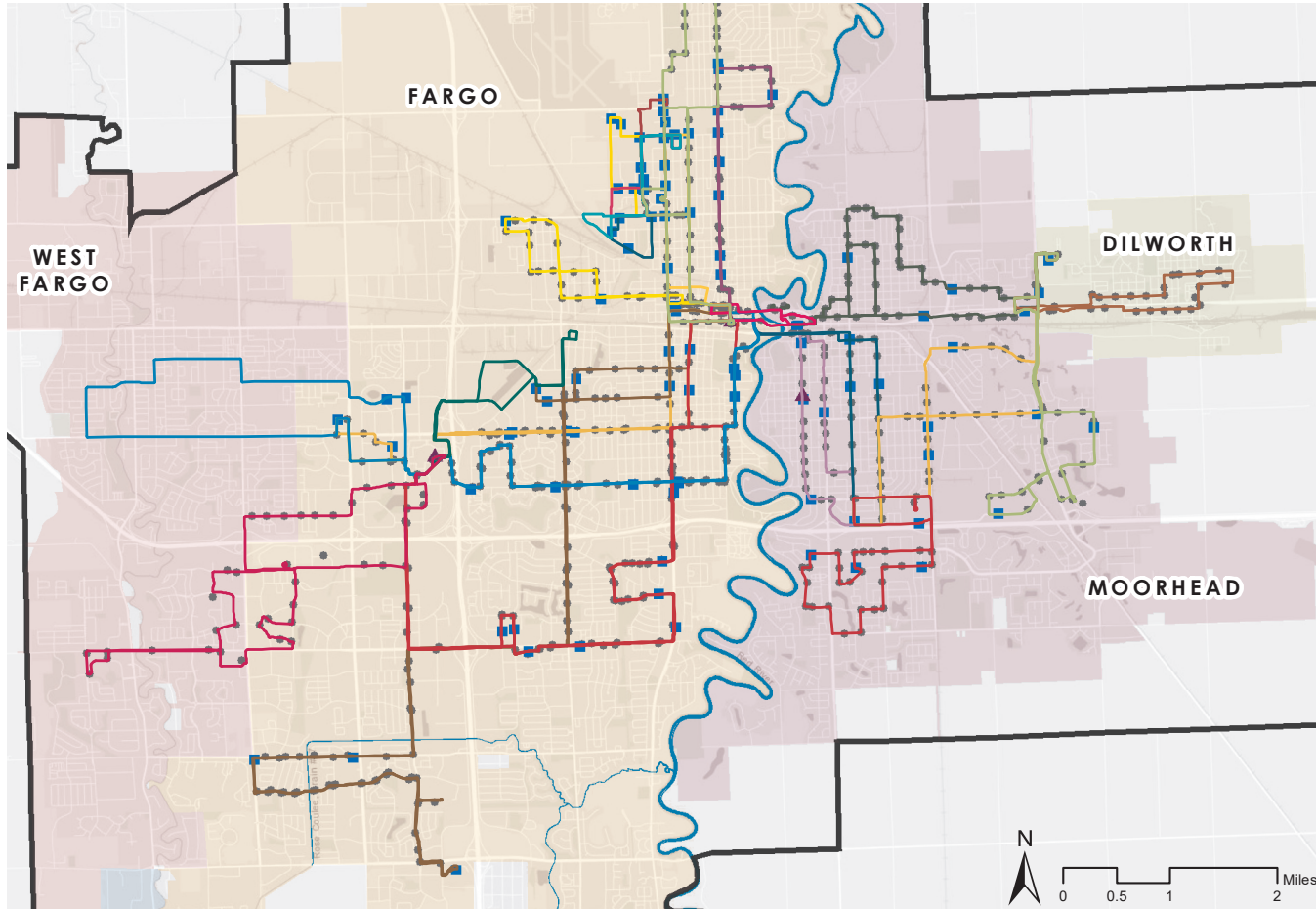
- Utilized advertising trade with WDAY for television commercial on COVID-19 safety measures
- MATBUS featured in several publications by the Minnesota Public Transit Association- a video about Minnesota transit's importance during COVID-19; articles in the monthly newsletter about Stuff the Bus and retasking drivers to Meals on Wheels/grocery delivery
- Purchased outdoor sandwich boards for use during LinkFM events, MATBUS event booths

Studies

- Completed Transit Authority Study
- Began Five-year Transit Development Plan (2021-2025)
- The comprehensive safety plan required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) was developed.

TRANSIT

Route Map



LEGEND	
■ Shelter	Route 16
▲ Hub	Route 17
● Designated Stop	Route 18
— Route 1	Route 21
— Route 2	Route 22
— Route 3	Route 24
— Route 4	Route 31
— Route 4 Extension	Route 32E
— Route 5	Route 32W
— Route 6	Route 33
— Route 9	Route 34
— Route 11	Route 35
— Route 13	Link FM
— Route 13U	
— Route 14	
— Route 15	

TRANSIT

Inventory

Fleet Inventory

11 - 35' Buses owned by Moorhead

25 - 35' Buses owned by Fargo, of which 2 are diesel-electric hybrid buses

6 - 40' Buses owned by Fargo, of which all are diesel-electric hybrid buses

1 - 35' Bus removed from service

1 - 35' Bus authorized for purchase

Paratransit Inventory

4 - Cutaway Buses owned by Moorhead

14 - Cutaway Buses owned by Fargo

1 - Cutaway Bus removed from service

2 - Cutaway Buses authorized for purchase

Valley Senior Service Inventory

4 - Dodge Caravans owned by Moorhead

Equipment Purchases

- ❑ Purchased Diesel Particulate Fuel Cleaning Equipment for Metro Transit Garage
- ❑ Purchased Emitters and Green Light Priority System for Moorhead Traffic Signals, with implementation scheduled for May 2021
- ❑ Purchased Plexiglas barriers for all fixed route vehicles. These will be replaced with Driver Protection Systems in 2021
- ❑ Purchased Faster Web and began implementation
- ❑ Continued implementation of upgraded Genfare Fare Collection System. New features include mobile ticketing, best fare, new customized app, wireless download of data, Paratransit set up with old fareboxes, etc.

Facility Purchases, Replacements & Improvements

Metro Transit Garage (MTG)

Requested quotes to replace existing lights with LED lights, to be completed in 2021.

Ground Transportation Center (GTC)

Renovated the interior of the Ground Transportation Center (GTC) to include increasing office space, expanding restrooms, replacing all flooring and lighting, relocating fixed route dispatch and create a customer care center which also includes relocating Paratransit to the GTC, creating space for Jefferson Lines, replace HVAC systems, perform a variety of bus deck repairs, replace fencing.

Shelters

Moorhead purchased two new shelters in 2020 and awarded installation for spring 2021 (Clay County Courthouse and Hornbacher's Main/St. Joe's Church and School). New and replacement locations were determined for the Fargo shelters that were purchased in 2019. Procurement for installation will begin in 2021.



ACRONYMS

ACS	American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau)
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
FAR	Hector International Airport, Fargo
FM	Fargo-Moorhead
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GTC	Ground Transportation Center
MATBUS	Metro Area Transit of Fargo-Moorhead
Metro COG	Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
MnDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MPA	Metropolitan Planning Area
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area (includes all of Cass County and Clay County)
MTG	Metro Transit Garage
MTP	Metropolitan Transportation Plan
NDDOT	North Dakota Department of Transportation
NHS	Non-Highway System
NPMRDS	National Performance Management Research Data Set
TDP	Transit Development Plan
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TDM	Travel Demand Model
TTTR	Truck Travel Time Reliability
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Bike & Ped Count Report fmmetrocog.org/resources/planning/bicycle-pedestrian-planning

COVID-19 Analysis Report fmmetrocog.org/application/files/9316/2188/9131/Final_COVID-19_Analysis_Report.pdf

Economic Profile gfmedc.com/business/community-profile/economic-profile/

Fargo Amtrak Station greatamericanstations.com/stations/fargo-nd-far/

Fargo-Moorhead Bike Map fmmetrocog.org/fmbikemap

Hector International Airport Year-End Statistics fargoairport.com/december-year-end-2020-monthly-statistics/

Permits Plus issuu.com/homebuildersassociation/docs/permits_plus_issue_1_2021

Performance Measures fmmetrocog.org/resources/performance-measures

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) fmmetrocog.org/TIP





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