## **METROPOLITAN PROFILE 2022**

Annual Report for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area





Adopted: November 17, 2022 1-2nd Street N, Suite 232 Fargo, ND 58102 www.fmmetrocog.org The preparation of this document was funded in part by the United States Department of Transportation with funding administered through the North Dakota and Minnesota Departments of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. Additional funding was provided by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and through local contributions from the governments of Fargo, West Fargo, Horace, and Cass County in North Dakota; and Moorhead, Dilworth, and Clay County in Minnesota. The United States government and the states of North Dakota and Minnesota assume no liability for the contents or use thereof.

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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 2022 (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 2021 calendar year (January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021).

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 metrocog@fmmetrocog.org, or visiting Metro COG's website at www.fmmetrocog.org.

**Dave Piepkorn** 

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 2022 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 2021 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.

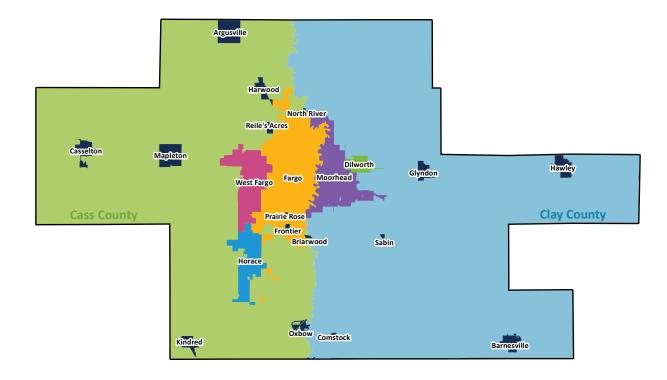
## **JURISDICTIONS**

#### North Dakota

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

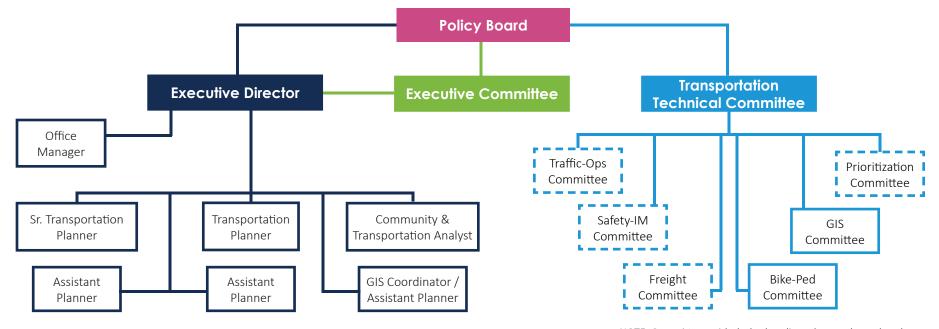
#### Minnesota

- □ Barnesville- 2.08 sq mi
- ☐ Clay County- 1,053 sq mi
- ☐ Glyndon- 1.58 sq mi
- □ Moorhead- 22.27 sq mi
- □ Hawley- 2.46 sq mi
- □ Dilworth- 3.21 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 (2022)**



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

**Metro COG** 701.532.5100

Executive Director Cindy Gray	701.532.5103
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## 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**

#### **Continuing COVID-19 Pandemic**

In 2021, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to linger as mass vaccination efforts began. Tentatively, the economy started to recover and in-person activities became more commonplace as the year wore on. In line with national trends, the percent of the workforce working from home is on the rise.

#### **Census Delay**

A delay in publishing statistics from the 2020 Census, also led to further delays in confirming Transportation Management Area (TMA) status for the Fargo-Moorhead metro area. This will impact future decision-making about funding in the region and Metro COG has continued to plan for this eventual designation.

#### **Demographic Highlights**

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has continued to experience faster population growth than the country as a whole. In 2021, proportionally, much of this growth is estimated to have been captured by growth in West Fargo and Horace. 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 also continues to look more diverse despite having lower rates of foreign-born individuals and those speaking a language other than English at home.

#### **Economic Recovery**

In 2021, Fargo-Moorhead saw a strong economic recovery. This can be seen in lower unemployment numbers compared to national trends, an increase in household income (now higher than the national median) and a decrease in the percent in poverty (now lower than the national figure).

#### **Transportation**

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the region has not returned to prepandemic levels but has remained stable. Compared to the year previous, VMT per capita rates in the metro area are now below national rates.

Meanwhile, truck average daily traffic (ADT) saw a noticable uptick as demand for freight remained high. While Amtrak ridership continued to suffer into 2021, the number of air passengers at Hector International Airport started to rise again. During this time, the Canadian border remained closed until November, when travel was granted to those who were fully vaccinated.

After the surge in bicycle and pedestrian activity in 2020, during the pandemic-related shut-down and beyond, the metro area experienced a slight reduction in observed bike and ped activity. However, during that time, the metro's bicycle network continued to expand, and this is expected to continue encouraging more bike and ped activity over time.

Transit ridership remains lower than pre-pandemic levels, despite a notable increase in paratransit ridership. College ridership began to pick up as some in-person classes resumed. However, challenges remain with driver shortages which has resulted in some service cuts and suspensions.

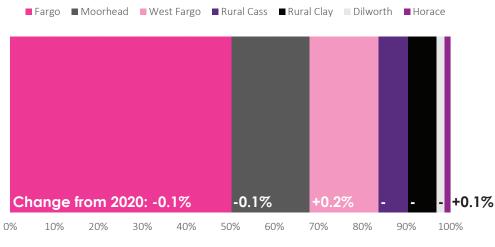
### Overview

Percent population change (2020-2021)

FM MSA **0.91%** 

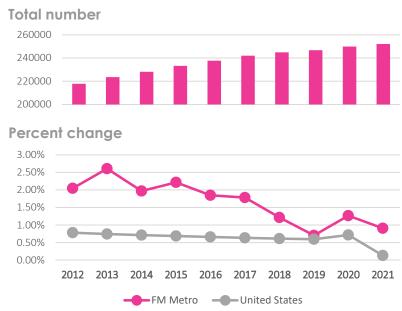
United States 0.13%

#### Population by jurisdiction in 2021





#### Annual population growth (2012-2021)



## **Demographics**



#### Median age\*

United States FM MSA 32.6 yrs | 38.6 yrs



#### Speaks a language other than English at home<sup>^</sup>

**FM MSA** 8.0%

United States



#### Bachelor's degree or higher

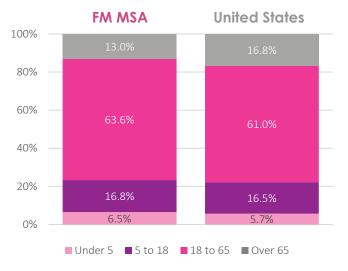
United States 39.1%



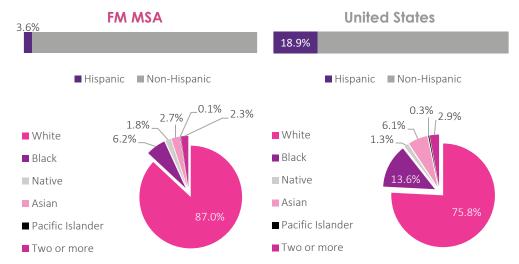
#### Foreign born<sup>^</sup>

**FM MSA** 7.0% **United States** 

#### Age distribution



#### **Racial composition**



## **Employment**



#### Average unemployment rate in 2021

FM MSA 2.85% United States 5.36%



#### Percent in labor force<sup>^</sup>

74.5%

United States 63.0%



#### Median household income<sup>^</sup>

FM MSA \$65,999 United States \$64,994



#### Percent in poverty

FM MSA **9.5%** 

United States 11.6%

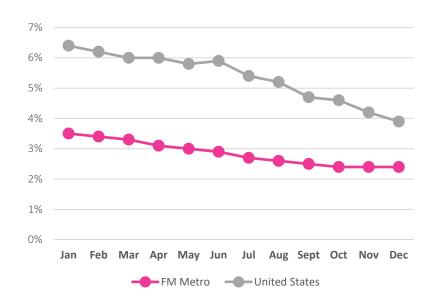


#### Worked from home

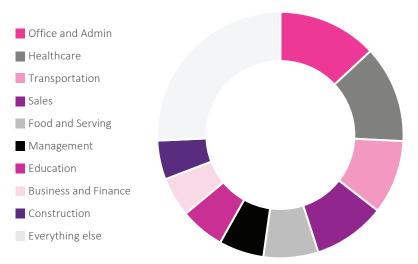
13.4%

United States 17.9%

#### Unemployment rate in 2021 by month



#### Top 10 industries ranked by employment



NOTE: For full industry titles and more comprehensive economic profile, see "Economic Profile" in Additional Resources.

## Housing



#### Average household size<sup>^</sup>

2.32

United States



#### Owner-occupied rate<sup>^</sup>

**FM MSA** 

**United States** 

#### Median house price in 2021



NOTE: House prices may not be reflective of additional special assessment costs



Housing units metrowide



Building permits issued in 2021

1222

New single-family residential units

Fargo

+288 West Fargo

+293 Horace

Moorhead

Dilworth

Associate Jurisdictions

1247

New multi-family residential units

+839 Fargo

+124West Fargo

+0 Horace

+176 Moorhead

+72 Dilworth

+36 Associate Jurisdictions

NOTE: For more in-depth information, see "Permits Plus" in Additional Resources.

# ROADWAYS Overview

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in 2021

2.4 billion+

Change from year previous

+4.93%

#### **Auto Travel Time Reliability (Interstate)**

ND Portion of the MPA

100%

MN Portion of the MPA

Auto Travel Time Reliability (Non-Interstate)

ND Portion of the MPA

94%

1

MN Portion of the MPA

90%

1

NOTE: For more information, see "Performance Measures" in Additional Resources.



#### VMT per capita

FM Metro **9,700.1** 

9,728.5

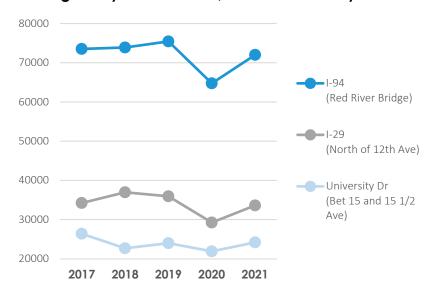


#### Average commute time in minutes<sup>^</sup>

FM Metro **17.6** 

United States 26.9

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



Sources in this section: NDDOT, MnDOT, American Community Survey (ACS) estimates ^2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates

#### **ROADWAYS**

## **Projects**



Number of roadway projects

18

Total cost

\$25.3 million+

Federal funding

\$20.9 million+

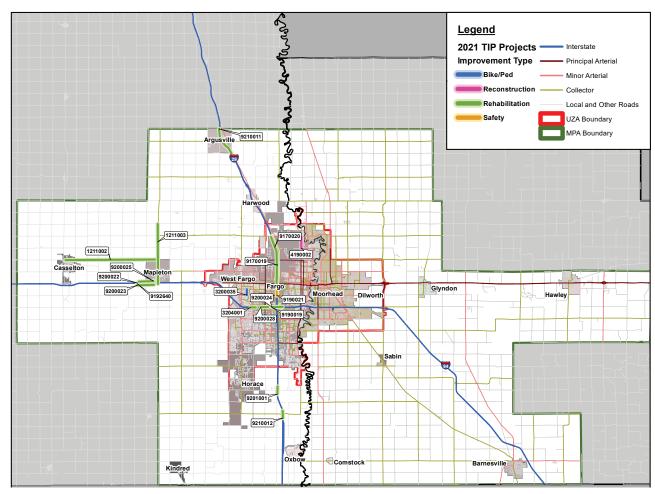
State funding

\$1.6 million+

**Local funding** 

\$4.7 million+

#### 2021 TIP Projects (Federally Funded)



#### **ROADWAYS**

## **Safety & Pavement Condition Targets**



#### ND-Side of the FM MPA 2021 safety data

Number of fatalities

Number of serious injuries

Number of non-motorized fatalities and nonmotorized serious injuries

#### MN-Side of the FM MPA 2021 safety data

Number of fatalities

Number of serious injuries

Number of non-motorized fatalities and nonmotorized serious injuries

#### NDDOT 2018-2021 pavement condition targets



**75.6%** 

% of Interstate in good condition

3% 58.3%

% of Interstate in poor condition

3%

% of non-Interstate in good condition

% 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% 4%

% of NHS bridges in good condition

% of NHS bridges in poor condition

#### MnDOT 2018-2021 bridge condition targets

35%

% of NHS bridges in good condition

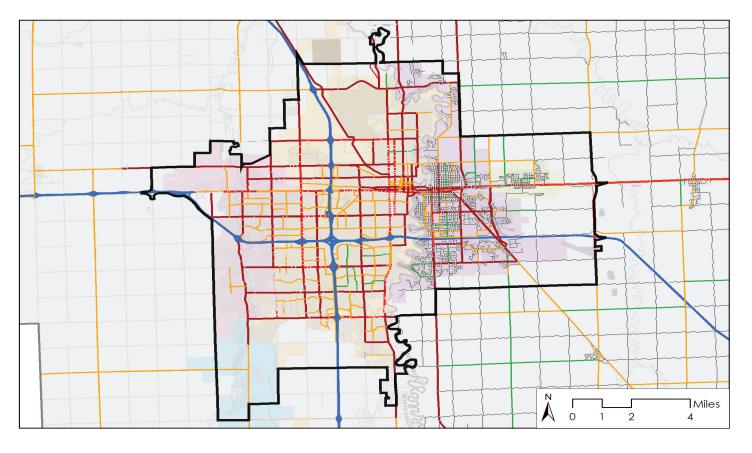
4%

% of NHS bridges in poor condition

NOTE: For more information, see "Performance Measures" in

#### **ROADWAYS**

### **Functional Classification**





NOTE: The map shown reflects the official map as of 2021. In 2021, the updated North Dakota federal functional classification system was in the process of being approved.

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

### Overview

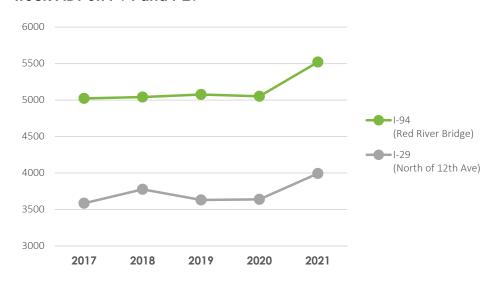


Air cargo total landed weight in 2021 (lbs)
420 million

Change from year previous

+0.02%

#### Truck ADT on I-94 and I-29



Truck Travel Time Reliability Index (TTTR)

Fargo-Moorhead MPA

1.19

Minneapolis-St Paul MPA

1.49

TTTR target 2021

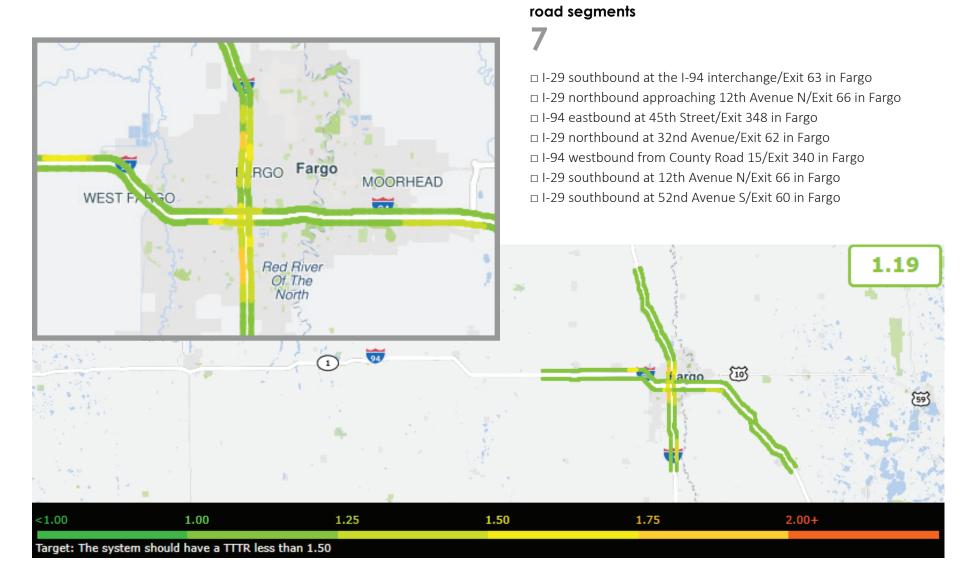
1.50

#### TTTR Actual vs Target



NOTE: For more information, see "Performance Measures" in Additional Resources.

### Truck



Number of unreliable

### Rail and Air



Empire Builder passengers in 2021

220,681

Change from year previous

-13.0%

Fargo Amtrak station ridership in 2021

10,510

Change from year previous

-15.3%

Empire Builder on-time performance

59.3%

Change from year previous

-5.1%

NOTE: For more information, see "Fargo Amtrak Station" in Additional Resources.



FAR air passengers in 2021

796,675

Change from year previous

+66.5%

Change from 2019 (pre-pandemic)

-14.4%

FAR enplanements (boardings) in 2021

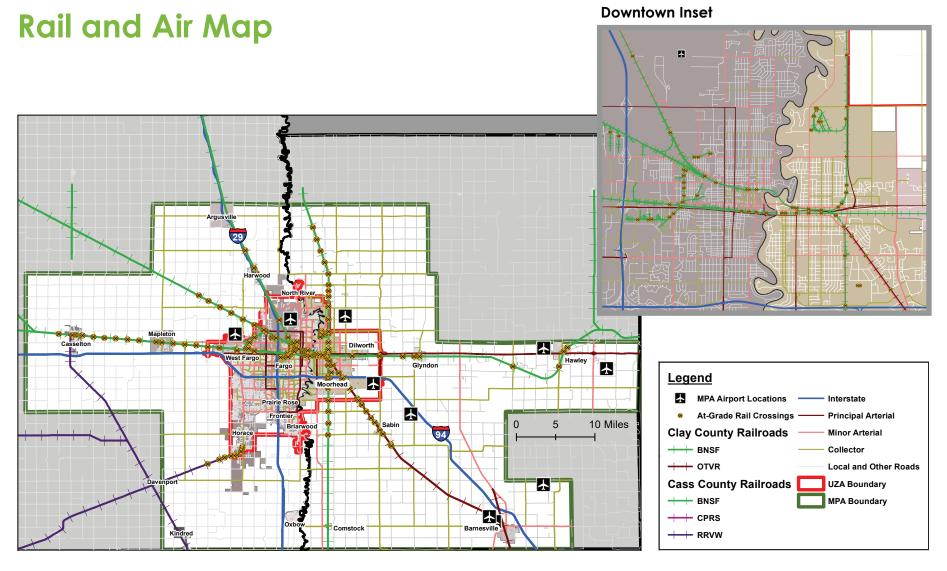
399,172

Change from year previous

+67.4%

NOTE: Delta service to Atlanta was discontinued in 2021. For more information, see "Hector International Airport Year-End Statistics" in Additional Resources.

Airline	City	<b>Market Share</b>	Change from 2020
Delta	Minneapolis	31%	-6%
United	Chicago, Denver	21%	-2%
	Las Vegas, Los Angeles*,		
	Nashville, Orlando*,		
Allegiant	Phoenix-Mesa, <i>Tampa*</i>	21%	4%
American	Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix*	22%	5%
Frontier	Denver, Phoenix*	6%	-1%
*denotes	seasonal service		



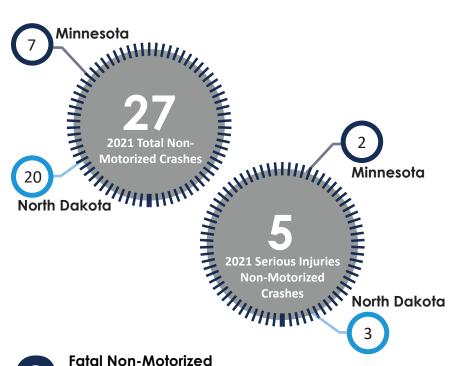
Overview

Bike trips taken in 2021 on Strava

34,483

Change from year previous

-17.9%



#### Cass County, ND

22,856 (i)

Leisure 81%	Commute 19%	
Rides 99%	E-Bike Rides 1%	

#### Volumes by hour



#### volumes by day or week



#### Volumes by month of year



#### Clay County, MN

Total activities

11,627<sub>①</sub>

Leisure 82%	Commute 18%	
Rides 100%	E-Bike Rides 0%	

#### Volumes by hour



#### Volumes by day of week



#### Volumes by month of year



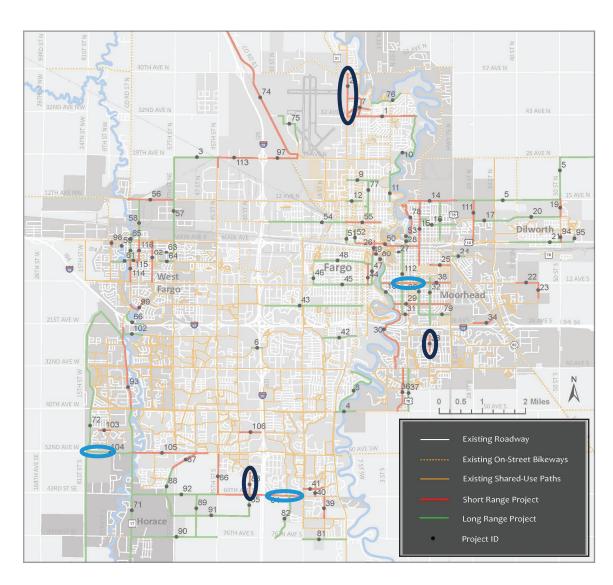
Sources in this section: NDDOT, MnDOT, Strava Metro

Crashes in 2021 in the

NOTE: For more information, please click *here* or see "Performance Measures" in additional resources.

**MPA** 

## **Projects**





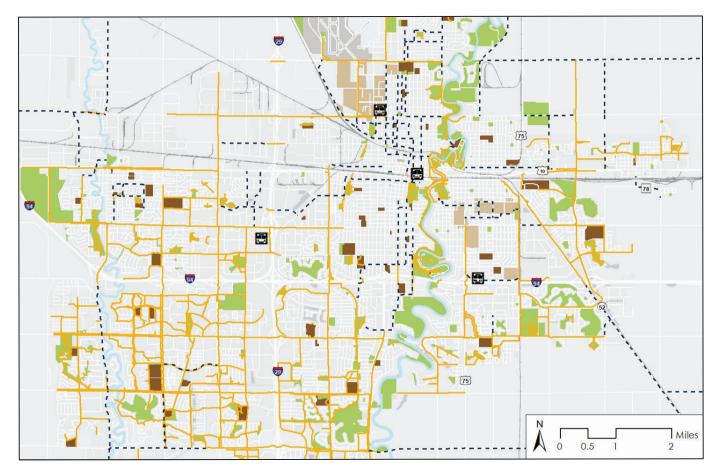
#### **Partially Complete**

- Path over **Drain 45** from 7th to 13th Ave E (65)
- **52nd Ave W** from 11th St W to 9th St W (104)
- **12th Ave S** from 5th St to 11th St (38)

#### Completed

- University Dr from 32nd to 40th Ave N (2)
- **38th St** from 56th Ave S to 64th Ave S (83)
- **14th St** from 30th Ave S to 35th Ave S (33)

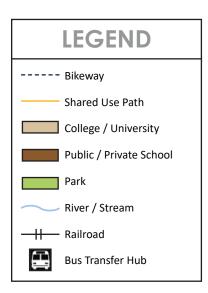
## **Network map**





#### 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 bikeways (streets with sharrows, wide shoulders, bike lanes or bike-signed roadways) and shared use paths (paths for biking and walking). Also included in the map are the locations of bike repair stations and bike lockers.

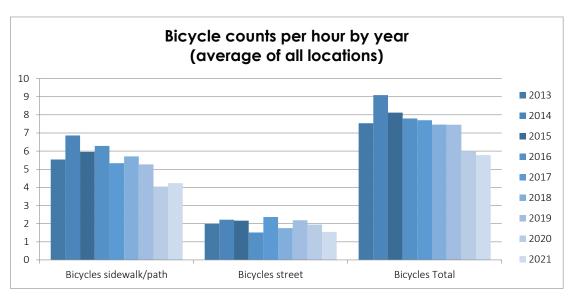


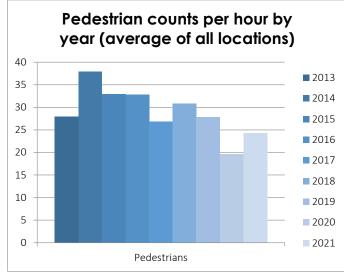
NOTE: For the most up-to-date bike network map, please click *here* or see "Fargo-Moorhead Bike Map" in additional resources.

### 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.

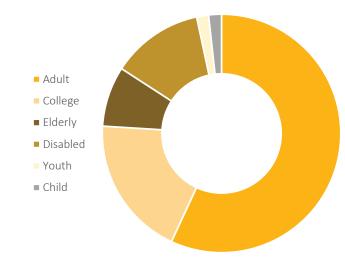
# TRANSIT Overview

Total MATBUS passengers in 2021

1,202,680

Change from year previous

-8.8%



Fargo/West Fargo passengers in 2021

786,152

Change from year previous

-8.1%

Moorhead/Dilworth passengers in 2021

363,726

Change from year previous

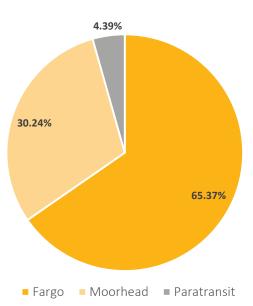
-14.6%

Paratransit passengers in 2021

52,802

Change from year previous

+42.2%



Sources in this section: MATBUS

#### **TRANSIT**

## **Projects**

#### **Route and Service Changes**

- □ Route 4- effective May 1, 2021- removed service from Cash Wise parking lot, per request of property owner
- Route 6- effective May 1, 2021- extended route further east to 14th St NE for new development area- removed service from the Cash Wise parking lot to continue to fit route in 30-minute trip- reversed route to more efficiently serve CVS
- □ Route 3- effective April 21, 2021- major detour lasting until July 17 due to construction on 12th Ave between 20th St and SE Main
- Due to driver shortages, there were temporary service suspensions on Route 2, Route 15, and the Industrial Park TapRide effective Monday, November 8, 2021

#### **Fares**

- □ Suspended fares of Fixed Route and MAT Paratransit through March 31, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fare collection resumed on April 1, 2021.
- Approved new account-based fare structure with mobile ticketing and fare capping (to be implemented in 2022 upon two-week notice to passengers)

#### Marketing

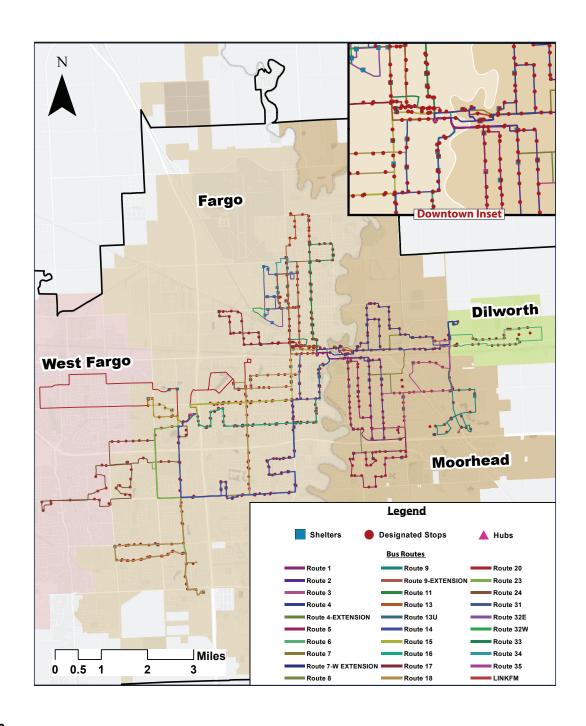
□ Initial MATBUS Connect information was distributed to riders through pamphlets and on matbus.com.

#### **Studies**

- Complete five-year Transit Development Plan, including Human Services Plan Update
- Began implementation of Safety Plan in July 2021

#### **TRANSIT**

## **Route Map**



#### **TRANSIT**

## **Inventory**

#### Fleet Inventory

- 11 35' Buses owned by Moorhead, all diesel (acquired between 2015-2020)
- 25 35' Buses owned by Fargo, of which 2 are diesel-electric hybrid buses (acquired between 2007-2021)
- 6 40' Buses owned by Fargo, of which all are diesel-electric hybrid buses (acquired between 2013-2015)
- 3 TapRide vehicles owned by Fargo

#### **Paratransit Inventory**

- 3 Cutaway buses owned by Moorhead
- 11 Cutaway buses owned by Fargo

#### **Valley Senior Service** Inventory

4 - Dodge Caravans owned by Moorhead

#### **Equipment Purchases**

- ☐ Effective October 15, 2021, began use of bus green light priority on traffic signals along Moorhead bus routes
- Completed Farebox Upgrade, with mobility ticketing and pay as you go fare capping
- Participated in procurement for replacement of large buses as part of Duluth Consortium (Award to be completed in 2022): 1 Moorhead, 8 Fargo
- Awarded bid for replacement of two Paratransit buses for Moorhead (Units 1231 & 1232) to be delivered in 2022
- Installed permanent barriers for driver safety
- Installed air filtration system in all buses

#### Facility Purchases, Replacements & Improvements

May 2021- Moorhead Cash Wise shelter moved from parking lot to 34th St boulevard, due to Cash Wise requesting the removal of routes from their parking lot. Added sidewalk to connect to parking lot. Moorhead Hornbacher's shelter (11th St) moved location south across the street to match up with the route path betternew style shelter with solar lighting. Moorhead Courthouse shelter moved location farther north to other side of intersection-new style shelter with solar lighting

July 2021- Replaced wood fence with PVC around utilities at Moorhad Marriott Transfer Hub. Moorhead "A Place for Hope" had concrete for a shelter poured as part of the 12th Avenue South reconstruction. Nov. 2021 moved used shelter to this location.

Nov. 2021- Disposed of Dilworth AXIS shelter and replaced with LinkFM shelter from the Center Mall. Replaced shelter at Queens (Belsly & 18th St S) after destroyed by a car

MTG Improvements - Drive-over pit repairs and in-ground hoist replacement work began. Existing lights were replaced with LED lights (both interior and exterior).

Phase 2 of the Ground Transportation Center construction project was substantially completed. This phase included reroofing, canopy remodeling, exterior site fencing, landscaping and deck repairs.

## **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

**TMA** Transportation Management Area

TTTR Truck Travel Time Reliability (only applies to the National Highway System)

**VMT** Vehicle Miles Traveled

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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

**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

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