

**608th Policy Board Meeting
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
Thursday, November 17, 2022 – 4:00 pm**

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
Mary	Scherling	Cass County Commission
Rocky	Schneider	Fargo Planning Commission
Scott	Stofferahn	Fargo Planning Commission
Jeff	Trudeau	Horace City Council
Bob	Walton	NDDOT – Fargo District (ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Amanda	George	West Fargo City Commission
John	Gunkelman	Fargo Planning Commission
Denise	Kolpack	Fargo City Commission
Arlette	Preston	Fargo City Commission
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission
Shiloh	Wahl	MnDOT – District 4 (ex-officio)

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Paul	Bervik	Metro COG
Jaron	Capps	Metro COG
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Aaron	Murra	NDDOT
Brent	Muscha	Apex Engineering

- 1a. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS, convened**
The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, on November 17, 2022 by Chair Piepkorn, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.
- 1b. 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 November 17, 2022 Policy Board Meeting.

**Mr. Hendrickson moved, seconded by Mr. Lindaas
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.**

1c. Past Meeting Minutes, approved

Chair Piepkorn asked for approval of the Minutes of the October 20, 2022 Meeting.

**MOTION: Approve the October 20, 2022 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.
Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Ms. Nash
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.**

1d. Monthly Bills, approved

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

**MOTION: Approve the November 2022 Bills List.
Ms. Nash moved, seconded by Mr. Olson
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.**

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. October Month End Report
- b. Cass-Clay Food Commission Contract 2023
- c. ATAC Addendum for 2023 Intersection Data Collection & Reporting
- d. 2023 Health/Vision/Dental Insurance Contract with BCBSND
- e. MnDOT 2023 Agreement

**MOTION: Approve Items a-e on the Consent Agenda.
Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Ms. Nash
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.**

3. REGULAR AGENDA

3a. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

3b. Draft Transportation Improvement Program 2023-2026 Amendment

Mr. Bervik presented Amendment #1 to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The proposed amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP reflects a modified federally funded project within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA).

A public notice was published in The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, which advertised the public meeting, detailed how to request more information, and provided information on how to make public comment regarding the proposed amendment. The public notice advertised

that all public comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, November 17, 2022.

The proposed amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP is as follows:

1. Modification of Project 3220008: City of West Fargo construction of shared use path at Eaglewood and the Lights (2023). The project year shifted from 2024 to 2023 and the project cost increased by 51%.
2. Modification of Project 4220003: City of Fargo construction of a shared use path at Bison Village (2023). Total project cost and associated funding breakdown is being increased by 9.4% to match what was approved by the Policy Board in June of 2022.
3. Modification of Project 5200003: Moorhead Transit Operating Assistance. Total project cost decrease by 6.8%. Addition of Federal share. Decrease to state and local share. (2023)
4. Modification of Project 5220032: Moorhead Transit Paratransit Operating Assistance. Total project cost increase by 19.1%. Addition of Federal share. Decrease to state and local share. (2023)
5. Modification of Project 8200011: MNDOT rehabilitation of Minnesota Project will consist of partial reconstruct, mill and overlay, shared use path, and ADA improvements. Total project cost and associated funding breakdown is being reduced by 7.9% to become consistent with the Minnesota State Transportation Improvement Plan (MN STIP).
6. Modification of Project 8230002: City of Moorhead preliminary engineering for new underpass under BNSF railroad in Moorhead (2023). The project description is being updated to match the Minnesota State Transportation Improvement Plan (MN STIP).
7. Modification of Project 9191007: NDDOT I-94 east-bound storm sewer and stormwater lift station (2023). Project changed years from 2024 to 2023.
8. New Project 4231001: City of Fargo reconstruction of the 12th Avenue North and 15th Avenue North Moorhead bridge over the Red River (2023).
9. New Project 8231001: MNDOT districtwide safety improvements (local HSIP) edgeline striping (2023).
10. New Project 8231002: MNDOT districtwide living snow fence installation (2023) (CRRSAA).
11. New Project 9231001: NDDOT rehabilitation of three structures along the Rose Coulee (2025). Deck overlay, bridge rail retrofit, approach slab repair, spall repairs, and erosion repair.

12. New Project 9231002: NDDOT rehabilitation of I-94 frontage road bridge 4 miles east of ND18 (2025). Deck overlay, bridge rail retrofit, approach slab repair, spall repairs, and erosion repair.
13. New Project 9231003: NDDOT statewide pavement marking (2023).
14. New Project 9231004: NDDOT signal revision in West Fargo at the intersection of 9th Street East/Veterans Boulevard and I-94 (2025).
15. New Project 9231005: NDDOT reconstruction of the Lynchburg interchange 3 miles west of ND18 (2025).
16. New Project 9231006: NDDOT rehabilitation chip seal of US-81 from Dakota Drive to I-29 (2023).

Chair Piepkorn asked if the revised numbers reflect the increase in cost. Mr. Maddox said that some projects reflected revised actual costs, and some projects had a change in local match, and some allocations were revised in both transit and road projects.

Chair Piepkorn opened the meeting for any public comments. No public comments were received.

MOTION: Approve Amendment #1 of the Metro COG 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Ms. Nash.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3c. Transportation Alternatives 2024-2025 Project Selection

Mr. Farnsworth presented the Transportation Alternatives 2024-2025 Project Selections and scoring. A total of seven applications were received by the October 31st deadline. At the November 9th Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee meeting, the applications were scored, ranked, and assigned TA funding accordingly. The scoring, ranking, and funding was then brought to the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) on November 10th where the TTC recommended Policy Board approval.

Below is a description of each project as well as the score and recommended funding per project. This includes the scoring matrix as well as the TA application funding table as vetted through the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee and TTC.

City of Fargo – Connecting the Trails Path Project - Drain 27 Crossing at Timberline

The City of Fargo is seeking funding to construct a shared use path and crossing over Drain 27 which would connect the Oak Creek neighborhood to the Timberline/Fox Run neighborhood. The project would connect the south end of the Milwaukee Trail to the trail network on the west side of Drain 27. By connecting the trails, a continuous trail system would be achieved in south Fargo. The crossing of Drain 27 would be a low-level culvert.

- Evaluation scoring: 35 points
- Funding:
 - Total construction cost: \$875,045
 - **Recommended TA funding (FY 2025): \$700,036 (80%)**

- o Local match: \$175,009 (20%)

City of Fargo – Red River Shared Use Path – Phase 2 – 35th Ave S to 40th Ave S

The City of Fargo is seeking funding to construct a shared use path that will run along the Red River between 35th Ave S and 40th Ave S (0.79 miles in length). This project would be phase 2 of an overall path system running from Harwood Dr to 40th Ave S. Phase 1 (Harwood Dr. to 35th Ave S) of the of the project has been awarded funding for fiscal year (FY) 2023.

- Evaluation scoring: 40 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$739,941
 - o FY 2024
 - **Recommended TA funding: \$352,649 (48%)**
 - Local match: \$88,162
 - o FY 2025
 - **Recommended TA funding: \$144,134 (19%)**
 - Local match: \$36,033

City of Fargo – Red River Shared Use Path – VA to Park Lane

The City of Fargo is seeking funding to construct a shared use path that would connect the Woodlawn neighborhood to the Woodcrest neighborhood with the path running along the Red River. The alignment of the path would begin on the south edge of the VA Hospital property (18th Ave N) and would run north behind the floodwall adjacent to the VA hospital and terminate at Park Lane. The project would be approximately 0.95 miles in length.

- Evaluation scoring: 30 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$840,508
 - o **Recommended TA funding: \$0**

City of Fargo – Drain 27 & Deer Creek Shared Use Path

The City of Fargo is seeking funding to construct a shared use path that would connect the Deer Creek neighborhood with the existing path network north of 52nd Ave S. The alignment of the path would begin at 52nd Ave S and be constructed on a shelf following the alignment of Drain 27, and would connect to the existing path at 63rd St across from the Deer Creek Elementary School.

- Evaluation scoring: 30 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$848,206
 - o **Recommended TA funding: \$0**

City of Horace – County Rd 17 Shared Use Path Phase 4

The City of Horace is seeking to construct a shared use path along the west side of County Rd 17 from 64th Ave S to 68th Ave S (approximately 0.3 miles in length). The path would terminate to the south at 68th Ave S at the existing Westwood Park. At this time the shared use path will terminate without an immediate connection. However, the City of Horace expects the parcel to the south to develop in the near future.

- Evaluation scoring: 20 points
- Funding:
 - o Total construction cost: \$433,090
 - o **Recommended TA funding: \$0**

City of Horace – County Rd 17 Shared Use Path Phase 5

The City of Horace is seeking to construct a shared use path along the east side of County Rd 17 from the existing crosswalk directly north of the 3rd Ave N and CR 17 "T" intersection to 81st Ave S (approximately 0.45 miles in length). The path will provide pedestrian access from 81st Ave S to the existing crosswalk at 3rd Ave N, which leads to Horace Elementary School. In addition, this project will eliminate path that extends into an active commercial parking lot and instead route users onto this proposed path along CR 17.

- Evaluation scoring: 35 points
- Funding:
 - Total construction cost: \$590,140
 - **Recommended TA funding (FY 2024): \$472,112 (80%)**
 - Local match: \$118,028 (20%)

City of West Fargo – Sheyenne River Pedestrian Bridge

The City of West Fargo is seeking to construct a connection between the eastern portion of West Fargo and the western portion of West Fargo, south of I-94. This connection would entail a bridge over the Sheyenne River as well as shared use paths connecting the bridge to the adjacent neighborhoods and path network. Approximately 0.45 miles of path would be installed.

- Evaluation scoring: 30 points
- Funding:
 - Total construction cost: \$761,450
 - **Recommended TA funding: \$0**

MOTION: Approve the TA project scoring, ranking, and associated funding as vetted through the Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee and Transportation Technical Committee (TTC).

Mr. Trudeau moved, seconded by Ms. Nash.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3d. STBG Solicitation Release

Mr. Maddox presented information on the solicitation release of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG). Metro COG is opening a solicitation for projects that intend to use Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funds. The agency will be accepting projects for federal fiscal years 2026 and 2027. FY2026 was not fully programmed at the development of the FY2023-2026 TIP cycle.

Metro COG has programmed its expected suballocation in fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Currently Metro COG is overprogrammed in FY2025 with the City of Fargo 36th Street at Rose Coulee project (\$307,534 federal) and the City of West Fargo 9th Street E project (\$9,600,000 federal).

As previously discussed, Metro COG will not become a Transportation Management Area (TMA) in FY2023 due to the final census urban area population data being unavailable. Metro COG and NDDOT have been discussing the ramifications of this delay.

NDDOT has confirmed with Metro COG that funding in FY2023 going toward the City of Fargo's 52nd Avenue South project will change as far as how the funding

is being pulled together, but total amount of federal funding and the status of the project will not be affected. This consists of a total of \$9,000,000 in federal funds (\$5M FY2022 and \$4M FY2023). Instead of coming from the metro area's direct suballocation as a TMA, the \$4M in FY2023 funds will come from the STBG category referred to as Urban Roads, which is allocated between the MPO cities throughout the state (Fargo-West Fargo-Horace, Bismarck-Mandan and Grand Forks), totals only \$8.4M. NDDOT does not anticipate funding for our chosen Transportation Alternatives (TA) projects to be affected.

The 42nd Street/I-94 structure rehab project is expected to be rescheduled due to a) the need for NDDOT to carry out further internal coordination and coordination with the City of Fargo regarding the project, and b) the TMA status impact. NDDOT has informed Metro COG that Phase 2 of 32nd Avenue South (Project #4210002: 25th to University Drive) will lose approximately \$4.4M in federal FY2023 funding due to the delay in the TMA designation. In order to recoup federal funding on that project, the City of Fargo may elect to use Advance Construction (AC) to pull funding from FY2026 or FY2027 through this solicitation.

3e. 2050 Demographic Forecast

Mr. Altenburg presented the 2050 Demographic Forecast update. Metro COG develops demographic forecasts for the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area every five years as part of its long-range transportation planning process. Demographic forecasts developed by Metro COG are used to revise and update the region's Travel Demand Model (TDM).

The 2050 Baseline Demographic Forecast includes socioeconomic factors from the 2017 Demographic Forecast Study, the most recently completed study for the metro area. The study also set out a framework for two unique growth scenarios based primarily on trend variables (cohort age structures, industry labor distribution), dynamic variables (birth rates, death rates, migration), and constants (housing to demographic relationships, labor force participation rates, gender ratio). Population, household, and employment forecasts from these scenarios are provided in five-year increments, from 2025 through 2050.

Two projection scenarios were created: a "Most Likely" forecast which outlines a baseline projection, and a "High Growth" scenario which outlines a fast-growing situation in the metropolitan area. These scenarios were created by manipulation of the birth, death, and migration rates that underpin the forecast model.

It is Metro COG's suggestion to adopt the "Most Likely" scenario rather than the "High Growth" scenario for use in the TDM.

Chair Piepkorn asked if this presentation could be made at the jurisdictions' respective commission/council meetings, as this is a useful tool and good information to be disseminated. Ms. Nash asked if a one-page summary could be shared, and Mr. Olson asked if the power point slides could be shared as well.

MOTION: Approve the 2050 Baseline Demographic Forecast and selection of the “Most Likely” growth scenario for use within Metro COG’s transportation planning process.

Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Mr. Olson

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3f. 2022 Metro Profile

Mr. Del Rosario presented the 2022 Metropolitan Profile (Metro Profile). The report is split into five sections (community profile, roadways, freight, bike & ped and transit) with metrics to be continually tracked in the future to reveal larger trends.

Chair Piepkorn also encouraged the agency to share this information at the jurisdictions’ respective commission/council meetings.

MOTION: Approve the final draft of the 2022 Metropolitan Profile.

Ms. Nash moved, seconded by Mr. Trudeau

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Additional Business

Ms. Gray shared that the UGPTI will be submitting an application for a SMART (Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation) Cities Grant.

This first phase of the grants is for studying/planning only, and if successful, would establish eligibility for a phase 2 grant for implementation. The project is described in the letter, and is aimed at using technology to better manage traffic and prevent/resolve congestion in our metro area, and in Grand Forks/EGF as well. It would be tied to the I-29 SMART Corridor project already underway through a RAISE grant secured by NDDOT.

Metro COG and the GF/EGF MPO are going in as minor partners in the grant, so, if successful, we would also get some funds. My request for Metro COG is approximately \$46,000. The leadership at UGPTI have asked for a letter of support from Metro COG on this.

MOTION: Support Metro COG’s participation in the SMART Cities Grant Application with UGPTI.

Mr. Linaas moved, seconded by Ms. Nash

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gray said that the Greater Northwest Rail Coalition and AllAboardMN have asked for an expression of interest to study the corridor.

Ms. Gray asked the board if they would like to reschedule the December Policy Board meeting, as it will coincide with the Diversion Authority’s meeting. This usually poses an uncertainty in achieving a quorum. The December Policy Board meeting usually includes important agenda items that will need to be approved,

so ensuring a quorum is necessary. Chair Piepkorn said that this is always a busy time of year, and does not think that moving the meeting would be fruitful.

5. Adjourn

The 608th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, November 17, 2022 was adjourned at 5:13 pm.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD December 15, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant