

**537th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, January 12, 2023 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Julie	Bommelmann	City of Fargo, MATBUS
Nicole	Crutchfield	City of Fargo Planning
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
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Tom	Soucy	Cass County Engineering (alternate for Jason Benson)
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division

Members Absent:

Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering (alternate present)
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Paul	Bervik	Metro COG
Angie	Bolstad	Stantec
Russ	Buchholz	NDDOT
Jaron	Capps	Metro COG
Brian	Carlson	SEH, Inc.
Connor	Cox	WSB
James	Dahlman	Interstate Engineering / City of Horace
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Brenda	Derrig	City of Fargo Engineering
Dylan	Dunn	Moore Engineering
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Sharijad	Hasan	ATAC/UGPTI
Matthew	Huettl	HDR
Beth	Kallestad	MnDOT
Joe	Klein	NDDOT

Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Brent	Muscha	Apex Engineering
Anna	Pierce	MnDOT
Ayden	Schaffler	Metro COG
Jordan	Smith	MATBUS
Kristen	Sperry	FHWA – ND
Kalvin	Strecker	Houston Engineering
Daniel	Triller	SEH, Inc.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on January 12, 2023 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 537 TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the 537 TTC Meeting Agenda.

**Motion: Approve the 537 TTC Meeting Agenda.
Mr. Raso moved, seconded by Mr. Atkins
MOTION, PASSED.
Motion carried unanimously.**

3. APPROVE December 8, 2022 TTC MEETING MINUTES

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

Ms. Huston asked for a correction on the minutes, saying the NW Growth plan should be the North, South, and West growth plan

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

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

5. 2023-2026 TIP Amendment #3

Mr. Bervik presented Amendment #3 to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. The proposed amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP reflects modified federally funded projects within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA).

A public notice was published in The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 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 any

public comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, January 19, 2023. No written comments have been received.

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

1. **Modification of Project 1220005:** Construction of a shared-use path in Horace, ND (2023). The project cost decreased by 0.2%. Federal and local cost share of the project shifted.
2. **Modification of Project 1220006:** Third-phase of construction of a shared-use path along County Road 17 in Horace, ND (2023). The project cost decreased by 11.4%. Federal and local cost share of the project shifted.

Mr. Soucy asked if Cass County was still the lead on this project, and Mr. Hellman and Mr. Zacher agreed that Horace would be taking over as the lead on this project. Ms. Gray said that this changed will be incorporated before review by the Policy Board.

3. **Modification of Project 5230001:** Purchase of AVA/AVL System (2023) for fixed-route transit vehicles by Moorhead Transit. The project cost increased by 20%.
4. **Modification of Project 5230002:** Purchase of paratransit scheduling software (2023) by Moorhead Transit. The project cost increased by 20%.
5. **Modification of Project 9162667:** Rehabilitation of 10.9 miles of I-94W with a thin mill and overlay from East of Casselton to near Fargo (2023) by NDDOT. The project cost increased by 55.9%.
6. **Modification of Project 9231003:** Pavement marking (2023) within NDDOT – Fargo District. The project cost increased by 48.2%.
7. **Modification of Project 5210020:** Construction of transit hub improvements at Walmart in Dilworth, MN (2023) by Moorhead Transit. Change in project description.
8. **Modification of Project 9210005:** Installation of High-Tension Cable Median Guardrail along I-29 from County Road 20 to south of Argusville (2024) by NDDOT. The project year shifted from 2023.
9. **Modification of Project 9220039:** Installation of High-Tension Cable Median Guardrail along I-29 from south of Argusville to Gardner (2024) by NDDOT. The project year shifted from 2023.
10. **Modification of Project 9221002:** Installation of a Wrong Way Detection System on I-29 at Exit 69 (2024) by NDDOT. The project year shifted from 2023.
11. **Modification of Project 9221004:** Upgrading lighting to LEDs at various locations throughout Fargo District (2024) by NDDOT. The project description was updated.
12. **Modification of Project 9221005:** Rehabilitating the shoulder of ND 46 (2026) by NDDOT. The project year shifted from 2025.
13. **New Project 5233024:** Purchase of software for Moorhead, MN (2023) by City of Moorhead.
14. **New Project 5233025:** Construction of transit hub improvements at Walmart in Dilworth, MN (2023) by Moorhead Transit.

15. **New Project 8233026:** Improving interchange lighting on I-94 at exits 22, 24, 32, 38, 56, 67, 77(2024) by MNDOT.
16. **New Project 9233027:** Rehabilitating the bridge deck of the Cass County Legal Drain 14 crossing on 37th Street NE (2023) by NDDOT.
17. **New Project 9233028:** Rehabilitating the bridge deck, approach slab and guardrail of the I-29 and ND46 interchange (2026) by NDDOT.
18. **New Project 9233029:** Rehabilitating the bridge decks with an over lay and spall repair on the swan creek and I-94 bridges (2026) by NDDOT.
19. **New Project 9233030:** Rehabilitating two bridges with new coatings (paint crack sealing, and bridge deck seal) on I-29 at the interchanges of ND 46 and I-94 (2026) by NDDOT.

Ms. Gray described one of the proposed TIP additions as a project that would be funded under the new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). The project consists of the purchase of the purchase of ATMS software by the City of Moorhead for the purpose of improving signal operations and reducing delay. \$50,000 in CRP funds will be programmed for this purpose. The local match will consist of 20 percent of the funding in the form of city funds and city purchase of a computer and monitors exclusively devoted to the use of using the ATMS software and monitoring the system with the use of the software. Based on guidance from MnDOT, Metro COG is collaborating with Moorhead Transit to assist in the documentation of information to ensure that the use of Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds meets eligibility requirements and is consistent with Minnesota's carbon reduction priorities.

Moorhead's other proposed CRP project includes additional funding of \$70,000 for a transit transfer hub (i.e. depot) and shelter on the north side of Walmart in Dilworth. The location of Walmart is east of 34th Street N and south of 8th Avenue N. The project is already in the TIP using 5307 funds, but the funds are not adequate to fully fund the hub, and the CRP funds will help get the local share down closer to 20 percent.

Projects eligible for CFP funding include those that are eligible under 23 U.S.C.142. Based on 23 U.S.C. 142: Public Transportation, transit shelters and depots are eligible projects. The facility proposed for Dilworth would serve as both a transfer hub/station and as a shelter. Ms. Gray explained that for future years, Metro COG will be doing a solicitation for STBG projects, but for this first year, we needed to build on projects that could be executed quickly because they are either already in the TIP or do not require a lengthy project development process.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of Amendment #3 to the Metro COG 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Lorsung moved, seconded by Mr. Atkins

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

6. F-M Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Farnsworth presented the FM Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update for 2022. Every five years Metro COG, in cooperation with the local jurisdictions, updates the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.

This plan was guided by a 23-member study review committee with representation from local jurisdictions, parks departments, local health agencies, citizens, and more. Public engagement was also held twice throughout Plan's development. Upon completion of the final plan, presentations were made to all local elected bodies and some planning commissions. The plan has received broad support.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the FM Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update

Mr. Hellman moved, seconded by Ms. Crutchfield

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

7. F-M Regional ITS Architecture Plan

Mr. Farnsworth and Mr. Hasan presented the FM Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture Plan update.

Mr. Farnsworth explained that ITS uses technology and communication to improve traffic flow, improve transportation safety, and notify roadway users of current traveling conditions. Such ITS in our region can include dynamic message signs, traffic signal coordination, emergency vehicle preemption, and more.

Mr. Hasan explained that ITS architecture is the blueprint which displays and coordinates the existing and proposed connectivity and interaction of all ITS components in an area or region. The goal of the Fargo-Moorhead Regional ITS Architecture is to guide the implementation of ITS systems and coordinate funding, development, information sharing, and operations of ITS systems in the region. This plan utilizes the latest national standard for ITS architecture (ARC-IT 9.1).

This plan was guided by the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Traffic Operations Working Group which consists of local and state traffic engineers and other applicable stakeholders. In addition, regional stakeholders were contacted to better identify needs and issues and inform the contents of this plan.

This is the fourth F-M Regional ITS Architecture Plan update, with the last update occurring in 2014.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of FM Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture Plan

Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Ms. Van Beek

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

***Mr. Sorum left the meeting**

8. Electric Vehicle Readiness Study Request for Proposals

Before the RFP was presented, Ms. Gray introduced Ms. Kallestad from MnDOT to present Minnesota's state Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plans, and Mr. Buchholz from NDDOT to address North Dakota's plan if there are any questions about it.

Ms. Kallestad presented MnDOT's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan and talked about a subsequent TIP Amendment for funding of EV infrastructure.

Mr. Buchholz from NDDOT said that their NEVI Plan is complete, and their plan for approaching infrastructure should be released within the next few months.

Mr. Altenburg presented the Electric Vehicle Readiness Study Request for Proposals (RFP).

He explained that to prepare for a growing number of plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area and to better understand the needs and impacts this will have on communities and local governments, Metro COG has prepared an RFP to develop a regional electric vehicle (EV) readiness study.

The study will provide local jurisdictions with public understanding of EV feasibility and benefits, assist in identifying current and potential barriers to EV adoption, and inform cities, counties, and other planning partners on infrastructure-related best practices to meet current and future EV needs of the metropolitan area. This is similar in scope to plans developed by cities and regional areas throughout the United States in recent years, which take an impartial look at EV trends and how best communities should lay the groundwork to become EV-ready. This study will also tie into recent National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) plans developed and completed by NDDOT and MnDOT, including goals, strategies, and key takeaways identified in each plan.

Ms. Derrig asked how Metro COG intends to include the private entities into this study. Mr. Altenburg said that the local private entities will be included on the Study Review Committee (SRC). Ms. Gray explained that she and Adam attended a meeting with the City of Fargo administration, Commissioner Strand and representatives from Cass County Electric, and Xcel Energy that was valuable. The entities are aware of the inevitable shift to EVs, and are eager to participate in this study.

Mr. Zacher said he has not yet reviewed the RFP, as there were still some questions on the NDDOT EV Plan and the use of Carbon Reduction Program funds; he stated that he will get this reviewed ASAP. Ms. Gray explained that she, Mr. Zacher, and the City of Fargo had received email communication from Stacey Hanson at NDDOT that stated that the use of CRP funds for this study

would be acceptable and Ms. Hanson identified the stipulations for using these Federal funds in her correspondence. Mr. Atkins asked if they should hold the recommendation to approve the RFP until Mr. Zacher has completed his review. Mr. Zacher said that was not necessary, as any revisions are usually administrative and not related to the scope of work itself.

Mr. Atkins asked if Moorhead Public Service was present at the round table meeting this morning with the City of Fargo. Mr. Altenburg said they were not, but they will be included in the Study Review Committee and considered a stakeholder. Mr. Atkins suggested that the RFP be tabled until next month after a discussion with Moorhead Public Service is held, and all local private entities are satisfied with moving forward.

Motion: Table the release of the Request for Proposals until confirmation of all local private providers be included in the discussion of this study.

Mr. Lorsung moved, seconded by Mr. Atkins

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 Request for Proposals

Mr. Maddox presented the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2050 request for proposals.

Metro COG is responsible for providing a long-range, fiscally constrained listing of multimodal transportation needs within the FM area and establish a 3C planning process to identify, prioritize, study, and program funding for those identified needs. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is required to be updated every five years, and has a planning horizon of twenty-five years.

The Census Bureau released the 2020 Census Urbanized Area populations in December 2022. The Fargo Moorhead Region has now officially surpassed the 200,000-population threshold, and as such will become a Transportation Management Area (TMA) in federal fiscal year 2024 (October 1, 2023). The 2050 MTP must include all required elements to facilitate a smooth transition to TMA status.

Metro COG has set a budget of \$400,000 for this project. The budget is spread over two years (2024 and 2025). The goal is for the project to be completed in the summer of 2025 and adopted in September, 2025 (prior to the beginning of Federal fiscal year 2026).

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 Request for Proposals

Ms. Crutchfield moved, seconded by Mr. Hellman

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Performance Measures Update

Mr. Del Rosario presented the upcoming Performance Measures Update.

Metro COG is currently in the process of collecting and analyzing the performance data and plans to continue supporting the performance targets established by each respective state as explained above. Metro COG will be seeking a recommendation to adopt its MPO targets at next month's February TTC meeting.

In years previous, TTC has recommended to Policy Board to support the performance targets established by each respective state. This has meant the adoption of MnDOT's Performance Measure targets for the Minnesota portion of the MPA and the adoption of NDDOT's Performance Measure targets for the North Dakota portion of the MPA. Mr. Del Rosario stated that Metro COG is looking for any input on using this approach again. Ms. Gray stated that the Policy Board has asked, in the past, why Metro COG doesn't set its own targets for our metropolitan area rather than falling under the targets set by the state. There was discussion as to the benefits of using the state targets. Ms. Gray suggested that separate local targets that are not set for the purpose of meeting the federal requirements could be set if policy makers direct us to move in that direction in the future.

11. Agency Updates

Metro COG - Ms. Gray asked the TTC to watch their emails for a Title VI/EEO survey from Metro COG in the next coming weeks. The Metro COG Title VI/ LEP Plan update is due in 2023. STBG Grant Solicitation open and the deadline was moved to January 24th as stated in the email received by all jurisdictions.

West Fargo – Downtown Masterplan RFP will be on their website soon.

Dilworth – US10 Study Public Open House on Thursday.

Freight – Transportation Club Party is coming up. Ms. Krapu thanked Mr. Bervik for his help recently at a high school safety event. Mr. Bervik assisted with the No Zone portion of the event.

12. Additional Business

No additional business

13. Adjourn

The 537 Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on January 12, 2023 at 12:22 p.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD February 9, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant