

**612th Policy Board Meeting  
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments  
Thursday, March 16, 2023 – 4:00 pm**

**Members Present:**

Duane	Breitling	Cass County Commission
John	Gunkelman	Fargo Planning Commission
Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council
Paul	Krabbenhoff	Clay County Commission (alt for Jenny Mongeau)
Steve	Lindaas	Moorhead City Council
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission
Julie	Nash	Dilworth City Council
Brad	Olson	West Fargo City Commission
Arlette	Preston	Fargo City Commission
Rocky	Schneider	Fargo Planning Commission
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission
Scott	Stofferahn	Fargo Planning Commission
Jeff	Trudeau	Horace City Council
Deb	White	Moorhead City Council
Aaron	Murra	NDDOT – Fargo District (ex-officio)

**Members Absent:**

Amanda	George	West Fargo City Commission
Denise	Kolpack	Fargo City Commission
Dave	Piepkorn	Fargo City Commission
Shiloh	Wahl	MnDOT – District 4 (ex-officio)

**Others Present:**

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Paul	Bervik	Metro COG
Laura	Bowles	Confluence
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
Maelo	Maldonado	Confluence

**1a. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS, convened**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, on March 16, 2023 by Chair Hendrickson, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

**1b. Approve Order and Contents of Overall Agenda, approved**

Chair Hendrickson asked for approval for the overall agenda. Ms. Gray said there will be one additional item during the Additional Business, agenda item 4.

**MOTION: Approve the contents of the Overall Agenda of the March 16, 2023 Policy Board Meeting.**

**Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Lindaas**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**1c. Past Meeting Minutes, approved**

Chair Hendrickson asked for approval of the Minutes of the February 16, 2023 Meeting.

**MOTION: Approve the February 16, 2023 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.**

**Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Breitling**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**1d. Monthly Bills, approved**

Chair Hendrickson asked for approval of the March 2023 Bills as listed on Attachment 1d.

**MOTION: Approve the March 2023 Bills List.**

**Mr. Krabbenhoff moved, seconded by Ms. White**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Hendrickson asked for approval of Item A on the Consent Agenda.

a. February Month End Report

**MOTION: Approve Item A on the Consent Agenda.**

**Mr. Strand moved, seconded by Mr. Krabbenhoff**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. REGULAR AGENDA**

**3a. Public Comment Opportunity**

No public comments were made or received.

**3b. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #5**

Mr. Bervik presented amendment #5 to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. A public notice was published in The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead on Wednesday, March 1, 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 all public comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, March 16, 2023. No written comments were received.

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

1. Modification of Project 9200031: NDDOT is rehabilitating the 25th Street I-94 interchange (2023). The project cost increased by 37.8%.
2. Modification of Project 9231006: Chip seal coat on US-81 (19th Avenue North) from Dakota Drive to I-29 (2023) in Fargo, ND. The project cost increased by 44.5%. Federal, state, and local funding adjusted accordingly.
3. Modification of Project 9231005: NDDOT will be reconstructing the I-94 interchange at Lynchburg. (2023) The project year shifted from 2024.
4. New Project 4235031: Purchase of a new paratransit bus and related equipment for Fargo Transit (2024).
5. New Project 4235032: Electric Vehicle Readiness Study across all Metro COG jurisdictions (2023).

Chair Hendrickson asked if anyone was present who wished to comment on the proposed amendment. Mr. Bervik stated that no public comments were received.

**MOTION: Approve amendment #5 to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program**  
**Mr. Breittling moved, seconded by Mr. Gunkelman.**  
**MOTION, passed**  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

### **3c. Red River Greenway Study Final Report**

Mr. Del Rosario and Mr. Farnsworth presented the Red River Greenway Study Final Report.

The Study focuses on enhancing and expanding the existing greenway on the Fargo side of the Red River. The study looks at filling existing greenway gaps, extending the greenway to the north and the south along the Red River, and connecting to and incorporating Drains 27 and 53 and their associated amenities.

In 2008 a Red River Greenway Study was completed and looked at both North Dakota and Minnesota sides of the Red River. The City of Moorhead completed a Red River Greenway study in 2014. The intent of this study was to update the plan for the Fargo side of the river, examine potential for future enhancements and opportunities for expansion and improved connectivity from the river into the community as the metro area grows.

Ms. White asked if there has been discussion of moving the downtown floating bridge. Mr. Farnsworth said there was not a lot of discussion regarding the floating bridge.

Mr. Lindaas asked if any of the recommendations will be implemented immediately. Ms. Gray said that having these studies and reports help the cities

determine which projects would be feasible for implementation. In turn, these projects will likely be presented as applications for Transportation Alternatives funding or another funding opportunity in the future.

Mr. Schneider said that he will be abstaining from the vote, as his employer is a subconsultant on the study itself.

**MOTION: Approve the Red River Greenway Study Final Report.  
Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Mr. Olson.  
MOTION, passed. (12 – 0 – 1) Mr. Schneider abstaining  
Motion carried.**

**3d. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Consultant Selection**

Mr. Maddox presented SRF with subconsultant HDR as the highest-ranked consultant for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. Two firms proposed on the Request for Proposals, the other being KLJ Engineering, with subconsultants Bolton & Menk, and Alliant Inc. The consultant selection panel met with and interviewed the consultant teams on March 3, 2023 to further understand each team's technical qualifications, project approach, task deliverables, and past project experiences. The selection was based upon scoring criteria, written technical proposals, and the in-person interviews.

Upon coming to agreement on the top ranked team, SRF's sealed cost proposal was opened. The proposed project budget is within the \$400,000 programmed in the UPWP. Metro COG will work with the consultant to finalize the scope of work and the project budget sometimes varies based on these negotiations. Metro COG received a refined scope of work, and staff is confident that the final scope of work and fee will not exceed the amount budgeted for this study.

The MTP serves as the foundational document for transportation decision-making, including funding priorities, in the Fargo Moorhead region.

Mr. Lindaas asked about the four Public Input opportunities, slated for 6 hours each. Mr. Maddox said that the events themselves won't necessarily be six hours, but broken up into 1-2 hours events, but is included in the scope to maximize the consultant's time on-site.

**MOTION: Approval of SRF Consulting Group with subconsultant HDR as the preferred team recommended by the study's consultant selection panel to complete the study; and authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a contract with said consulting team for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update.  
Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Breitling  
MOTION, passed  
Motion carried unanimously.**

**3e. ND Urban Grant Program Solicitation, FY 2025-2026**

Ms. Gray presented the North Dakota Urban Grant Program Solicitation for FY 2025-2026. In mid-January, NDDOT distributed a notification and materials to local jurisdictions and MPOs regarding the solicitation period for the Urban Grant Program, FY 2025-2026. North Dakota's Urban Grant Program is aimed at infrastructure improvements in core city areas.

The City of Fargo is submitting an application for Broadway between Main Ave and 6th Ave N in the heart of downtown Fargo. The proposed project would replace the existing brick pavers in the intersections and crosswalks at 2nd Ave N, 3rd Ave N, 4th Ave N, and 6th Ave N. The project would also replace or relocate the existing ADA ramps on Broadway between Main Avenue and 6th Avenue N. Metro COG intends to submit a letter of support for this project.

**MOTION: Approve the letter of Metro COG support to the Policy Board for the City of Fargo's Urban Grant Application.**

**Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Ms. White**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3f. ND Urban Regional Program Solicitation, FY 2027**

Ms. Gray presented the North Dakota Urban Regional Program for FY 2027.

The City of Fargo is submitting two applications for this program. One is full street reconstruction of S University Drive between 13th Ave S and 18th Ave S. The cost estimate is \$30.9M, \$20M being Federal funds.

The other application is for Main Avenue between 25th Street and I-29 and between I-29 and 45th Street. This project would consist of concrete pavement repair and bridge expansion joint replacement. The cost estimate is \$16M, \$8M being Federal funds.

Metro COG intends to prepare a letter of support for these projects. System preservation is a key pillar of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and these two corridors are extremely important to metropolitan mobility.

**MOTION: Approve the letters of Metro COG support to the Policy Board for the City of Fargo's Regional Program Applications.**

**Mr. Schneider moved, seconded by Ms. Preston**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3g. 2023 Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Report**

Mr. Bervik presented the 2023 Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Report. These counts are performed manually and occur once a year in September.

Metro COG also has five automated bicycle and pedestrian counters. These counters collect data 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Metro COG compiles the data from both the manual counts and automated counters and develops a report. The purpose of the report is to provide data regarding local bicycle and pedestrian activity to the public, elected officials, interested persons, parks departments, local planners and engineers, and more. This information also informs Metro COG of bicycle and pedestrian usage throughout our planning area. In some cases, the data is thorough and on-going, due to the use of counting equipment installed along the facility. In other cases, the data is simply a snapshot of a certain day of the year. Guidance is used from the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project when counting bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

**3h. Letter of Support – Moorhead Bluestem Bridge Funding Application**

Mr. Farnsworth presented a Letter of Support for the Moorhead Bluestem Bridge Funding Application. Metro COG provided a letter of support to the City of Moorhead for the funding of the bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Red River connecting Bluestem in Moorhead to neighborhoods and multimodal connections in south Fargo. The letter was needed prior to the Policy Board meeting.

The City of Moorhead is working with Senator Klobuchar's and Senator Smith's offices in requesting \$4 Million in Congressional Direction Spending to go toward Moorhead's portion of the bridge.

**3i. Carbon Reduction Program Funding Solicitation**

Ms. Gray presented the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Project Solicitations for FY2024 and 2025. Metro COG will be accepting projects for federal fiscal years 2024 and 2025. FY2026 will be programmed at future solicitation.

Chair Gray presented the inaugural CRP application form, noting that the form was drafted using other TMAs as examples. She also briefly explained the instructions to the application. The document for instructions highlights the types of projects eligible for funding as well as the information that Metro COG will be looking for in the application.

**4. Additional Business**

Ms. Gray presented an offer of employment letter to Lance Dasher for the Executive Director position. The Executive Committee interviewed three candidates, once via Zoom and once in person at the Metro COG office. The candidates also had the opportunity to meet with the TTC, Policy Board, and Metro COG staff. The Executive Committee found Mr. Dasher to be the preferred candidate, and would like to offer the position to him.

Mr. Schneider asked if the letter could also include moving expenses coverage. Ms. Gray said this would be added to the letter and that she had spoke to Mr. Dasher about it.

**MOTION: Approve the Letter of Employment Offer to Lance Dasher as discussed.**

**Mr. Schneider moved, seconded by Ms. Preston  
MOTION, passed  
Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Adjourn**

The 612th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, March 16, 2023 was adjourned at 5:38 pm.

**THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD April 20, 2023, 4:00 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach  
Executive Assistant