

**544th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, August 10, 2023 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS
Maegin	Elshaug	City of Fargo Planning
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Ben	Griffith	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
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Tom	Soucy	Cass County Highway Engineering
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager
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
Nicole	Crutchfield	City of Fargo Planning (alternate present)
Aaron	Nelson	West Fargo City Planning

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Calvin	Berube	Stantec
Paul	Bervik	Metro COG
Jaron	Capps	Metro COG
Cody	Christianson	Bolton & Menk
Dylan	Dunn	Moore Engineering
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Patrick	Hollister	Partnership4Health
Brian	King	HDR
Tom	Knakmuhs	City of Fargo Engineering
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Brent	Musca	Apex
Ayden	Schaffler	Metro COG
Erika	Shepard	MnDOT – MPO Coordinator
Kristen	Sperry	FHWA
Steven	Strack	Houston Engineering
Curtis	Sullivan	FMWF Chamber
Daniel	Triller	SEH
Kent	Wolf	Ameresco

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on August 8, 2023 by Chair Griffith. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 544 TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Griffith asked if there were any questions or changes to the 544 TTC Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Approve the 544 TTC Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Mr. Lorsung.

MOTION, PASSED.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVE July 13, 2023 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Griffith asked if there were any questions or changes to the July 13, 2023 TTC Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approve the July 13, 2023 TTC Minutes.

Mr. Hellman moved, seconded by Mr. Zacher.

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

5. 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Adoption

Mr. Bervik presented the final 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program document for adoption. Metro COG held a public input meeting at the June Policy Board meeting on June 15, 2023 to release the draft TIP and kick off the TIP update process. Metro COG then held a public open house introducing the elements of the Final Draft 2024-2027 TIP to the public on July 25, 2023. The Final Draft TIP was also made available for review on Metro COG's website.

Metro COG posted a legal notice in the June 14, 2023 edition of The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead which commenced the official mandatory 30-day TIP comment period as well as the public open house where the Final Draft 2024-2027 TIP would be presented. The public open house was held on July 25, 2023 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm at the Downtown Fargo Public Library Conference Room.

A public meeting will be held on August 17, 2023 at the regularly scheduled Metro COG Policy Board meeting for final public input. This public input meeting was advertised in the June 14, 2023 edition of the Forum. Approval of the Final Draft 2024-2027 TIP will occur at the final public meeting on August 17, 2023 at 4:00 pm in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Policy Board meeting. The public comments will be taken until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on August 17, 2023.

Since the initial draft was released in June, Metro COG updated language throughout the document as well as updating projects through its coordination

with state and local governments. These changes were reflected in the Final Draft 2024-2027 TIP that was presented at the Public Open House.

Mr. Atkins asked that the Bluestem Bridge process be added to the Moorhead side for 2024. While funding has not yet been secured, Mr. Atkins anticipates it will be and would like to be listed as illustrative for the TIP cycle.

Mr. Atkins also asked that the 2027 STBG solicitation funding was listed in the TIP, as Moorhead should have funding allocated for the Moorhead underpass.

Mr. Gorden said that an interstate project listed for the City of Fargo should be listed under NDDOT. There is also a 2026 project for 32nd Ave that will need to be labeled as an AC project. He also noted that a shared-use path project listed in both 2024 and 2025 are the same project with two years of funding. He asked if the funds for River Drive should be labeled as AC funds or not. Mr. Bervik said he would coordinate with Mr. Gorden after the meeting.

Mr. Zacher reminded Mr. Bervik that the Metro COG self-certification is due with the TIP submittal.

Motion: Pending public comment, recommend approval of the Final Draft Metro COG 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Board.

Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Mr. Gorden

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Transit Routing, Street Design, and Transit Scheduling Software Vendor Selection

Mr. Maddox presented the vendor selection for the Transit Routing, Street Design, and Transit Scheduling Software RFP that was released in July 2023. Via (formally Remix) was the only vendor who responded. Metro COG petitioned NDDOT to waive the three-bidder requirement and held an interview with Ride with Via before today's TTC meeting. Via introduced new software modules that may be of interest to both Metro COG and MATBUS.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of Via as the preferred vendor to provide transit routing, street design, and transit scheduling software and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Via for services.

Ms. Bommelman moved, seconded by Ms. Van Beek

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Proposed Adjusted Urbanized Boundary – Final Submission

Mr. Capps presented the final draft of the Proposed Adjusted Urbanized Boundary (PUZA). The consideration of the proposed 2020 UZA expansion followed the guidance provided by FHWA and NDDOT. As directed by the guidance, the proposed boundary ensures the inclusion of the entirety of the

right of way of significant roadways within the UZA. City boundaries were used when either significant roadways, the Fargo – Moorhead Area Diversion Project alignment, or other physical boundaries did not present themselves as a logical choice for boundary cutoff. Mr. Capps explained how the boundary was formalized through the quantification of jobs and households from studies, and collaboration with Cass County concerning the FM Area Diversion Project and CMC roadways.

Ms. Elshaug shared some comments that were discussed with Mr. Capps just prior to the meeting, that the City of Fargo would like to waiting several years (potentially five or more) to include the City of Harwood, as many studies and data releases do not include Harwood. Fargo is also in the middle of their growth plan, and waiting would be beneficial. She said she was just commenting, and not asking for any revisions.

Mr. Zacher asked for clarification as to whether all of the City of Horace's incorporated area was included in the proposed adjusted UZA. Mr. Capps responded that all of the City of Horace that will be protected by the future FM Diversion and southern embankment were included in the adjusted UZA. Undeveloped areas of the city that will be on the opposite side of the future FM Diversion and southern embankment were not included.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the Proposed Adjusted Urbanized Boundary for NDDOT Final Submittal.

Mr. Lorsung moved, seconded by Ms. Krapu

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Safe Routes to School Plan

Mr. Farnsworth presented the final Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton (DGF) Safe Routes to School Plan. This study was conducted in cooperation with the DGF School District, the City of Dilworth, the City of Glyndon, and PartnerSHIP 4 Health. This plan also involved public and parent engagement as well as student surveys to help inform and guide the study.

The purpose of this study is to layout a framework to make walking and biking to school safe and more inviting for students. This study identifies existing challenges, safety concerns, and policies and recommends improvements which can improve the walkability and bikeability to/from the DGF schools.

This draft plan was presented to, and approved by, the DGF School Board, the Glyndon City Council, the Dilworth Planning Commission, and the Dilworth City Council.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the DGF Safe Routes to School Plan.

Mr. Lorsung moved, seconded by Mr. Atkins

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Agency Updates

Chair Griffith asked if there were any agency updates.

Ms. Bommelman stated that KLJ is continuing work on a study looking at the recommendations of the transit authority study. She also mentioned that colleges and universities would be starting again and that more routes would soon be coming out.

Mr. Gorden noted that 32nd Avenue is in the last phase of reconstruction and that the route should be open by mid-September. He also noted that several area bike trail projects are moving forward.

Mr. Lorsung explained that the City of Dilworth is wrapping up a zoning overlay district that was a recommendation of the TH 10 study.

Mr. Soucy stated that the county is making good progress on the roundabout at CR 17 and 64th Avenue. He also noted work on several concrete box culverts.

Mr. Zacher noted that an MPO directors meeting has been scheduled for mid-September. He also stated that NDDOT is continuing to work through its CRP planning documentation and contract processes.

Ms. Shepard asked that Metro COG provide MnDOT with its adjusted UZA files when completed.

Ms. Sperry stated that ND Parks and Recreation has been asked to coordinate with MPOs on funding projects they may be pursuing.

Mr. Atkins said to expected traffic delays in downtown Moorhead due to utility line replacements and other redevelopment projects.

10. Additional Business

No additional business.

11. Adjourn

The 544 Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on August 10 at 11:00 a.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD September 14, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant