

123rd Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
December 14th, 2023 – 3:00pm
Hybrid Meeting – Virtual / In-person (Metro COG Conference Room)

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Payton Mastera, City of Dilworth
Andrew Wrucke, City of West Fargo Engineering
Joe Anderson, City of Fargo Police
Forrest Steinhoff, City of Moorhead Planning
Jeremy Gorden, City of Fargo Engineering
Kurt Kopperud, Citizen Representative
Rosemary Bruce-White, MnDOT – District 4
Maegin Elshaug, City of Fargo Planning
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering
Jace Hellman, City of Horace
Cole Hanson, Cass County
Christine Holland, River Keepers
Leslie McGillivray-Rivas, City of West Fargo Planning
Luke Grittner, MATBUS
Tyler Kirchner, City of Fargo Parks

Others Present:

Paul Bervik, Metro COG
Ayden Schaffler, Metro COG
Chelsea Levorsen, Metro COG
Blue Weber, Citizen/Bolton & Menk
Terry Steen, Citizen/Flatlands Cycling Club
Michael Bendel-Paulson, Citizen
Steve Strack, Citizen/Houston Engineering

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:08 pm. Some technical difficulties cause the meeting to begin later than normal. Both in-person and virtual attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approve minutes from August 16th, 2023 meeting

A motion to approve the August 16th minutes was made by A. Wrucke and seconded by P. Mastera. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

3. Public input opportunity

There were several members of the public attending the meeting, both virtually and in-person. No verbal comments were given during this input opportunity, however D. Farnsworth read a public email comment which Metro COG received prior to the meeting which the individual indicated he wanted shared at the meeting. The comment was requesting that a bicycle & pedestrian counter be considered along the path under I-94 in Moorhead along Rivershore Dr.

4. Review & scoring of urban TA applications

There were a total of nine urban TA applications that were submitted to Metro COG. All nine were located on the ND side of Metro COG's planning area. D. Farnsworth summarized each project briefly with the Committee before going into the scoring.

D. Farnsworth then went into the scoring of each project, which Metro COG pre-scored prior to the meeting. Certain scores which Metro COG felt needed Committee discussion were then discussed.

Several projects had EJ areas that were close to being considered 'adjacent' to the EJ area as noted in the criteria. The Committee felt that these projects were so close to the EJ areas that they should receive points for being 'adjacent'.

Another criteria that was discussed was whether the Cass Co Rd 81 shared use path replacement project should receive points for being identified in a planning study. While this particular project was not identified in a planning study, 'maintenance and rehab' of infrastructure is identified in several local planning studies involving Cass County. It was the decision of the Committee to award this project half points (5 pts) for this criteria. The Committee also felt that the scoring should be revised to accommodate maintenance-type projects. Metro COG will revise TA scoring criteria to accommodate maintenance-type projects for next year's scoring.

After finalizing the scoring for the urban TA applications, the following scores were shown:

- Cass Co – CR 81/ University Dr Path – 45 pts
- Fargo – Drain 27/Deer Creek Path Phase 1 – 35 pts
- Fargo – Drain 27/Deer Creek Path Phase 1 – 30 pts
- Fargo – Low Lever Drain 53 Crossing – 25 pts
- Fargo – Drain 53 Path (64th Ave S to 73rd Ave S) – 25 pts
- Fargo – Water Reclamation Plant Path – 45 pts
- Horace – 76th Ave Path, CR 17 to Brink Dr – 45 pts
- Horace CR 17 Path, 81st Ave to 76th Ave – 45 pts
- West Fargo – Rivers Bend Bridge & Path – 35 pts

A motion to recommend Policy Board approval of the urban TA applications and scores was made by J. Hellman and seconded by A. Wrucke. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Review & scoring of rural TA applications

There were a total of three rural TA applications that were submitted to Metro COG. All three were located on the ND side of Metro COG's planning area. D. Farnsworth summarized each project briefly with the Committee before going into the scoring.

D. Farnsworth then went into the scoring of each project, which Metro COG pre-scored prior to the meeting. Certain scores which Metro COG felt needed Committee discussion were then discussed.

Discussion with the Casselton Path project entailed determining if phase 1 of the project (not yet constructed, but programmed for construction prior to this project) should be considered in-place. Since phase 1 will very likely be in-place prior to this project, scoring pertaining to this connection will be awarded.

There was also discussion about the Mapleton project, which entails the implementation of five raised crosswalks at various locations in the city. It was discussed whether the project should be awarded full points if one of the five crosswalks meets the criteria or partial points. It was decided that if one of the five crosswalks met the criteria, it would receive 1/5 of the points. There was also discussion about whether this project should get points for the criteria asking "*Does the project connect residential area(s) to commercial or industrial area(s)?*" It was determined that, since a crosswalk isn't a new connection, it shouldn't receive the points for this criteria.

After finalizing the scoring for the urban TA applications, the following scores were shown:

- Casselton – Governor's Dr Path (Phase 2) – 30 pts
- Cass Co (Kindred) – CR 15 Path – 45 pts
- Mapleton – Pedestrian Safety Improvements – 16 pts

A motion to recommend Policy Board approval of the rural TA applications and scores was made by M. Elshaug and seconded by T. Kirchner. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Other business

M. Bendel-Paulson asked if there were any items involving a Dilworth project. P. Bervik noted that there is no TA solicitation this year for MN urban jurisdictions (Moorhead or Dilworth) as Metro COG will be combining two years of solicitation next year because of the limited funding within the urbanized area on the Minnesota side.

R. Bruce-White wanted to mention to the Committee members that MnDOT District 4 has some portable bicycle/pedestrian counters that they are able and willing to lend to MN jurisdictions within District 4 for temporary counting efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm.