

**97<sup>rd</sup> Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting  
June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 – 3:00pm  
Metro COG Conference Room**

**Members Present**

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG  
Jane Butzer, MnDOT  
Bob Walton, NDDOT  
Hali Durand, Cass County  
Jeremy Gorden, City of Fargo Engineering  
Christine Holland, River Keepers  
Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health  
Maegin Elshaug, City of Fargo Planning  
Stan Thurlow, City of Dilworth  
Tim Solberg, City of West Fargo  
Patrick Hollister, PartnerSHIP 4 Health  
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering  
Kim Citrowske, City of Moorhead Planning  
Joe Anderson, Fargo Police Department

**Others Present:**

None

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting began at 3:04 pm. D. Farnsworth welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves.

**2. Approve minutes from March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting**

A motion to approve the March 15<sup>th</sup> minutes was made by J. Atkins and seconded by T. Solberg. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

**3. Discuss/Consider revised Committee voting members**

D. Farnsworth mentioned that the Metro COG's Policy Board has asked Metro COG to add a voting member from the City of Horace to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee. This is because the Policy Board recently added a voting member representing The City of Horace to the Policy Board. A motion to add a voting member representing the City of Horace to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee was made by M. Elshaug and seconded by T. Solberg. The motion was passed unanimously.

There was then discussion about the citizen seat on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee. D. Farnsworth mentioned that one of the citizen currently listed on the Committee no longer

lives in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The other citizen said she would be fine giving up her seat if another citizen would be interested. D. Farnsworth was thinking it would be good to have the citizen seat as a two-year term so as to give an opportunity for other citizens to serve and to get varying ideas and viewpoints. The Committee thought that would be a good idea.

There was then discussion about the best way to select a citizen. It was suggested that an application be posted to Metro COG's website and sent out to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee's interested person's list. Applications are used for other committees in selecting members. D. Farnsworth asked jurisdictions if they could forward Metro COG any applications as an example. Initially D. Farnsworth suggested randomly selecting a voting member from the pool of applications. The Committee later suggested that a small three-person review group (a member from West Fargo, Fargo, and Moorhead) could be set up to review the applications and bring the preferred two or three applications to the next Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee meeting.

#### **4. Follow-up information – bicycle & pedestrian park use after dark**

D. Farnsworth followed-up with efforts taken since the last meeting regarding Fargo Commissioner Strand's concerns about curfews in city parks and along trails and the lack of lighting/safety concerns along some of the trails.

Metro COG had a discussion with the individual in charge of the Grand Forks Greenway regarding their methods of addressing these issues. The following is the information Metro COG gathered after discussing with Grand Forks:

- Their ordinance regarding park usage after dark is not from dusk to dawn. Rather it is from 11:00 pm to 5:00 am.
- There are some lights along Greenway but mainly at major parks along the greenway. Lights sometimes need to be removed during a major flood. The process of removing lights, benches, etc. can be tedious and they hire this service out since their crews are busy with other flood prep. Lights, benches, etc. are designed to be removed but can still be tedious.
- They have considered using solar powered lights however they show that there isn't ample sunlight in the winter to power the lights.
- Crossing the levies with power can be tricky with the Corps.
- One consideration could be to provide lighting from the dry side of the dike and shine it toward the path

Metro COG also reached out to the Fargo Parks to see if they have had discussions about lighting along trails. Metro COG was not successful in hearing from Fargo Parks.

#### **5. Progress of the BIKE FM Group**

At the last meeting the Committee discussed the formation of a bicycle safety education group that would strategically promote bicycle safety education and rules of the road throughout the community. The group was formed in early 2017 and is currently being led by Austin Hauf (MN Green Corps / PartnerSHIP 4 Health). This group aligns very well with the FM Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan's number one priority – 'bicycle and motorist education'. Metro COG is involved in the group and fully endorses its efforts.

Since the inception of this group the follow efforts have already taken place:

- Austin has given a presentation to the Moorhead Business Association regarding bicycle friendly businesses and communities
- Austin and Justin Kristan hosted a nine-hour class through Moorhead Community Education named 'Bike Traffic Skills 101'. These classes were well advertised with promotions via: iFargo City newsletter, PartnerSHIP 4 Health e-newsletter, cover of the Moorhead Community Ed catalog (picture below), media coverage, and more.
- Austin spoke to 75 driver's ed students in Moorhead regarding rules of the road and bicycle safety
- A billboard was designed promoting driver awareness for bicyclists. The billboard has been on display since June 1st and is located at the intersection of NP Ave & 4th St in Fargo (picture below).
- Educational videos have been running on Moorhead Community Access TV and both Fargo and Moorhead are running bike safety programming.

The Committee complimented these efforts, especially the efforts of teaching safety and rules of the road to 75 driver's ed students. It was suggested that we could consider including someone from the YMCA on the BIKE FM group as they have historically provided bicycle safety education to children.

P. Hollister mentioned that the Bicycle Alliance of MN was impressed with the efforts that BIKE FM has taken and would like to discuss having them be part of the Bicycle Alliance of MN. Even though the Bicycle Alliance of MN is a Minnesota organization, they would still be willing to include West Fargo/Fargo in this effort. A meeting will follow to discuss this option.

P. Hollister also noted that there may be grant funding available to fund training of League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in Minnesota.

D. Farnsworth mentioned that if anyone would like to be part of the BIKE FM group or receive emails, they could let Metro COG know.

## **6. Status of online bicycle route mapping**

At the last Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting, there was discussion about creating a local online bicycle mapping tool that would include a smartphone app. After discussion with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee it was suggested that we direct the public to an already widely-used mapping resource – Google Maps. Metro COG noted that the bicycle routes shown on Google Maps currently aren't accurate and Metro COG has been unsuccessful in reaching out to Google in the past regarding their bicycle route mapping. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee encouraged Metro COG to continue to reach out to Google.

Since that time, Metro COG has been successful in getting ahold of the proper Google Maps contact. Google Maps will accept mapping information from legitimate government sources, which would include Metro COG. This is a big step in improving Google Maps' bicycle mapping accuracy in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

To date Metro COG has not had the time to provide Google with the necessary information but plans to do so in the near future.

## **7. Results of Transportation Alternatives Grant Applications**

D. Farnsworth discussed the results of the recent TA applications that were submitted within Metro COG's planning area. Of the four applications that were submitted on the ND side, one received funding – the City of Fargo's application for the shared use path that would connect 5<sup>th</sup> St S with Island Park. The other ND applications that did not receive funding were: N University Drive shared use path, Fargo; Drain 45 shared use path, West Fargo; and CR 17 shared use path Cass County/Horace.

B. Walton mentioned that he believes if the proposed path along N University Dr. in Fargo receives funding, it may have some complications with the FAA given its proximity to airport property and the nearby runway.

Of the three applications submitted on the MN side of the planning area, none of them received funding. The applications included: shared use path, Barnesville; shared use path, Dilworth; and shared use path/safe routes to school connections, Hawley.

## **8. Public input opportunity for Center Ave, Moorhead**

It was brought to the Committee's attention that a public meeting will be held Tuesday June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Hjemkomst Center for the Center Ave planning and engineering study in Moorhead. D. Farnsworth wanted to bring this to the group's attention because the NP Ave / Center Ave corridor was ranked as the number two priority for needed bicycle infrastructure project as part of the 2016 FM Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.

Some discussion followed regarding coordinating bicycle facilities along NP Ave in Fargo, including future bicycle facilities on the bridge between NP Ave and Center Ave.

#### **9. Other business and citizen comments**

D. Farnsworth reminded the group that Streets Alive will be this coming Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>. There is also a Streets Alive event on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Farnsworth noted that they are looking for volunteers for both of the events.

P. Hollister announced that MnDOT is working on a district-wide bicycle plan for District 4. The plan has kicked-off and is being completed by the consulting firm Toole Design Group.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.