

106th Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
April 17th, 2019 – 3:00pm
Metro COG Conference Room

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering
Dylan Ramstad Skoyles, Great Rides
Patrick Hollister, PartnerSHIP 4 Health
Jane Butzer, MnDOT
Peyton Mastera, City of Dilworth
Kim Citrowske, City of Moorhead Planning
Maegin Elshaug, City of Fargo Planning
Jason Gates, Citizen representative
Jeremy Gorden, City of Fargo Engineering
Tyler Kirchner, Fargo Park District
Christine Holland, River Keepers
Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health
Joe Anderson, Fargo Police Department

Others Present:

Jason Carbee, HDR (via phone)
Jim Mertz, Bolton & Menk
Grant Kuper, Bolton & Menk
Maggie Squyer, City of Fargo Planning
Scott Schwandt, MN Green Corps

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:00 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approve minutes from December 5th, 2018 meeting

A motion to approve the December 5th minutes was made by J. Atkins and seconded by D. Ramstad Skoyles. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

3. Approve minutes from January 23rd, 2019 meeting

A motion to approve the January 23rd minutes was made by K. Lipetzky and seconded by J. Atkins. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

4. Public input opportunity

An opportunity was given for any members of the public to provide any comments or input. No public was represented aside from a few individuals representing their consulting firms. No public input was given.

5. Status of FM bikeways map app

D. Farnsworth showed a draft version of the FM bikeways map app on the overhead screen to the group. Farnsworth stated that Metro COG is working with a firm named My City Bikes to develop this app. Metro COG anticipates this app will go live in the next month or two. Once the app goes live, Metro COG plans to make a strong effort to get the word out to the public. The Committee suggested QR codes could be placed at locations around the area to direct people to the app. One particular location for the QR codes could be on each of the bike fix-it stations.

6. Bicycle Friendly Community report card & survey results

Upon receiving Bicycle Friend Community designation in the Fall of 2018, Metro COG received a report card by the League of American Bicyclists displaying the strengths and weaknesses of Fargo-Moorhead's 'bicycle friendliness'. This report card also showed which areas Fargo-Moorhead can improve on to help the community reach the next level of 'bicycle friendliness' – Silver.

In addition to the report card. Surveys were also sent by the League of American Bicyclists during the Bicycle Friend Community application process to citizens of the Fargo-Moorhead area. In total 71 surveys were completed by citizens, 50 surveys were taken by ND residents and 21 surveys taken by MN residents. D. Farnsworth encouraged the jurisdictions to take a look at the surveys and comments to see the needs of the public and how improvements can be made for people bicycling in Fargo-Moorhead.

7. 2045 FM Metro Transportation Plan – Bike/Ped Project Prioritization

Metro COG is in the process of updating on of their core plans – the FM Metro Transportation Plan. This plan looks at all modes of transportation and is updated every five years. As part of this, listing, prioritizing, and providing cost estimates to key bicycle/pedestrian projects is necessary.

J. Carbee, the consultant leading the Plan's development, walked the Committee through the scoring used to score the 27 bicycle & pedestrian projects associated with the Plan. There was one request regarding the projects. City of Fargo requested that Fargo's Coulee's Crossing project be added to the over list of projects. There was also one comments by J. Atkins regarding the scoring. Atkins stated that for Goal: Walking & Biking / Objective: Identify transportation projects..., that we should include a connection to parks and that this criteria could be one point. Metro COG and J. Carbee agree with this revision and projects will be re-scored accordingly.

There was then discussion about local costs of bicycle facilities for the purposes of estimating project costs for the 27 projects.

8. Update on Fargo Safe Routes to School Plan

Metro COG is working with the City of Fargo, Fargo & West Fargo Public Schools, and private schools in developing the Fargo Safe Routes to School Plan. The last safe routes to school plan for Fargo was completed in 2009. This plan is looking at methods of improving walking and biking for all public and private elementary & middle school within the City of Fargo. D. Farnsworth noted that four public open houses will be held between April 29th and May 8th.

9. Update on FM Bikeways Gap Analysis

Metro COG in cooperation with local jurisdictions kicked off the FM Bikeways Gap Analysis in January 2019. The study analyzes 16 key gaps in the FM bikeway network. It was noted that a public open house will occur in July, however the public can provide input at any time by visiting the project's website at the following link:

<http://www.fmmetrocog.org/projects-rfps/FM-bike-gap>

It was suggested that the June Streets Alive could be a good opportunity to solicit public participation and let the public know about the upcoming public open house.

10. ND Moves – Final Plan

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is in the process of completing their statewide active and public transportation plan named *ND Moves*. This plan looks at both the bicycle and pedestrian network as well as transit statewide. This is the first bicycle & pedestrian-related plan NDDOT has completed since the 1990s.

The final public comment period for the draft plan closed on March 29th so it is anticipated that a final plan will be available in the near future. For the time being, the draft plan can be found at the following web link: <https://www.dot.nd.gov/plans/statewide/index.html>. It is assumed that once the final plan is ready, it will be available at the same web link.

11. MnDOT District 4 Bicycle Plan

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) just completed a series of bicycle plans for each of their eight districts. District 4, which includes Moorhead, Dilworth, and Clay County, now has a bicycle plan which was finalized in March 2019. MnDOT's District 4 plan can be found at the following web link: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/system-plan/district-bicycle-plans.html>

12. Other business

It was stated that the ND Transportation Alternatives project awards will be announced in May. Meanwhile the MN Transportation Alternatives projects will be announced very shortly.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 pm.