

**98rd Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
September 20st, 2017 – 3:00pm
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Tim Solberg, City of West Fargo Planning
Maegin Elshaug, City of Fargo Planning
Hali Durand, Cass County
Alyssa Johnson, Great Rides
Spencer McCombs, City of Moorhead GIS – proxy
Patrick Hollister, PartnerSHIP 4 Health
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering
Matt Welle, West Fargo Park District/Moore Eng. – proxy
Jason Baker, City of Fargo Engineering
Erik Hove, Clay County
Bob Walton, NDDOT
Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health

Others Present:

None

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:06 pm. D. Farnsworth welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approve minutes from June 21st meeting

T. Solberg inquired about the status of the proposed path on N. University Dr. in Fargo. At the last meeting there was discussion that the FAA may not allow the path to be built due to its proximity to runway 6/27. It was M. Elshaug's understanding that the path could still be built but the roadway could not be widened. It was D. Farnsworth's understanding that the path could be built if the roadway was widened. At this point it is uncertain the future of the proposed path along N. University Dr.

A motion to approve the June 21th minutes was made by T. Solberg and seconded by J. Atkins. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

3. Consider citizen voting member for Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

The group then discussed the open citizen seat on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee. At the last Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee meeting there was discussion about seeking a new citizen voting member for the Committee to fill the existing citizen voting member seat. It

was the desire of the Committee to solicit applications for interested citizens of the FM Area to be considered for this position. It was decided that a three-person committee would review the applications and bring the top candidate for recommendation to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee. The three-person review committee consisted of one representative from: City of West Fargo, City of Fargo, and City of Moorhead.

A total of six applications were received by the July 28th deadline. Upon review by the three-person committee, Jason Gates of Fargo was the top ranked candidate. It was noted that all applicants were very qualified and the review committee was pleased with the results.

As discussed at the previous meeting, the new member would serve at two-year term. There was some discussion about the details of the two-year term. Upon discussion it was decided that the citizen member would be effective immediately after Metro COG's Policy Board approval on October 19th. The term would be effective until the end of calendar year 2019 at which time a new citizen member would be selected.

A motion to recommend Policy Board approval of the new citizen member and the aforementioned term limit was made by P. Hollister and seconded by M. Elshaug. The motion passed unanimously.

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

There was discussion about bicycle & pedestrian park use after dark. This discussion originated with Fargo City Commissioner Stand's concerns about park lighting as it relates to safety and the current park/trail curfew laws.

D. Farnsworth mentioned that he had a discussion with Dave Bietz of the Fargo Parks to see if Fargo Parks plans to add additional lighting in their parks. Bietz mentioned that there had been discussion internally but nothing has been slated.

The concerns about park curfews in Fargo is that the current law states that no one shall be in a park between sundown and sun up unless otherwise posted. D. Farnsworth reviewed his findings about the curfew research within the City of Grand Forks.

The Grand Forks greenway's law states: *"Except as otherwise authorized by the city council, the greenway shall be open to the public from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or remain in the greenway at any other time without a special permit issued by the city council except for authorized employees of federal, state or local government."*

The Grand Forks city park ordinance states: *"Except for unusual and unforeseen emergencies, parks shall be open to the public every day of the year during 6:00 a.m.—11:00*

p.m. The opening and closing hours for each individual park shall be posted therein for public information.”

D. Farnsworth mentioned that if the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee wanted to see any changes to the curfew ordinances, they could officially notify Fargo Parks and they could consider such changes at their next Park Board meeting.

B. Walton mentioned that he would like to see uniformity within the FM area. It was discussed that it would be a good idea to research the curfew ordinances for both West Fargo and Moorhead and try and get some uniformity. Metro COG will research the ordinances of the various cities in the FM area.

M. Elshaug mentioned that the Fargo Park District will be hiring a new person who might be a good fit for these discussions and possibly a good candidate for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee after Vic retires from the Fargo Parks.

There was also discussion about designating ‘commuter’ routes (shared use paths) that could be prioritized when it comes to plowing and other maintenance. Metro COG will work with the cities of West Fargo, Fargo, and Moorhead to preliminarily designate these routes. Metro COG will send out a reminder email to the West Fargo, Fargo, and Moorhead representatives for them to designate such routes as they see best.

5. Progress of the BIKE FM Group

D. Farnsworth summarized the purpose of the BIKE FM group (Bicycle, Information, Knowledge, and Education in Fargo/Moorhead). He stated that the committee was formed by Austin Hauf (PartnerSHIP 4 Health) at the beginning of 2017. Metro COG fully endorses the group as Metro COG has been seeking to implement such a group for the past 5+ years. Safety and education has been a top priority as identified in both the 2011 and 2016 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans. D. Farnsworth noted that in the last week two separate bicycle vs. vehicle accidents have hit local headlines. These accidents reinforce the need for both bicyclist and motorist education and awareness. D. Farnsworth noted that Austin Hauf has since moved away and Metro COG is now taking the lead on the BIKE FM group.

Some updates regarding the BIKE FM group is that the group is in the process of becoming a chapter of the Bicycle Alliance of MN. The Alliance is a not for profit (501c3) organization with the mission of making MN a more bicycle-friendly state. The Alliance is impressed with BIKE FM’s efforts and is receptive to BIKE FM becoming a chapter of the Bicycle Alliance of MN. The advantages of BIKE FM becoming a chapter of the Bicycle Alliance of MN includes:

- Funding opportunities would be made available for BIKE FM’s efforts through the Alliance’s donation channels
- Accounting and other non-profit (501c3) services would be handled by the Alliance
- Publicity of BIKE FM would be increased by being under the umbrella of the Alliance

It was mentioned that anyone can be part of BIKE FM's meetings. T. Solberg asked to be included on the email list.

6. Status of online bicycle route mapping

D. Farnsworth gave the group an update on the status of online bicycle route mapping. This discussion originated as a request that was made to consider an online and mobile app that could show all the bicycle facilities in the FM area. Upon discussion with the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee it was decided that the best route would be to work with Google Maps to improve their bicycle layer since so many people use Google. Metro COG has been working with Google Maps however progress is slow. About two months ago Metro COG was able to get in contact with the appropriate Google representative and Metro COG sent shapefiles of all the local bikeways to Google. At this point, no updates have been implemented on Google Maps. Metro COG contacted Google one week ago but hasn't heard back at this point.

S. McCombs showed the Committee an interactive online tool that the City of Moorhead has designed which shows all parks and trails within the city. The tool can be accessed online by both PC or mobile device. The map can be found at the following link:
<https://moorhead.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

The Committee was very impressed with the map and it was suggested that this map could/should be extended to include the entire FM area (West Fargo, Fargo, possibly Dilworth). Much of the 'heavy lifting' has already been done by Moorhead by creating the map so it may not be too difficult for the other jurisdictions to include their parks and trails. It was suggested that if a Metro-wide map came to fruition, Metro COG could possibly host the map on their website/server and other jurisdictions could display the map (or link) on their websites and other outlets.

This endeavor would require coordination between the various jurisdictions and particularly between the GIS specialists at each jurisdiction. Metro COG will follow-up with the various jurisdictions to see the possibility of such a Metro-wide map.

7. Other business and citizen comments

D. Farnsworth mentioned that as part of the 17th Ave S Corridor Study (5th St to the Fargo/West Fargo boundary), a public bike ride is being planned for sometime in mid/late October. The purpose of the ride is to identify bicycle infrastructure issues and opportunities along the corridor. Bicycle infrastructure is the main purpose of the eastern portion of the study. D. Farnsworth polled the Committee to see their preference on the

best time to hold the bike ride. It was noted that this ride does not necessarily have to be on the same day as the actual public input meeting, which will also be held around that same time. The Committee's preferences for a public ride were as follows:

- Weekday noon or afternoon: 0
- Weekday evening: 3
- Saturday: 9
- Sunday: 0

T. Solberg mentioned that as part of the 13th Ave Corridor Study that the City of West Fargo is working on with Metro COG, a public survey is available. T. Solberg will send the survey to D. Farnsworth and Farnsworth can distribute it to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee. It was noted that the survey has already provided on Metro COG's Facebook page and other social media outlets.

J. Atkins gave the Committee an update on the status of Center Ave Corridor Study and some related conversations with the City of Fargo about the future of NP Ave in Fargo. Atkins stated that he had a good meeting with the City of Fargo about connecting bicycle lanes between Fargo and Moorhead on Center Ave / NP Ave. His recent meeting suggested that the City of Fargo would be open to bike lanes on the Center / NP Ave bridge and west of the bridge. While the timeline for the Moorhead project is still up-in-the-air, J. Atkins believes these lanes could go in in 2019. The City of Moorhead would make sure the bike lanes would be coordinated with the City of Fargo prior to installation so that the lanes wouldn't end abruptly.

D. Farnsworth mentioned that additional FM Bikeways Maps have been printed and he encouraged anyone to take the maps available at the back of the room for their agencies to distribute.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.