

**639th Policy Board Meeting
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
Thursday, February 20, 2025 – 4:00 PM**

Members Present:

Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council (late)
Rory	Jorgensen	West Fargo City Commission
Stephanie	Landstrom	Horace City Council (late)
Nicole	Mattson	Moorhead City Council
Sebastian	McDougall	Moorhead City Council
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission
Brad	Olson	West Fargo City Commission
Dave	Piepkorn	Fargo City Commission
Mike	Reitz	MATBUS Representative (late)
Dave	Steichen	Dilworth City Council
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission
Michelle	Turnberg	Fargo City Commission
Shiloh	Wahl	MnDOT District 4 Engineer (<i>ex-officio</i>)
Aaron	Murra	NDDOT Fargo District Engineer (<i>ex-officio</i>)

Members Absent:

Denise	Kolpack	Fargo City Commission
Art	Rosenberg	Fargo Planning Commission
Thomas	Schmidt	Fargo Planning Commission
Joel	Vettel	Cass County Commission

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Karissa	Beierle Pavek	Metro COG
Paul	Bervik	Metro COG
Angela	Brumbaugh	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Ben	Griffith	Metro COG
Aiden	Jung	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Scott	Middaugh	KLJ Engineering
Brent	Muscha	Apex Engineering
Tom	Knakmuhs	City of Fargo Engineering Department

- 1a. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS, convened**
The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM, on Thursday, February 20, 2025 by Chair Mongeau, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

- 1b. **Approve Order and Contents of Overall Agenda, approved**
Chair Mongeau asked for approval for the overall agenda.

MOTION: Approve the contents of the Overall Agenda of the February 20, 2025 Policy Board Meeting.

Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Mr. Olson.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

- 1c. **Past Meeting Minutes, approved**
Chair Mongeau asked for approval of the Minutes of the January 16, 2025 Meeting.

MOTION: Approve the January 16, 2025 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Piepkorn.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

- 1d. **Monthly Bills, approved**
Chair Mongeau asked for approval of the February 2025 Bills as listed on Attachment 1d.

MOTION: Approve the February 2025 Bills List.

Mr. Jorgensen moved, seconded by Mr. Olson.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**
Chair Mongeau asked for approval of Items a-c on the Consent Agenda.

- a. January 2025 Month End Report
- b. Metro COG 2024 3-C Agreement
- c. Dilworth Comp Plan Contract

MOTION: Approve Items a-c on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Piepkorn.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3. **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 3a. **Public Comment Opportunity**
No public comments were made or received.

3b. TIP Solicitation

i. North Dakota Carbon Reduction Program (ND CRP)

Mr. Bervik stated applications for ND CRP projects were due by January 24, 2025. The public was invited to rank the projects using an online ranking tool and during two in-person meeting options.

Projects were required to undergo an extensive technical evaluation against the ten 2050 MTP Goals. The Prioritization Committee, a sub-committee of the TTC met four times throughout the solicitation process to evaluate the projects. The criteria used were project scope, timeliness, need for the project, estimated traffic use, pavement condition, congestion mitigation, system benefit, and potential challenges.

Mr. Bervik stated that the future of the CRP program was uncertain due to the expiration of the current transportation bill in 2026. Since the CRP is a new funding source in the current bill, it is possible that it may be eliminated from a future transportation bill, and any project programmed with CRP funding in 2027 or later is not guaranteed to receive funding.

MOTION: Approval of projects to be funded by North Dakota Carbon Reduction Program (ND CRP) program funding in FY 2025, FY 2028, and FY 2029

Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

ii. North Dakota Transportation Alternatives (ND TA)

Mr. Bervik stated applications for ND TA projects were due on November 15, 2024. The public was invited to rank the projects using an online ranking tool and during two in-person meeting options.

Projects were required to undergo an extensive technical evaluation against the ten 2050 MTP Goals. All ND TA projects were scored using the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee's scoring criteria and recommended for approved by said committee.

Policy Board determination:

2025 – 8th Street Shared Use Path - \$132,970

2028 – Drain 27 Shared Use Path Phase 1 - \$870,000

2029 – Drain 27 Shared Use Path Phase 2 - \$460,828

Beaton Drive Shared Use Path - \$419,172

MOTION: Approval of projects to be funded by North Dakota Transportation Alternatives (ND TA) program funding in FY2025, FY2028, and FY2029

Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Mr. Reitz.
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

iii.) **North Dakota Surface Transportation Block Grant (ND STBG)**

Mr. Bervik stated applications for ND STBG projects were due on January 24, 2025. The public was invited to rank the projects using an online ranking tool and during two in-person meeting options.

Projects were required to undergo an extensive technical evaluation against the ten 2050 MTP Goals. The Prioritization Committee, a sub-committee of the TTC met four times throughout the solicitation process to evaluate the projects. The criteria used were project scope, timeliness, need for the project, estimated traffic use, pavement condition, congestion mitigation, system benefit, and potential challenges.

***MOTION:* Approval of projects to be funded by North Dakota Surface Transportation Block Grant (ND STBG) program funding in FY2025, FY2027, and FY2029**

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Piepkorn.
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

iv.) **Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (MN CRP)**

Mr. Bervik stated applications for MN CRP projects were due by January 24, 2025. The public was invited to rank the projects using an online ranking tool and during two in-person options.

Projects were required to undergo an extensive technical evaluation against the ten 2050 MTP Goals. The Prioritization Committee, a sub-committee of the TTC met four times throughout the solicitation process to evaluate the projects. The criteria used were project scope, timeliness, need for the project, estimated traffic use, pavement condition, congestion mitigation, system benefit, and potential challenges.

Mr. Bervik stated that the future of the CRP program was uncertain due to the expiration of the current transportation bill in 2026. Since the CRP is a new funding source in the current bill, it is possible that it may be eliminated from a future transportation bill, and any project programmed with CRP funding in 2027 or later is not guaranteed to receive funding.

***MOTION:* Approval of projects to be funded by Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (MN CRP) program funding in FY2026.**

Mr. Steichen moved, seconded by Mr. Reitz.
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

v.) Minnesota Transportation Alternatives (MN TA)

Mr. Bervik stated applications for MN TA projects were due by November 15, 2024. The public was invited to rank the projects using an online ranking tool and during two in-person meeting options.

Projects were required to undergo an extensive technical evaluation against the ten 2050 MTP Goals. All MN TA projects were scored using the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee's scoring criteria and recommended for approval by said committee.

***MOTION:* Approval of projects to be funded by Minnesota Transportation Alternatives (MN TA) program funding in FY2028.**

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Piepkorn.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

vi.) Minnesota Surface Transportation Block Grant (MN STBG)

Mr. Bervik stated applications for MN STBG projects were due by January 24, 2025. The public was invited to rank the projects using an online ranking tool and during two in-person meeting options.

Projects were required to undergo an extensive technical evaluation against the ten 2050 MTP Goals. The Prioritization Committee, a sub-committee of the TTC met four times throughout the solicitation process to evaluate the projects. The criteria used were project scope, timeliness, need for the project, estimated traffic use, pavement condition, congestion mitigation, system benefit, and potential challenges.

***MOTION:* Approval of projects to be funded by Minnesota Surface Transportation Block Grant (MN STBG) program funding in FY2027 and FY 2029.**

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Steichen.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3c. 2025-2028 TIP Amendment 4

Mr. Bervik presented Amendment 4 regarding the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A public notice was published on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, and comments will be accepted until 12:00 noon on Thursday, February 20, 2025. As of today, no comments have been received. The proposed Amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP is as follows:

- 1. Modification of Project 4220019:** Fargo rehabilitation of Rose Coulee bridge at 36th Street South (2025). Increasing the federal share of the project.
- 2. Modification of Project 4240008:** Fargo construction of a shared use path along the Red River in the vicinity of the VA Hospital (2025). Updating project limits.

3. **New Project 3254048:** West Fargo reconstruction of shared use path along 8th Street West from 5th Avenue to 12½ Avenue (2025). 2025 CRP
4. **New Project 3254049:** West Fargo reconstruction of shared use path along 8th Street West from 5th Avenue to 12½ Avenue (2025). 2025 TA

MOTION: Approval of Amendment 4 to the Metro COG 2025-2028
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Mr. Peipkorn moved, seconded by Mr. Olson.
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3d. Performance Measures (PM)

i) Performance Measure 1 – Highway Safety MN and ND

Ms. Pavek presented information regarding the Highway Safety performance measures for both Minnesota and North Dakota. The following is used to calculate safety: Number of fatalities, Fatality rate per 100 million VMT, Number of serious injuries, Serious injury rate per 100 million VMT, Non-motorized (walking/biking) fatalities and serious injuries.

A percentage of the population is used to calculate a common factor to compare state comparison with our regional MPO. FM Metro COG is 2.35% of the total Minnesota Population and 26.94% of the total North Dakota Population. Metro COG's numbers are within MnDOT and NDDOT targets for 2025.

ii.) Performance Measure 2 – Bridge and Pavement MN and ND

Ms. Pavek presented information regarding the Bridge and Pavement performance measures for both Minnesota and North Dakota. We are currently in the Mid-performance period progress report of 2023 for the performance period of 2022-2026.

MPOs may choose to either support state targets or set their own targets based on specific MPO targets for both Minnesota and North Dakota.

Three bridges classified as poor condition were discussed as one was built in 1939 and the other two in 1968. Classified as poor does not mean they are not safe.

iii.) Performance Measure 3 – System Performance & Freight Movement MN and ND

Ms. Pavek presented information regarding the System Performance & Freight Movement in both Minnesota and North Dakota. MPOs may choose to either support state targets or set their own targets based on specific MPO targets for both Minnesota and North Dakota. Metro COG staff believe the region is contributing to each respective state's targets.

MOTION: Approve support of MNDOT and NDDOT 2025 Highway Safety Performance Measures, MNDOT and NDDOT 2025 Pavement and Bridge Condition Performance Measure Targets, and MNDOT and NDDOT Reliability Performance Measure Targets

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Piepkorn.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3e. TTC Bylaw Extension Study

Mr. Griffith reported that MATBUS has been designated as a “large urban” transit agency by Federal Transit Administration; therefore, Fargo and Moorhead transit agencies are being restructured into a single organization with the City of Fargo being the dedicated recipient. MATBUS members asked if the TTC Bylaws could be revised to include two representatives because of the changes to the restructuring of transit. After legal counsel review, changes were made to the Bylaws.

MOTION: Approve the proposed amendment to the TTC Bylaws regarding MATBUS representation on the TTC, with an effective date of March 1, 2025.

Mr. Reitz moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3f. 8th Avenue Extension Study

Mr. Maddox introduced Brent Muscha with Apex Engineering. Mr. Muscha presented the information for the 8th Avenue Extension Study project. 8th Avenue North was identified as a corridor to make regional connections as an alternative to TH10. UPWP Amendment #5 had included this study using unspent 2023 CPG funds. Apex Engineering completed the study, and it was presented to the City of Dilworth on January 27, 2025.

The study included plans for the extension of 8th Avenue North, analysis of surrounding land uses, and community engagement. With in-person and virtual engagements, many residents were able to provide their input.

The following was summarized at the end of the study:

- Street/Intersections
 - Control Access
 - 2-Lane Undivided – Residential
 - 2-Lane with Median – Parkway
 - 34th St Walmart Improvements
 - Main Street Connection
- Alignment
 - Northernmost – Park Access/School Use
 - Central – Utilize Existing Utility Corridor
 - Southernmost – Maximize Parcel Flexibility
- Phasing
 - Developer Led vs City Led
 - Reevaluate with Each Phase

MOTION: Approve the Dilworth 8th Avenue Extension Study to include all relevant comments received by Metro COG staff pursuant to its oversight agencies reviews.

Ms. Mattson moved, seconded by Mr. Steichen.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3g. 15th Avenue Corridor Study

Mr. Maddox introduced Scott Middaugh with KLJ Engineering. Mr. Middaugh presented information for the 15th Avenue North project. 15th Avenue North was identified as a corridor to make regional connections as an alternative to TH10, particularly if a three-lane option were to be selected. UPWP Amendment #4 had included this study using unspent 2023 CPG funds. KLJ Engineering completed the study and presented it to the Dilworth Planning Commission on February 5, 2025.

Three types of traffic volume added to the corridor:

- Background growth rate
- Land use changes
- Traffic diversion from I-94, US 10, and 28th Avenue

The study was coordinated with the Heartland Trail study, since a portion of the proposed trail could parallel 15th Avenue in the future.

The public input meeting was held on November 21, 2024. Next steps would be to develop and execute a memorandum of understanding with the Townships, Clay County, and the City of Dilworth.

MOTION: Approve the final report of the 15th Avenue North Corridor Study to include all relevant comments received by Metro COG staff pursuant to its oversight agencies' review.

Ms. Mattson moved, seconded by Mr. Steichen.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Additional Business

Mr. Griffith provided four updates:

- Metro COG staff is moving the 2024 Year-End Budget Close-Out to the March 20 Policy Board meeting because consultant invoices for work performed in 2024 were still being received.
- Metro COG staff is working diligently on the adoption process of the 2050 MTP and are scheduling it for Policy Board consideration on March 20.
- There are a couple of new Policy Board members that I will be reaching out to schedule orientation sessions with – hopefully before the next Policy Board meeting next month!
- Last week, Metro COG received an updated information packet from MnDOT regarding GHG reduction targets which was forwarded to both the TTC and Policy Board earlier today.

Mr. Piepkorn stated that City of Dilworth Council Member Julie Nash should be recognized in some way for her years of service to Metro COG.

Mr. Jorgensen requested information regarding the TIP and Project Solicitations.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Adjourn the 639th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board
Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Mr. Jorgensen.

MOTION, passed.

Motion carried unanimously.

The 639th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, February 20, 2025 was adjourned at 5:37 pm.

**THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD MARCH 20, 2025,
4:00 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Brumbaugh
Office Manager