

# Agenda Item 1c, Attachment 1

**591st Policy Board Meeting  
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments  
Thursday, July 15, 2021 – 4:00 pm  
Zoom Web Conference**

**Members Present:**

Matthew	Gilbertson	Moorhead City Council
John	Gunkelman	Fargo Planning Commission
Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council
Steve	Lindaas	Moorhead City Council
Julie	Nash	Dilworth City Council
Brad	Olson	West Fargo City Commission
Dave	Piepkorn	Fargo City Commission
Arlette	Preston	Fargo City Commission
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission
Jeff	Trudeau	Horace City Council

**Members Absent:**

Tony	Gehrig	Fargo City Commission
Amanda	George	West Fargo City Commission
Jim	Kapitan	Cass County Commission
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission
Rocky	Schneider	Fargo Planning Commission
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission

**Others Present:**

Luke	Champa	Metro COG
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Levi	Kuschel	KLJ Engineering
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Jeremy	Smerage	Horrock Engineers
Bob	Walton	NDDOT – Fargo District

**1a. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS, convened**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, on July 15, 2021 by Chair Nash, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

**1b. Approve Order and Contents of Overall Agenda, approved**

Chair Nash asked for approval for the overall agenda.

**MOTION: Approve the contents of the Overall Agenda of the July 15, 2021 Policy Board Meeting.**

**Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson.**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**1c. Past Meeting Minutes, approved**

Chair Nash asked for approval of the Minutes of the June 17, 2021 Meeting.

**MOTION: Approve the June 17, 2021 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.**

**Mr. Strand moved, seconded by Mr. Gunkelman**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**1d. Monthly Bills, approved**

Chair Nash asked for approval of the July 2021 Bills as listed on Attachment 1d.

**MOTION: Approve the July 2021 Bills List.**

**Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Lindaas**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Nash asked for approval of Items a-b on the Consent Agenda.

a. June Month End Report

b. Second Quarter Report

**MOTION: Approve Items a-b on the Consent Agenda.**

**Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Mr. Olson.**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. REGULAR AGENDA**

**3a. Public Comment Opportunity**

No public comments were made or received.

**3b. Red River Greenway Study Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Mr. Champa presented the Red River Greenway Request for Proposals (RFPs). The budget for this project is \$155,000 (\$124,000 CPG, \$31,000 local funding from City of Fargo). The Red River Greenway Study will be an update from the original study, which was conducted in 2008. The City of Moorhead also completed a Red River Greenway study in 2014. The scope of this study will focus on the Fargo side of the Red River and public drains that connect to the river within the City of Fargo.

Mr. Lindaas asked if a connection to the Heartland Trail will be included in the study. Mr. Champa said it was overlooked in the RFP, but should likely be considered in the study.

Ms. Preston said she is happy to see the drains included, to make them more usable and make neighborhoods surrounding the drains more desirable. Mr. Champa said that while every drain is not called out, Drains 53 and 27 are included, and their connections to the Red River will be studied and considered in the scope of work.

Ms Gray pointed out that this study will be taking place concurrently with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update, and other drains and connections will be examined with the overall Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update to allow this plan study the river corridor in a more detailed manner. She also stated that the Fargo Park District is considering the addition of funds to this study, and we stand to learn more from Park District staff in the near future about additional funds that would allow the study to take certain priorities beyond the planning level and more toward preliminary design.

**MOTION: Approve the Red River Greenway Study Request for Proposal, and subsequent release.**

**Ms. Preston moved, seconded by Mr. Lindaas.**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3c. Draft 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Champa presented the draft 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program. The draft 2022-2025 TIP lists federally funded transportation projects for the named four-year period. A legal notice was printed in the June 30, 2021 edition of The Forum to begin the official TIP comment period. This comment period will officially begin on July 15, 2021, which corresponds to Metro COG's regularly scheduled Policy Board meeting. A public hearing before final approval which is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

The Draft 2022-2025 TIP is comprised of transportation projects in coordination with NDDOT and MnDOT Draft State Transportation Improvement Programs (STIPs). As the development of the TIP continues, Metro COG staff will be refining all the necessary components of the TIP, including glossary with definitions and acronyms, Locally Funded Projects (LFPs) referenced from local jurisdictions' Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs), financial plan and fiscal constraint, overview of federal aid programs, performance measures, and environmental considerations.

**MOTION: Open the public comment period for the Draft 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

**Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Lindaas.**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**3d. 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #2**

Ms. Gray presented the proposed amendment #2 to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The purpose of the amendment to the 2021 and 2022 UPWP in an effort to utilize Metro COG's 2020 Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funds efficiently during 2021, to enable the opening of the 2021 grant funds sometime between October 2021 to January 2022.

During Metro COG's midyear review, NDDOT expressed a desire for Metro COG and its local partners to work through our CPG funds more expeditiously, so we

do not hold up the opening of a new grant when that becomes necessary. Only three years of grants can be open at any given time.

Based on past and recent input and questions about funding availability from local jurisdictions, there are many unmet needs in the metro area for studies and planning efforts to respond to public input and technical analysis related to upcoming projects, and many of these projects can be moved up in the process to serve the planning needs of our metro area. Metro COG has also increased the number of internal projects, and as we transition to a TMA, the addition of a planner is in order to respond to additional MPO duties.

Ms. Gray presented the proposed UPWP amendments in detail, as presented in the memo that was sent out in the packet, and provided estimates of the local match funds that would be needed from each jurisdiction. She also stated that this amendment would include the addition of the Mapleton Comprehensive Plan as an internal project.

The board discussed the potential of combining the one-way pair street studies in both Fargo and Moorhead. Ms. Gray said that would likely get complex and expensive, but combining the two potential Moorhead studies at some point in the future is the right way to study them.

**MOTION: Approve amendment 2 to the 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**

**Mr. Lindaas moved, seconded by Ms. Preston**

**MOTION, passed**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

- 4. Additional Business**  
No additional business
- 5. Adjourn**

The 591st Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, July 15, 2021 was adjourned at 5:23 pm.

**THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD August 19, 2021, 4:00 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach  
Executive Assistant