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Council of Governments**  
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You receive this newsletter because you are identified as person and/or agency who is considered important to the implementation of Metro COG projects and programs. If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter or you wish to begin receiving this newsletter electronically, please contact Kate Wurtzler at:

wurtzler@fmmetrocog.org

*Thank you!*

Metro COG staff and our LSA consultant would like to thank our planning partners, member jurisdictions and the general public for their assistance and guidance in the development of Metro 2040. Copies of the approved Metro 2040 plan are available on the Metro COG website at fmmetrocog.org or at the Metro COG Offices: One North 2nd Street, Suite 232, Fargo, ND 58102.



**Public Input Opportunity**

**Final Draft 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program**

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) is pleased to present for public comment the final Draft 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the FM Metropolitan area. The TIP provides an organizational structure to address the major transportation issues facing the metropolitan area. The TIP is produced annually as a staged, fiscally constrained capital improvements document. It is comprised of four elements representing a program of projects and services for fiscal years 2015 through 2018.

The TIP, based on information submitted by local and state governments, accomplishes the following objectives:

1. Identifies the transportation improvements for advancement from the long range element during the program period;
2. Indicates the metropolitan area's priorities;
3. Groups improvements of similar urgency and anticipated staging to the same time period;
4. Includes realistic estimates of total costs for the program period;
5. Provides a status report of projects programmed in the previous year's annual element; and

6. Serves as chief coordination mechanism for implementing projects identified in the Metro COG Long Range Transportation Plan, *Metro 2040: Mobility for the Future*.

In addition, each project in the TIP includes the location of the project, the type of improvement the project entails, the length of the project to the nearest tenth of a mile, the Federal Functional Classification (if any), the proposed source and availability of federal, state, and local funds and the estimated total expenditures for each jurisdiction involved.

Metro COG is requesting comments on the final draft 2015-2018 TIP. A public meeting is scheduled for:

**August 14, 2014 at 10:00am**  
**Metro COG offices**  
**One 2nd Street North, Suite 232**  
**Fargo, ND**

Public comments may also be submitted directly to Metro COG through the contact information below. Comments will be accepted through Noon on August 20, 2014. Copies of the TIP are available at the Metro COG offices or can be downloaded from the Metro COG website at [www.fmmetrocog.org](http://www.fmmetrocog.org).

For additional information on the TIP, please contact Bill Christian at 701.232.3242 x33 or [Christian@fmmetrocog.org](mailto:Christian@fmmetrocog.org).



**PUBLIC INPUT  
OPPORTUNITY!**

Look for this symbol

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## Metro 2040: Mobility for the Future

The update to the Metro COG Long Range Transportation Plan, Metro 2040: Mobility for the Future, was approved by the Metro COG Policy Board in July. Metro 2040 is designed to help realize Metro COG's adopted outcomes to meet current and future transportation needs and to gauge the success of these efforts with established performance measures. Metro 2040 is designed to guide the development of multimodal transportation systems throughout the FM Metropolitan area for the next 25 years. It will be used to prioritize the majority of transportation spending throughout this period.

Metro 2040 includes both short-range and long-range strategies that lead to the development of an integrated multimodal transportation system to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods and addressing the current and future transportation demand.

The development of Metro 2040 was conducted with a proactive public involvement process. Information was provided via newsletters, direct mailings and public meetings. Public input was received through workshops held throughout the planning process. Metro COG and our consultant worked cooperatively with our member jurisdictions, other agencies

and groups, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and the Departments of Transportation in Minnesota and North Dakota in the development of the plan.



## Bicycle Friendly Communities Application

In early 2014 Metro COG began working on the application for Bicycle Friendly Community status. This status is awarded to communities that are found to be bicycle friendly based on various questions and criteria. The designation is awarded by the League of American Bicyclists and is considered the official designation for recognizing a community's bicycle efforts.

Metro COG has been working with area jurisdictions, business owners and members of the public to complete this application. The application can be submitted for individual cities or for metropolitan areas. Due to the strong partnership between the cities in our metro area, we completed the application for the metro area as a whole rather than for an individual city. Therefore the application represents the cities of West Fargo, Fargo, Moorhead and Dilworth as the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area.

The application is nearing completion and was approved by the Metro COG Policy Board on July 17th. Metro COG plans to submit the application by the August 14th due date. It will take several months for the League to review the application but Metro COG hopes to know the outcome of the application by the end of 2014. If awarded, the League will supply the Fargo-Moorhead community with signs that can be displayed at various locations around the community. By being designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community, a community can be more attractive to people and businesses considering relocating and can assist in tourism efforts as well. By filling out the application, communities can also get a sense of im-

provement areas that can make the community more bicycle friendly.

The League of American Bicyclists designates bicycle friendly communities under one of five categories – Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond with Diamond being the most bicycle friendly. Currently there are 221 communities designated as Bronze, 64 designated as Silver, 18 designated as Gold, 4 designated as Platinum and none designate as Diamond.

Currently there are 11 bicycle friendly communities in Minnesota but no bicycle friendly communities in North Dakota. North Dakota is one of two states in the nation without any



bicycle friendly communities, with Hawaii being the other. North Dakota is rated the 35th most bicycle friendly state in the nation by the League of American Bicyclists while Minnesota is ranked 2nd.



## Public Input Opportunity

### Sheyenne Street Corridor Study Update

Metro COG, in cooperation with consultant KLJ, began the Sheyenne Street Corridor Study in April of 2014. This study analyzes the Sheyenne St corridor from 13th Ave to 52nd Ave in West Fargo, the Sheyenne St / I-94 interchange, and a portion of 52nd Ave from the Sheyenne Diversion to 4th St E.

As development continues near the Sheyenne St corridor, traffic continues to increase and the need for improvements becomes more necessary. The Sheyenne St Corridor Study will look at projected growth in the area to determine the traffic demands in the future and will develop roadway alternatives that will meet the needs of the future. The study will also look at transit needs, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, accesses and driveways, environmental impacts/improvements, landscaping options, and other considerations.

The study is scheduled for completion in November of 2015 and portions of Sheyenne St are programmed for construction in 2018. Members of the public and other interested persons are invited to the Study's first public input meeting as follows:

**Thursday August 28th, 2014**

**Triumph Church**

**3745 Sheyenne St, West Fargo**

**Informational Open House: 10:00 am to noon, and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

**Presentation: 6:00 pm**

### Moorhead Downtown Grade Separation Update

Metro COG, in cooperation with consultant KLJ, began the Downtown Moorhead Railroad Grade Separation Study in July. This study looks at the possibilities of providing a grade-separated crossing between 3rd Street and 20th Street in Moorhead and will provide preferred alternatives for a potential grade separation. Environmental considerations related to the project will be investigated in the study as part of a pre-NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) review. Development of the purpose and need statement, scoping, public involvement and alternatives development and analysis will all be completed to allow for a seamless transition into a NEPA documentation phase.

Moorhead is bisected by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroads with both their KO and Prosper Subdivision lines that run east-west through the heart of downtown. The KO and Prosper lines carry 67 and 59 trains per day, respectively. Activity along the two lines is continually increasing primarily due to support energy activity in western North Dakota. Discussions with BNSF indicate that KO line is anticipated to increase to 96 trains per day in the near future. This is a major operational and safety deficiency considering there are no grade separated crossings between 3rd Street and 20th Street in Moorhead. The increase in train traffic will result

in prohibited flow at the three major arterials in downtown, 8th, 11th and 14th Streets.

The study is scheduled for completion in September of 2014. Metro COG and KLJ will be holding public meetings on the project later this year.

### Southwest Metro Transportation Plan Update

Metro COG, in cooperation with SRF Consulting, began the Southwest Metro Transportation Plan in March 2014. This project was initiated as a result of Metro 2040, the 2014 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update and the realization for the need for substantial transportation infrastructure investment in the southwest metropolitan area in both the near-future and long-term.

When complete, the SW Metro Transportation Plan is intended to provide Cass County and cities of Fargo and Horace an implementation plan for growth and development for the southwestern portion of the metropolitan area, incorporating both general multimodal and land use recommendations to guide implementation. The study area is bounded by (north to south) 52nd Avenue S to 100th Avenue S/County Road 14 and (west to east) the Sheyenne Diversion to the Red River.

The purpose of this study is to review existing conditions, consider transportation-related infrastructure capacity, establish framework strategies for system improvements, and produce a comprehensive transportation plan for the study area. The intended outcome of the SW Metro Transportation Plan is to develop an implementation plan for future roadway arterials and collectors, identify needs for current and future corridors in terms of operational capacity, and develop policy recommendations to guide transportation decisions and future land use in the study area. The study will account for corridor preservation, I-29 access, regional connections between North Dakota and Minnesota, and potential impacts from the Red River Diversion.

The project began with meetings with City of Fargo planning and engineering staff and with the City of Horace City Council and Planning Commission in order to inform them of the project and gain their participation in the process. As part of the study, both the City of Fargo and the City of Horace agreed to an optional planning task for land use plan updates to help delineate future land uses for the both cities' growth areas.

The Study Review Committee (SRC) for the SW Metro Transportation Plan has met twice, with a formal meeting on May 9th and a subsequent meeting on July 16th. These meetings have been attended by staff and representatives from the City of Fargo, City of Horace, Stanley Township, Cass County and Cass Rural Water District, and staff from Metro COG and SRF Consulting. These meetings have focused on efforts such as data collection, land use planning, project goals, and more.

It is anticipated that the SW Metro Transportation Plan will be completed in June 2015.