

**511th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, October 8, 2020 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Robin	Huston	City of Moorhead Planning
Matthew	Jacobson	Clay County Planning
Peyton	Mastera	City of Dilworth Administration
Aaron	Nelson	Fargo City Planning
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Russ	Sahr	City of Horace Planning
Tim	Solberg	City of West Fargo Planning
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division

Members Absent:

Kim	Lipetsky	Fargo Cass Public Health
Jaclynn	Maahs	Concordia College
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS
Mark	Wolter	Freight Representative, Midnite Express

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Angela	Bolstad	Stantec
Baird	Bream	Cambridge Systematics / NDDOT
Luke	Champa	Metro COG
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Brenda	Derrig	City of Fargo Engineering
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Matthew	Huettl	HDR
Amy	Kronbeck	Metro COG
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Jim	Mertz	Bolton & Menk
Stewart	Milakovic	NDDOT
Bobbi	Retzlaff	FHWA
Steven	Strack	Houston Engineering
Jamie	Wark	SRF Consulting

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on October 8, 2020 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 511th TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the 511th TTC Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Approve the 511th TTC Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Sahr moved, seconded by Ms. Huston

MOTION, PASSED.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVE September 10, 2020 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the September 10, 2020 TTC Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approve the September 10, 2020 TTC Minutes.

Mr. Sahr moved, seconded by Mr. Benson

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

No MOTION

5. Transit Authority Study Final Report

Mr. Maddox presented the final report for the Transit Authority Study.

Ms. Gray reiterated that if the Transit Director position were to be placed within Metro COG, she does not believe it would be structured in a manner that Metro COG would end up having a supervisory role of this position or of any aspect of MATBUS. The relationship would likely be more for the purpose of facilitating a multi-jurisdictional arrangement, since Metro COG already serves a multi-jurisdictional role. Since Metro COG functions as a Council of Governments as well as an MPO, this recommendation is feasible. Mr. Atkins asked how an administrative position would fall under "planning" as Metro COG's CPG funding is for planning activities only. Ms. Gray restated that Metro COG is a Council of Governments as well as the Metro Planning Organization, and in fact the original role of the organization was as a COG – a planning agency that has the ability to address the needs of multiple jurisdictions. Mr. Maddox said that the position would not utilize CPG funding, and another means of funding for this position would need to be secured (local funds, federal funding, etc.).

Ms. Pierce from MnDOT said 5310 pass-through funding may be a potential funding source.

Mr. Solberg said that he is worried if the Transit Authority is North Dakota-based, that it would lose out on the Minnesota funding opportunities. Mr. Maddox said that Minnesota does have a robust transit funding program, which has helped MATBUS tremendously. He added that funding conversations with the North Dakota government, in addition to future lobbying could help with this deficit.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the MATBUS Transit Authority Study – Metro COG staff and local jurisdictions continue in the coordination role

Ms. Bommelman moved, seconded by Mr. Solberg

MOTION, PASSED. 16-0

Motion carried unanimously.

6. FM Greenway Recreation Master Plan Update

Ms. Gray reminded the committee that this master plan had recommended approval by the TTC to the Policy Board. However, there was concern over wording in in the document. The concerns included references to attraction of visitors and tourists from outside the metro area in the financial section of the plan, and the recommendation of Metro COG as the governing agency in both the governance and implementation sections of the plan. The document was revised to reframe the discussion about attracting visitors to the area, and the governance and implementation sections of the plan were revised to necessitate further discussions before any governance decisions are finalized. She noted that these decisions may take years, and that Metro COG will work to facilitate these discussions if desired, and that the agency will always maintain a planning role as it pertains to any transportation infrastructure such as bike trails and connections to other transportation facilities in the community.

Mr. Benson noted that he liked the changes made in the verbiage. He reiterated that North Dakota is not trying to “steal” tourism revenue dollars from Minnesota, as was misconstrued in the previous wording.

Mr. Zacher noted that there are conversations that will need to continue. He also said that there is a possibility that Metro COG would need to hire additional staff to address the responsibilities that may arise out of the TMA designation, as well as staff to fulfill this oversight responsibility, and if Metro COG is ready for that responsibility. Ms. Gray said that Metro COG is currently not equipped for this level of multi-jurisdictional coordination, but that the agency does not want to be a barrier to carrying out the wishes of the community, and that we are open to discussions to figure out what would need to be done to provide these services if we are asked to do so in the future.

Motion: Recommend approval of the revised FM Diversion Recreation Plan, subject to the attached revised language being incorporated into the final document, and recommend that the Policy Board direct Metro COG to continue serving as a regional planning resource by working with local jurisdictions and the FM Diversion Authority to assist in early-stage

greenway planning/coordination and identification of governance entities.

Mr. Benson moved, seconded by Mr. Sahr

MOTION, PASSED. 16-0

Motion carried unanimously.

7. NDDOT Transportation Connection – October Update

Mr. Bream presented an update to the NDDOT Transportation Connection, the Statewide Transportation Plan.

8. Agency Updates

Metro COG – 2022-2024 TIP – Metro COG requests local jurisdictions to please notify Metro COG of any project cost updates; TAP Grant Applications – MN/ND solicitations are open.

Fargo – GTC interior construction finished, exterior slated for Spring 2021. Core Neighborhoods Master Plan preview, Plan Code Diagnostic Study and Zoning code updates. Future Water Tower and planned art project.

Moorhead – Underpass on-going, Comp Plan scope of work approved

West Fargo – Sheyenne Street bids, Drain 45 Phase I (TAP Grant project) bids

Dilworth – No updates

Horace – No updates

Cass County – 2021 Budget approved, Comp Plan 2021-2025 update approval, seeking movement of County Roads from 55 to 65 MPH.

Clay County – Scope of Work approved for Clay County Comp/Transportation plan with Metro COG, new planning tech started Monday

NDDOT – MPO Directors Meeting 10/22, conversation has occurred about potentially inviting member jurisdictions to attend the meeting

MnDOT – HSIP Solicitation trunk highways open, snow fence funding application submitted through freight program

NDSU – No updates

9. Additional Business

No additional business

10. Adjourn

The 511th Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on October 8, 2020 at 12:04 p.m.

**THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL
BE HELD November 12, 2020, 10:00 A.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant