



PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY!

Look for this symbol



Public Input Opportunity

Metro COG Announces Public Comment Opportunity on the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

By Wade Kline, Metro COG Executive Director

Metro COG will hold a public input meeting to gather input on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the years 2014-2017. The public input meeting will be held as part of Metro COG's Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) meeting on July 11th, 2013, at 10:00 AM in the Metro COG Conference Room. This is an opportunity for the public to submit comments on projects previously selected for Federal funding, projects currently being submitted, or projects proposed for Federal funding. The following 2014-2017 TIP Documents are available for public comment:

- Minnesota - Final 2014-2017 TIP;
- North Dakota - Candidate Project 2014-2017 TIP.

These documents are available in hard copy at the Metro COG offices; or by going online to www.fmmetrocog.org.

What is the TIP?

The TIP is a compilation of the significant surface transportation improvements scheduled for implementation in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan area during the next four years (FY 2014-2017). The 2014-2017 TIP is developed by Metro COG as part of its overall transportation planning process. The 2014-2017 TIP is developed in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), and Metro Area Transit (MATBUS) of Fargo-Moorhead.

Is this TIP Development Cycle Different?

Yes. With the enactment of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) in October of 2012, Metro COG, MnDOT, and NDDOT followed an atypical process for TIP development. Starting in the fall of 2013, TIP development procedures will return to the process and timelines you have typically

been accustomed to. More information regarding the changes to the TIP process brought about by MAP-21 and nuances to the development of the 2014-2017 TIP are available with in the TIP documents listed on this page.

How Do TIP Project Get Identified?

Metro COG annually solicits for projects seeking Federal funding through Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) or Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Projects are typically submitted by cities, counties, or public transit operators. Once received, projects are evaluated based on local needs and anticipated project benefits. Final project selection is usually the responsibility of MnDOT, NDDOT, or MATBUS. Project selection is a cooperative process between those entities and Metro COG. The FHWA and the FTA require that the projects included within an approved TIP be consistent with Metro COG's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). So projects appearing in the TIP have typically undergone some level of previous planning level study to determine preliminary project justification.

How Long is the Public Comment Period?

Metro COG will accept written comments until Noon, July 11th, 2013. Comments can be sent to Case Plaza, Suite 232, One Second Street North, Fargo, ND 58102, or be emailed to harter@fmmetrocog.org. Pending public comment, Metro COG's TTC will recommend the 2014-2017 TIP documents to the Metro COG Policy Board for approval on July 20, 2013. Note: One additional public comment period will be advertised for the North Dakota - Candidate Project 2014-2017 TIP. Contact Peggy Harter, Senior Transportation Planner at 701.232.3242 (Ext. 33) if additional information is required.

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Stay tuned...

Next edition of the metro connection will provide information about how to help shape Metro COG's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

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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 Joan Geyer at: geyer@fmmetrocog.org

Stay Informed, Get Involved

In addition to the Metro Connection, Metro COG offers additional ways for the public to keep informed about Metro COG's projects, meetings and other items. Public involvement is a very important and a beneficial asset to Metro COG's work. That's why we have the following additional resources to reach out to the public and keep citizens involved:

Metro COG's Website

Metro COG's website has a variety of resources ranging from a question/comment box, news/events, maps, reports/plans, meeting minutes and agendas, committee information, contact information and more. We encourage everyone to visit our website at: www.fmmetrocog.org.

Facebook

Yes Metro COG has a facebook page which we encourage everyone to "like"! The page is simply titled *Metro COG*. Once you "Like" Metro COG's facebook page you can post comments and view updates posted by Metro COG.

Committees

Metro COG has five committees which serve to oversee the planning and operations of Metro COG. The committees meet at various times with most meeting in Metro COG's Conference Room. The public is welcome to attend any of the committee meetings. If you wish to regularly receive a meeting agenda packet to see items being discussed, please contact Joan Geyer at geyer@fmmetrocog.org. You will then be added to our interested persons list where you

will receive a meeting packet (electronic or mailed) prior to each meeting. Simply specify which committee(s) for which you are interested in receiving the meeting packet. Metro COG's committees are the following:

MAT Board - This committee coordinates MATBUS operations between the area cities and key stakeholders. The committee meets monthly at Fargo City Hall in the City Commission Room.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee - The bike & pedestrian committee meets quarterly in Metro COG's Conference Room and discusses items pertaining to bicycle and pedestrian-related improvements/issues.

Metropolitan Transportation Initiative - This committee meets on an as needed bases and discusses issues regarding human service public transportation.

Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) - The TTC meets the 2nd Thursday of each month in Metro COG's Conference Room. This committee discusses issues pertaining to area transportation.

Metro COG Policy Board - Metro COG's Policy Board meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Metro COG's Conference Room. The Policy Board is comprised of elected officials from area jurisdictions and give final approval of items previously approved by the other committees.