

Agenda Item 1c, Attachment 1

**570 Policy Board Meeting
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
Thursday, October 17, 2019 – 4:00 pm
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

John	Gunkelman	Fargo Planning Commission
Steve	Jesme	Dilworth City Council
Brad	Olson	West Fargo City Commission
Nicole	Mattson	Moorhead Planning Comm (alt for Johnathan Judd)
Dave	Piepkorn	Fargo City Commission
Rocky	Schneider	Fargo Planning Commission
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission
Larry	Weil	City of West Fargo (alternate for Eric Gjerdevig)

Members Absent:

Duane	Breitling	Cass County Commission
Tony	Gehrig	Fargo City Commission
Steve	Gehrig	Moorhead City Council
Eric	Gjerdevig	West Fargo City Commission
Tony	Grindberg	Fargo City Commission
Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council
Johnathan	Judd	Moorhead City Council
John	Koerselman	Horace City Commission
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Dan	Bergerson	Bolton & Menk
Luke	Champa	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Anna	Pierce	Metro COG

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm, on October 17, by Vice Chair Olson, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

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

Vice Chair Olson asked for approval for the overall agenda.

MOTION: Approve the contents of the Overall Agenda of the October 17, 2019 Policy Board Meeting.

Ms. Mattson moved, seconded by Mr. Jesme.

MOTION, passed. 9-0

Motion carried unanimously.

1c. Past Meeting Minutes, approved

Vice Chair Olson asked for approval of the Minutes of the September 19, 2019 Meeting. Ms. Mattson noted that she was listed as Moorhead City Council, but she is on the Moorhead Planning Commission.

**MOTION: Approve the September 19, 2019 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.
Ms. Watson Curry moved, seconded by Mr. Gunkelman.
MOTION, passed. 9-0
Motion carried unanimously.**

1d. Monthly Bills, approved

Vice Chair Olson asked for approval of the October 2019 Bills as listed on Attachment 1d.

**MOTION: Approve the October 2019 Bills List.
Mr. Weil moved, seconded by Ms. Mattson
MOTION, passed. 9-0
Motion carried unanimously.**

***Ms. Tasa joined the meeting, introducing herself as the new voting member from the Fargo Planning Commission.**

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Olson asked for approval of Items a-e on the Consent Agenda.

- a. September Month End Report
- b. West Fargo 9th Street Corridor Study Contract Amendment
- c. 2019 Metro Profile
- d. ~~3rd Quarter Report~~
- e. MnDOT 2020 State Planning Grant

**MOTION: Approve Items a-e on the Consent Agenda.
Mr. Strand moved, seconded by Mr. Schneider
MOTION, passed. 10-0
Motion carried unanimously.**

3. REGULAR AGENDA

3a. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

No MOTION

3b. Stan Thurlow – Resolution of Appreciation

Ms. Gray drafted a Resolution of Appreciation for Stan Thurlow, former TTC member. He served the TTC the longest, and attended the most meetings of any person in Metro COG's history. Ms. Gray asked the city of Dilworth administrator, Peyton Mastera for input on the resolution. Mr. Mastera spoke of Mr. Thurlow's commitment to the committee, his job, and the community as a whole.

MOTION: Approve and adopt the Resolution of Appreciation for Stan Thurlow, amending the resolution to include the Policy Board in recognition.

Mr. Schneider moved, seconded by Mr. Jesme.

MOTION, passed. 10-0

Motion carried unanimously.

3c. 2020 Salary Rate Adjustment

Ms. Gray presented the 2020 Salary Rate Adjustment (formerly known as COLA – Cost of Living Adjustment) of 2.5%. Metro COG typically follows the City of Fargo's pay rate schedule, including rate adjustments. In September, the Fargo City Commission approved a 2.5% salary adjustment for employees. Metro COG's 2020 budget included a salary adjustment up to 4%. Executive Committee recommended the 2.5% increase at their October meeting.

Ms. Watson Curry asked how often the City of Fargo does salary and job description and classification. Mr. Piepkorn said that a study is done every two years, and could supply documentation if interested.

MOTION: Approve the 2.5% salary adjustment for Metro COG staff for 2020, consistent with the City of Fargo's salary rate adjustments and pay scale.

Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Ms. Watson Curry

MOTION, passed. 10-0

Motion carried unanimously.

3d. 2020 Health Insurance

Ms. Gray presented the 2020 Health Insurance coverage and premium through Blue Cross Blue Shield. The premium increased by 5.4%, within the 2020 budget of a 10% increase. The current plan renews in December. The Executive Committee asked if the plan renewal could align with the calendar year instead. Ms. Gray worked with COG's BCBS ND representative to learn what that would entail, and it is possible, but requires another increase in premiums starting January 1 2020. She provided the details of that increase and referred the Board to information in the memo.

Ms. Gray stated that during the Executive Committee meeting, she was asked to do cost-analysis with health insurance providers and other plans before next year's contract renewal. Mr. Piepkorn concurred and elaborated on possible options for next year.

MOTION: Approval of Metro COG to continue with the BCBS insurance plans currently in use, implementing the initial plan renewal on December 1, 2019, and the follow-up renewal on January 1, 2020, for the purpose of aligning the coverage with Metro COG's fiscal year, and authorizing the Executive Director to sign the coverage agreements for 2020, with the caveat that Ms. Gray also look at other plans and providers before contract renewal in 2021.

Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Ms. Watson Curry

MOTION, passed. 10-0

Motion carried unanimously.

3e. Moorhead 17th Street N Corridor Study RFP

Mr. Farnsworth presented the Moorhead 17th Avenue North Corridor Study Request for Proposals (RFP).

Ms. Mattson asked why NDDOT is the oversight agency when the project is in Minnesota. Ms. Gray said that NDDOT is the designated oversight agency for Metro COG, since the ND side has the higher population level.

MOTION: Approve the 17th Street N Corridor Study RFP
Ms. Mattson moved, seconded by Mr. Gunkelman.
MOTION, passed. 10-0
Motion carried unanimously.

3f. Consolidated Planning Grant Funding Scenarios

MS. Gray presented an update on the Consolidated Planning Grant funding scenarios, as a follow up from the September meeting. Ms. Gray attended the NDDOT MPO Director's meeting in Bismarck to discuss the scenarios with the other MPO directors, and the NDDOT local government division. At this time, the funding formula will remain the same as it has been for the past several years.

3g. All Aboard Minnesota

Ms. Gray reminded the board that the All Aboard Minnesota presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, at the Hjemkomst Community Center from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for business, civic, and community leaders, with a public open house from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The board is encouraged to share this information with anyone who might be interested.

4. Additional Business

Mr. Strand asked that Metro COG keep awareness on rail safety, and how to affect change in train speeds in town. The board asked Metro COG to look into local government control or influence over rail safety concerns. Dan Bergerson from HDR asked if he could address the board. He stated that he worked on the rail safety plan for the metro area, and that train speeds are closely monitored by the railroad companies and the FRA through equipment on the train.

Metro COG will be holding a remodel open house immediately following the Policy Board meeting. Board members are invited to stay for the open house for refreshments and social hour.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Adjourn the 570th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board
Ms. Watson Curry moved, seconded by Mr. Gunkelman.
MOTION, passed. 10-0
Motion carried unanimously.

The 570th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, October 17, 2019 was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD November 21, 2019, 4:00 P.M. AT THE FM METRO COG CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE NORTH 2ND STREET, CASE PLAZA SUITE 232, FARGO, ND.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant