

129th Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
June 18th, 2025 – 3:00pm
Hybrid Meeting – Virtual / In-person (Metro COG Conference Room)

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Peyton Mastera, City of Dilworth
Robert Gunderson, Fargo Park District
Forrest Steinhoff, City of Moorhead Planning
Terry Steen, Citizen Representative
Cole Hansen, Cass County Planning
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering
(Tom Trowbridge, City of Moorhead Engineering)
Amy Zundel, West Fargo Parks
Kyle McCamy, West Fargo Engineering
Jeremy Gorden, City of Fargo Engineering
Matt Jacobson, Clay County Planning
Aaron Murra, NDDOT – Fargo District
Kurt Kopperud, Citizen Representative
Rose Bruce-White, MnDOT
Cheryl Stetz, Cass County Public Health
Patrick Hollister, Clay County Public Health

Others Present:

Ben Griffith, Metro COG
Paul Bervik, Metro COG
Aiden Jung, Metro COG
Karissa Pavek, Metro COG
Josh Mathern, West Fargo Parks
Kyle Ten Napel, Houston Engineering
Max Olson, Bolton & Menk
Kurt Witterman, Citizen
Barb Witterman, Citizen
William Weightman, (Citizen)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:03 pm. Both virtual and in-person attendees introduced themselves.

2. Minutes from December 4th, 2024 meeting

Since a quorum wasn't present at the March 12th meeting, the December 4th, 2024 meeting minutes were brought to the Committee for approval at this meeting. A motion to approve

the minutes was made by M. Jacobson and seconded by A. Zundel. The minutes were approved unanimously with no edits.

3. Minutes from March 12th, 2025 meeting

A motion to approve the March 12th minutes was made by F. Steinhoff and seconded by P. Mastera. The minutes passed unanimously with no edits.

4. Public input opportunity

Kurt and Barb Witteman provided comments to the committee. They commended the local efforts toward improving bicycle infrastructure. They also had the following questions/concerns:

- It would be nice to have a bridge over the Red River (similar to bridges at Lindenwood Park and Oak Grove) in the area of 40th Ave S (Fargo) and Bluestem (Moorhead)
 - Committee response: There are plans for a bridge at this location. Funding is being secured with hopes of constructing a bridge in 2027
- The paths at Lindenwood Park are in rough shape and would be nice to see improvements with these path's riding condition.
- University Dr/CR 81 south of 52nd is in rough shape. Will it be replaced?
 - Committee response: The existing path along CR 18 south of 52nd Ave is scheduled to be replaced in the next few years (2026/2027)

K. Kopperude mentioned it would be nice to have some signage or pavement markings to guide trail users to not take up the whole width of the path.

5. Fargo-Moorhead Bike Map App update

K. Pavsek provided an update on the online Fargo-Moorhead Bike Map which Metro COG is developing in-house. Metro COG is developing this map as the app developer of Metro COG's existing Bike Map is no longer dependable and unresponsive.

Metro COG is developing the new map using a GIS-based tool, ESRI's Experience Builder. This map looks very similar to the existing FM Bike Map app with the same symbology for the various bikeways and other destinations shown such as MATBUS transfer locations and parks.

T. Steen asked if it would be possible to show the local mountain bike trails. He suggested, if possible, linking information from Trail Bot, a resource FM Trailbuilders uses to show the trails and show the status of the trails. Metro COG will look into this and at a minimum will show the locations of the trailheads.

K. Kopperud suggested, if possible, include the status of the river bridges (Oak Grove Lift Bridge, Midtown Floating Bridge, and Lindenwood Lift Bridge). D. Farnsworth noted that Moorhead GIS might keep track of this status. Metro COG will reach out to Moorhead GIS to see if there might be a way to link Moorhead's bridge status to the FM Bike Map.

The Committee then voted on the two logos which Metro COG developed for the FM Bike Map app. Of the two logos, the one with the most votes was the logo showing the green shield with the blue bike. Metro COG will use this logo for the FM Bike Map app.

In addition, K. Pavik noted that Metro COG plans to also print paper maps, similar to the maps discontinued in 2018. Since discontinuing the paper maps, many citizens have requested paper maps. Metro COG believes paper maps plus the digital map will best meet the needs of the Fargo-Moorhead population.

The next steps include: Metro COG will finalize the online FM Bike Map and will publish the map online. Metro COG will work on getting the word out about the online map and will notify the Committee. Metro COG will also start developing the printed maps.

6. Bicycle Friendly Community follow-up items

D. Farnsworth listed the follow-up items that were discussed at the last Committee meeting related to the area's recent Bicycle Friendly Communities report card. These follow-up items included: Improving signage along bikeways, encouraging more businesses to apply for Bicycle Friendly Business, and tracking past project progress.

D. Farnsworth asked if any from the Committee have reached out to businesses to apply for BFB. No one has reached out. K. Kopperud mentioned that he could reach out to Junkyard Brewing.

7. Past plans – implementation tracking

As noted in the previous agenda item, tracking progress of bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure projects as recommended in past plans was requested by the Committee members at the March 12th meeting. Metro COG developed a draft spreadsheet to track the status of recommendations mentioned in past plans. These plans included: Moorhead Safe Routes to School Plan (2025), DGF Safe Routes to School Plan (2023), Red River Greenway Study (2023), Fargo Safe Routes to School Plan (2020), FM Diversion Greenway Master Plan (2020), FM Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan (2019), and FM Bikeways Gap Analysis (2019).

D. Farnsworth showed the spreadsheet to the Committee and noted there are a total of 120 recommendations from the plans mentioned above. The Committee members seemed to be interested with Metro COG moving forward with this method to track the recommendations, however T. Trowbridge asked if the projects could be divided into short-term, mid-term, and long-term projects. Metro COG will revise the spreadsheet to divide

the projects into the three term lengths, noting that not all plans have a term length assigned to the recommendations.

D. Farnsworth pointed out that he'll need to reach out to the jurisdictions in the coming months to be able to fill out the spreadsheet accurately.

8. TA scoring revisions

P. Bervik went over the proposed changes to the TA scoring. Since the recent adoption of Metro COG's new Metropolitan Transportation Plan, some transportation goals have been changed, so the proposed TA scoring language reflects that. Other changes included:

- A new map (Active Trip Potential) used to reference the walkability scoring criteria
- The addition of 15 points to the 'planning study recommendation' scoring criteria if the project is in the MTP
- The addition of industrial land use to be included with the land use scoring criteria

If approved, the scoring criteria would be used for the next TA scoring later in 2025. A motion to approve the proposed scoring criteria was made by P. Mastera and seconded by C. Hansen. The motion was passed unanimously.

9. Heartland Trail Study in Clay County update

D. Farnsworth provided an update on the Heartland Trail Study in Clay County. Farnsworth noted that the study is nearing completion with public comment closed on the draft document and presentations ongoing to local jurisdictions along the study corridor. Metro COG anticipates the study will be brought to Metro COG's Policy Board in August with anticipated adoption of the study at that time.

Farnsworth reviewed the trail alignment with the Committee and discussed the next steps once the study is complete. He emphasized the importance of keeping the momentum of recent efforts ongoing and the need to restart the Clay Co Heartland Trail Task Force. It was also noted that it will be important to decide whether the trail should be a state trail, regional trail, or combination thereof. This is an important decision and should be made by local leaders and staff. He also emphasized the importance of lobbying at a state level so that funding could be obtained for a trail.

10. Clay County Heartland Trail Task Force composition

There was then discussion about restarting the Clay County Heartland Trail Task Force, and what the composition of the Task Force should look like. Questions that D. Farnsworth brought forward were:

- Should the Task Force be comprised of technical staff, elected officials, or a combination thereof?
- How large should the Task Force be? How large is too large?

- What roles should the Task Force include? – Planning? Guidance? Lobbying? Advocacy?
- How many representatives should represent each jurisdiction? Should some jurisdictions have several representatives?

Suggestions others brought up were:

- Having four subgroups (for all four trail segments) should be considered.
- Metro COG should reach out to the Becker County Heartland Trail group to see who comprises their group.
- Metro COG should reach out to the Otter Tail County to see who comprises their Heart-of-the-Lakes Trail group.

Since no clear answers came forth as to the best composition of the Task Force, Metro COG will reach out to members of the Bike/Ped Committee to see who would like to sit down at a later time to propose how the Task Force should be comprised.

P. Hollister noted that he'd like to be a member on the Task Force.

11. West Fargo Safe Routes to School Study update

A. Jung provided an update on the West Fargo Safe Routes to School Study which Metro COG is doing in-house. This is a two-year study with half of the schools studied in 2025 and the other half in 2026. So far in 2025 Metro COG has gathered existing conditions at the schools, conducted arrive & dismissal site observations, and gathered input from the public and parents through surveys and an online public comment map.

Next steps for this study included a study review committee meeting in July to discuss the observations, then recommendations will be developed, and a draft document will be put together. The remainder of the West Fargo schools will be studied in 2026 with a final report ready by the end of 2026.

12. Clay County Public Health update

P. Hollister announced to the Committee that Clay Co. Public Health received a check of \$129,540 from the MN Pollution Agency as part of a pollution violation payment from Anheuser-Busch from their Moorhead facility. This money can be used for any purpose within Moorhead but use of the funds needs to be submitted to the MN Pollution Agency by June 3, 2026.

Mr. Hollister wanted to notify the Committee about this funding as it could have the potential to be used for bicycle/pedestrian-related project(s). Clay Co Public Health intends to solicit ideas from the public in the upcoming future.

13. Agency Updates

No agencies had any updates to mention.

14. Other business

There was no other additional business. The meeting was adjourned around 4:40 pm.