



Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

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Agenda
Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Wednesday, June 21th, 2017
3:00 pm
Metro COG Conference Room

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| 1) Welcome and introductions | |
| 2) Approve minutes from March 15 th meeting – Attachment | Action Item |
| 3) Discuss/Consider revised Committee voting members – Attachment | Action Item |
| 4) Follow-up information - bicycle & pedestrian park use after dark | Information Item |
| 5) Progress of the BIKE FM Group – Attachment | Information Item |
| 6) Status of online bicycle route mapping – Attachment | Discussion Item |
| 7) Results of Transportation Alternatives Grant Applications – Attachment | Information Item |
| 8) Public Input opportunity for Center Ave, Moorhead – Attachment | Information Item |
| 9) Other business and citizen comments | |

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**96rd Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
March 15th, 2017 – 3:00pm
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Bob Walton, NDDOT
Tim Solberg, City of West Fargo
Joe Anderson, Fargo Police Department
Jeremy Gorden, City of Fargo Engineering
Patrick Hollister, PartnerSHIP 4 Health
Alyssa Johnson, Great Rides (proxy for Sara Watson Curry)
Aaron Nelson, City of Fargo Planning (proxy for Maegin Elshaug)
Vic Pellerano, Fargo Park District
Christine Holland, River Keepers
Erik Hove, Clay County

Others Present:

Barrett Voigt, City of Fargo Planning
Michelle Gleason, Fargo Cass Public Health
Courtland Miller, Kilbourne Group
John Strand, Fargo City Commission

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:05 pm. D. Farnsworth welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approve minutes from December 7th, 2016 meeting

A motion to approve the December 7th, 2016 minutes was made by T. Solberg and seconded by P. Hollister. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

3. Discuss bicycle & pedestrian park use after dark

D. Farnsworth introduced this item by mentioning that at both a previous Metro COG Policy Board meeting and a City of Fargo Commission meeting Fargo Commissioner Strand expressed concerns about the ordinance which prohibits use of parks after dark. This means that walking or biking through a Fargo park or even along trails within park property after dark is illegal. This restricts those who may choose to commute or use these trails for transportation, especially during winter months when daylight hours are minimized.

Commissioner Strand mentioned that he wanted to bring this topic forth to this Committee for discussion. He also stated that lighting along some trails and within certain parks is worth considering if biking and walking through parks becomes legal.

There was discussion about gates that close many Fargo parks and it was stated that a bicyclist was killed when crashing into a gate after hours several years ago. It was mentioned that while these gates prohibit vehicles they also prohibit bicycle and pedestrian traffic. It was mentioned that in Bismarck they have had issues with motorcycles bypassing the gates and using the trails after dark.

There was also discussion about lighting within parks and along trails. It was mentioned that lighting along river trails could be problematic. In Moorhead there has been some lights along the river which ice chunks have damaged during floods. Meanwhile in Winnipeg lighting is provided along the river and the lights are removed during flood season.

D. Farnsworth will work with V. Pellerano in developing a list of popular parks/trails that could be candidates for lighting and thus candidates for allowing bicycle/pedestrian usage after dark. D. Farnsworth will also work with J. Gordon in developing cost estimates for such lighting. It was mentioned that Grand Forks could be a good resource in seeing how they allow/disallow usage along their Red River Greenway.

4. Consider West Fargo Parks voting member

D. Farnsworth discussed that the City of West Fargo is currently represented by one voting seat while the City of Moorhead is represented by two voting seats. As the City of West Fargo continues to grow rapidly, it only makes sense that West Fargo also has two voting seats on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. D. Farnsworth also noted that when developing the 2016 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, it became apparent the role that the West Fargo Park District plays in West Fargo's bicycle and pedestrian network. For these reasons, Metro COG believes that a voting seat for the West Fargo Park District on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee is warranted.

It was asked if there are any concerns about West Fargo Parks not being able to attend meetings due to their busy schedule. D. Farnsworth mentioned that he talked to the Parks Director and it seems that she would be able to attend or at least send a proxy to most of the meetings. It was also noted that the Committee only meets on a quarterly basis so attending the meetings isn't a large commitment.

It was also asked how adding another member would affect the voting quorum. D. Farnsworth mentioned that since the voting seats would be increased from 18 to 19, this would not affect the quorum. The quorum would remain at 10.

A motion to approve adding a voting member seat for the West Fargo Park District was made by T. Solberg and seconded by V. Pellerano. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Discuss completed 2016 FM Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

D. Farnsworth summarized that 2016 FM Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is complete and has been complete for several months. Metro COG has been presenting the Plan to local jurisdictions and obtaining resolutions of support from the jurisdictions. Metro COG has obtained resolutions of support from all jurisdictions except for the Moorhead City Council. Metro COG expect to receive this signed resolution March 16th or 17th. Metro COG's Policy Board has also provided a resolution of support.

Once the Moorhead resolution of support is received, the Plan will be designated officially complete and Metro COG will post the Plan to the its website, notify the public and interested persons, and will provide the Plan to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. The Committee could: (1) request a paper copy of the Plan, (2) request the Plan via flash drive, and/or (3) download the pdf Plan via Metro COG's website. Metro COG will email the Committee at such time the Plan is officially complete. Metro COG will notify all regarding the Plan's availability within the next week or so.

6. Planned bicycle education and safety efforts

It was noted that the top priority from the 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was safety, education, and driver awareness. Therefore, D. Farnsworth was pleased to announce the progress made by Austin Hauf (MN Green Corps) in cooperation with PartnerSHIP 4 Health in developing an LREN (Local Regional Education Network). This LREN program has developed a group comprised of agencies interested in bicycle safety and education and the group has been meeting regularly. Progress made thus far includes: (1) numerous bicycle education classes that will be available to the public this spring and (2) discussions about reaching out to the public via billboards and/or local bus wraps.

P. Hollister handed out Moorhead Community Education catalogs to the group which displays bicycle education on the cover. These catalogs are sent to all Moorhead residents quarterly and some Fargo residents receive these catalogs too. This is great press for bicycle education. Classes are open to all.

7. Discuss mobile app/interactive FM bikeways map

D. Farnsworth discussed that he has been approached by a few people (including a Metro COG Policy Board member) regarding a mobile app for the FM bikeways map. Ideally this app would show a user's location, show all streets, and would show all the different types of bicycle facilities in the FM area. Many other features could be included in the app such as tracking routes that people use, which would be used for planning purposes.

There was discussion by the group regarding this topic. The group felt as though this app may not be necessary for numerous reasons. There are already a number of apps out there such as MATBUS mobile, Great Rides Bike Share, Strava®, and Google Maps. The group felt that adding another app may lead to confusion and may detract from existing apps.

D. Farnsworth mentioned that while Google Maps is widely used, the local bicycle routes are inaccurate. Farnsworth mentioned that three years ago, Metro COG tried to work with Google to improve the Fargo-Moorhead bicycle network but was not successful. Google was not willing to be contacted and the only way to update the local bicycle network was to log into Google, submit changes for each bicycle network segment and hope that another reviewer approves the change. Metro COG's efforts with endeavor had minimal success.

After further discussion the group felt the best route would be to promote Google Maps for the local public to use and try and work with Google once again to update their bicycle network. It was noted that we might be able to work with Nokia Here Maps which is located in Fargo.

8. Discuss bike routes on 7th, 8th, and 9th Streets between 1st Ave S & 18th Ave S

Currently 9th St and 7th St are identified as bicycle routes between 5th Ave S and 18th Ave S in Fargo. When implemented many years ago, the idea was that 7th St would function as a northbound bicycle route while 9th St would function as a southbound bicycle route. For that reason, parking is only permitted on the east side of 9th St and the west side of 7th St. These corridors are identified as bike routes via green BIKE ROUTE signs.

Neighborhood organizers from the Clara Barton and Hawthorne neighborhood associations are concerned about traffic speeds on both 7th St and 9th St due to parking on only one side of the street. It has been asked by the neighborhood organizers that parking be considered on both sides of the roadway to calm traffic speeds.

J. Gorden asked the Committee if they felt 9th and 7th Streets were used often by cyclists and whether the general public even knows that those are bicycle routes. Most of the Committee members preferred taking 8th St rather than 9th or 7th Streets because it is more direct into downtown. They also felt that these routes are unknown to the public. Data from Strava® verified that their users use 8th St more than 7th or 9th Streets.

J. Gorden stated that the City will look into current speeds on 7th and 9th street by potentially doing a speed study. The City may also reach out to citizens of the Hawthorne and Clara Barton neighborhoods to work with them on parking on 7th and 9th Streets and the possible re-designation of bicycle routes in that neighborhood.

There was also discussion about other bicycle routes throughout the FM Area, namely the routes that are designated only by green BIKE ROUTE signs. It was indicated that these signs are often unnoticed and few people actually know that such routes are designated

bicycle routes. There was discussion about whether these routes should be reconsidered. Some routes that were designated many years ago may not be as relevant today. For example, 25th Ave N in Fargo has fairly heavy traffic, narrow lanes, and has parking; yet this is designated as a bicycle route. It was decided that such a discussion or study metro-wide routes will be deferred to another time, perhaps at the time of the next FM bikeways map update.

9. Other business and citizen comments

There was some additional discussion regarding the 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and how we intend to implement the projects proposed in the Plan. D. Farnsworth mentioned that he encourages each jurisdiction to implement the projects proposed in the Plan. Metro COG would be happy to provide assistance as staff time allows. J. Gorden suggested that a good study that Metro COG could do in the future could be to study of how to implement specific projects/gaps in the system. For example, how could bicycle facilities be installed on the Broadway N corridor? On street? Shared-use path? Would there be sufficient right-of-way, parking? Would trees need to be removed?

P. Hollister announced that Minnesota LTAP is hosting a training class on 'Design and Operations of Separated Bike Lanes' in late March. One class will be held March 29th in Minneapolis and the other will be held March 30th in St Cloud. If anyone is interested they can sign up.

P. Hollister then announced that on Sunday April 23rd the Concordia Cobber bike ride will occur. The ride will begin and end at Concordia and will travel across the river into Fargo, north of downtown, and back down to Concordia on the Moorhead side. The ride is open to all interested. Sunday April 30th will be an alternate date if the weather is unfavorable on April 23rd.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Agenda Item 3

To: Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
From: Dan Farnsworth, Metro COG
Date: June 14th, 2017
Subject: **Discuss/Consider revised Committee voting members**

At Metro COG's March 16th Policy Board meeting, the Policy Board approved the addition of a Horace voting member to Metro COG's Policy Board. The following month at the April 20th Policy Board meeting the Board requested that Metro COG also include a Horace voting member to the Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee. In addition, the Board directed Metro COG to reach out to the existing citizens members on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee as they have not been in attendance for reasons unknown at the time. The Policy Board wanted to continue to have a citizen voting member seat on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee.

After reaching both citizen voting members, it was learned that one of the citizens no longer lives in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The other citizen had no longer received meeting notifications from Metro COG due to a mishap with Metro COG's email records. After talking to that citizen, she recommended that we reach out to another citizen to take her place on the Committee.

Per direction from the Policy Board, Metro COG recommends the inclusion of a voting member to represent the City of Horace. Metro COG also recommends soliciting for a citizen to fill the existing citizen voting seat. **Attached** is a revised Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee member list showing the suggested changes.

Agenda Item 3 - Attachment

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Voting Member List		
Category	Organization	Proposed Member
Local Units of Government	City of West Fargo	Tim Solberg
	West Fargo Parks	Barb Erbstoesser
	City of Fargo Engineering	Jeremy Gorden (proxy – Jason Baker)
	City of Fargo Planning	Maegin Elshaug
	Fargo Parks	Vic Pellerano
	City of Moorhead Engineering/Planning/Parks	Jonathan Atkins Kim Citrowske, or Larry Anderson
	City of Moorhead Engineering/Planning/Parks	Jonathan Atkins, Kim Citrowske, or Larry Anderson
	City of Dilworth	Stan Thurlow (proxy – Payton Mastera)
	City of Horace	TBD
	Cass County	Hali Durand
Clay County	Erik Hove	
Departments of Transportation	NDDOT – Fargo District	Bob Walton
	MnDOT – District 4	Jane Butzer
Safety / Health	City of Fargo Police	Deputy Chief Joe Anderson
	Cass County Public Health	Kim Lipetzky (proxy – Cheryl Stetz)
	Clay County Public Health	Patrick Hollister
Miscellaneous	River Keepers	Christine Holland
	NDSU	Brit Stevens
	Great Rides	Sara Watson Curry (proxy – Alyssa Johnson)
Citizen	Citizen	Margaret Mowery or Ruth Danuser Seeking new Citizen

****11** voting members required for a quorum. **

Agenda Item 5

To: Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
From: Dan Farnsworth, Metro COG
Date: June 14th, 2017
Subject: Progress of the BIKE FM Group

At the last meeting we discussed the formation of a bicycle safety education group that would strategically promote bicycle safety education and rules of the road throughout the community. The group was formed in early 2017 and is currently being led by Austin Hauf (MN Green Corps / PartnerSHIP 4 Health). This group aligns very well with the FM Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan's number one priority – 'bicycle and motorist education'. Metro COG is involved in the group and fully endorses its efforts. The group was recently named BIKE FM (Bicycle Information, Knowledge, and Education Fargo-Moorhead).

Since the inception of this group the follow efforts have already taken place:

- Austin has given a presentation to the Moorhead Business Association regarding bicycle friendly businesses and communities
- Austin and Justin Kristan hosted a nine-hour class through Moorhead Community Education named 'Bike Traffic Skills 101'. These classes were well advertised with promotions via: iFargo City newsletter, PartnerSHIP 4 Health e-newsletter, cover of the Moorhead Community Ed catalog (picture below), media coverage, and more.
- Austin spoke to 75 driver's ed students in Moorhead regarding rules of the road and bicycle safety
- A billboard was designed promoting driver awareness for bicyclists. The billboard has been on display since June 1st and is located at the intersection of NP Ave & 4th St in Fargo (picture below).
- Educational videos have been running on Moorhead Community Access TV and both Fargo and Moorhead are running bike safety programming.



Other efforts that are being considered include:

- Additional educational billboards
- Educational / rules of the road displays on the backs of busses
- Efforts at Streets Alive
- Promotion of locals becoming League Cycling Instructors

If you would like to be part of the group or if you'd like to receive notifications regarding the meetings, you can contact Dan Farnsworth at farnsworth@fmmetrocog.org or 701-232-3242 ex 35.

Agenda Item 6

To: Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
From: Dan Farnsworth, Metro COG
Date: June 14th, 2017
Subject: **Status of online bicycle route mapping**

At the last Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting, there was discussion about creating a local online bicycle mapping tool that would include a smartphone app. After discussion with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee it was suggested that we direct the public to an already widely-used mapping resource – Google Maps. Metro COG noted that the bicycle routes shown on Google Maps currently aren't accurate and Metro COG has been unsuccessful in reaching out to Google in the past regarding their bicycle route mapping. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee encouraged Metro COG to continue to reach out to Google.

Since that time, Metro COG has been successful in getting ahold of the proper Google Maps contact. Google Maps will accept mapping information from legitimate government sources, which would include Metro COG. This is a big step in improving Google Maps' bicycle mapping accuracy in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

To date Metro COG has not had the time to provide Google with the necessary information but plans to do so in the near future.

Agenda Item 7

To: Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
From: Dan Farnsworth, Metro COG
Date: June 14th, 2017
Subject: **Results of Transportation Alternatives Grant Applications**

In December 2016 ND jurisdictions applying for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) grants submitted their applications. In January 2017 MN jurisdictions applying for TA grants submitted applications. This spring the results of the applications became available.

Below are the results of the ND TA applications within our area. Awarded projects will receive funding in 2018.

- **Awarded** – 5th St Extension Shared Use Path, Fargo
 - Total project cost: \$236,316
 - Awarded: \$227,334
 - Statewide rank: 2
- Not awarded – N University Dr. Shared Use Path, Fargo
 - Total project cost: \$290,000
 - Statewide rank: 5
- Not awarded – Drain 45 Multi-Use Path, West Fargo
 - Total project cost: \$287,302
 - Statewide rank: 6
- Not awarded – County Road 17 Shared Use Path, Cass County/Horace
 - Total project cost: \$188,381
 - Statewide rank: 7

Below are the results of the MN TA applications within our area. If awarded the projects would have received funding in 2021.

- Not awarded – Multi-Use Trail Phase II, Barnesville
 - Total project cost: \$130,000
- Not awarded – Summerwood Trail, Dilworth
 - Total project cost: \$451,745
- Not awarded – Heartland Trail Connection and Safe Routes to School Paths, Hawley
 - Total project cost: \$420,000

Public Input Meeting for Moorhead Center Avenue

ABOUT CENTER AVENUE

The City of Moorhead recently initiated a planning and preliminary engineering study of the Center Ave Corridor from the Red River to 8 St. The City has a project programmed to rehabilitate this Corridor in 2019.

WHY THIS STUDY?

The City previously completed a study of the project corridor cooperatively with Metro COG and MnDOT in 2013. The 2013 Corridor Study included multiple corridors including Highway 10, Highway 75, and Center Ave. At this time, the City would like to re-evaluate the alternatives included within the 2013 Corridor Study along with some additional alternatives to ensure the corridor is examined with a complete streets approach. This approach studies all modes of transportation, existing and proposed development, the overall safety of the corridor for all users, and options to improve the corridor aesthetics.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

This public information meeting will introduce the project and allow for the public to engage, share their ideas about the project, and learn more about the project. **Your input will help to guide the study and development of roadway alternatives.**

MEETING DETAILS

Where:

Hjemkomst Center Auditorium
202 1st Avenue North
Moorhead, MN 56560

When:

June 27th, 2017 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
(presentation at 5:30)

Comments:

Send your comments via phone, mail, or email until July 11, 2017.

Peggy Harter, Stantec
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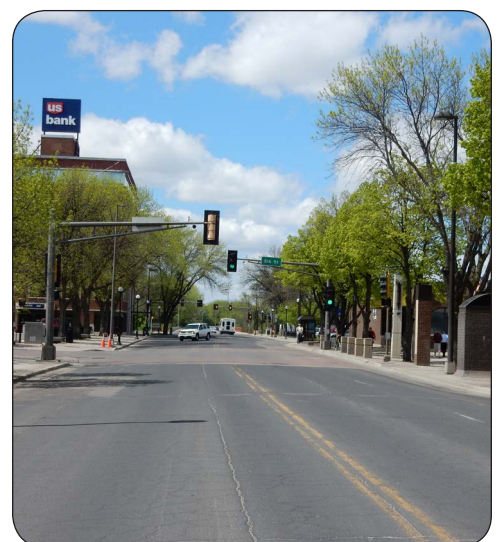
View the project website:

www.cityofmoorhead.com/departments/engineering/current-projects/center-ave-project

THE PLANNING AREA



CENTER AVENUE



City of
Moorhead

CENTER AVENUE

Planning + Preliminary Engineering Study



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