

**529th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, May 12, 2022 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Jason	Benson	Cass County Engineering (alternate voting)
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS
Nicole	Crutchfield	City of Fargo Planning
Shane	Finck	Clay County Engineering (alternate for Justin Sorum)
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Robin	Huston	City of Moorhead Planning
Don	Lorsung	City of Dilworth Administration
Aaron	Nelson	West Fargo City Planning
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Russ	Sahr	City of Horace Planning
Tom	Soucy	Cass County Highway (alternate for Jason Benson)
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division

Members Absent:

Matthew	Jacobson	Clay County Planning
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Ethan	Bialik	Moore Engineering
Angie	Bolstad	Stantec
Jaron	Capps	Metro COG
James	Dahlman	City of Horace/Interstate Engineering
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Sharijad	Hasan	ATAC / UGPTI
Jace	Hellman	City of Horace
Will	Kerns	Ulteig
Matt	Kinsella	Apex Engineering
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Brent	Muscha	Apex Engineering
Anna	Pierce	MnDOT
Bobbi	Retzlaff	FHWA - MN
Kristen	Sperry	FHWA - ND
Steven	Strack	Houston Engineering

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on May 12, 2022 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 529th TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the 529th TTC Meeting Agenda.

**Motion: Approve the 529th TTC Meeting Agenda.
Ms. Crutchfield moved, seconded by Mr. Raso
MOTION, PASSED.
Motion carried unanimously.**

3. APPROVE April 14, 2022 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the April 14, 2022 TTC Meeting Minutes.

**Motion: Approve the April 14, 2022 TTC Minutes.
Mr. Lorsung moved, seconded by Ms. Bommelman
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.**

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

5. 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #4

Mr. Maddox presented Amendment #4 to the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A public notice was published in The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, which advertised the public hearing, detailed how to request more information, and provided information on how to make public comment regarding the proposed amendment. The public notice advertised that public comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

The proposed amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP is as follows:

1. Addition of Project 9224001: Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase of an upcoming reconstruction project of the I-29/CR 20 Interchange. The PE phase of the project has a budget of \$3,000,000, of which \$2,700,000 (90%) will be provided through federal Interstate Maintenance (IM) funds, and \$300,000 (10%) will be provided by NDDOT for the required local match.

2. Modification of Project 9221001: NDDOT chip seal rehabilitation project on ND 18 from ND 10 to Cass/Traill County line (2022). The total project cost increased 47% from \$794,000 to \$1,167,503 of which the Federal Non-National Highway System - State Rural Project (Non-NHS-S) funds increased 47% from \$635,200 to \$934,002 and state funds increased 47% from \$158,800 to \$233,501.

The reconstruction of the I-29 interchange with CR 20 is not currently programmed within Metro COG's 2022-2025 TIP. It is estimated that this project

would take place sometime in the 2026-2028 timeframe. A specific construction year has not been determined. Metro COG will work with NDDOT to determine when the reconstruction of the interchange will be programmed within Metro COG's TIP and when the project will be ultimately be constructed.

Mr. Zacher asked if there were still concerns on the reconstruction of CR20 and I-29 not being listed in the 2045 MTP. Ms. Gray said that there are still concerns, but is hopeful that the Interstate Operations Analysis will address this. Mr. Zacher explained that the CR20 project would just be an environmental analysis at this point and not going out for construction bids.

Motion: Recommend approval of Amendment #4 of the Metro COG 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Board.

Mr. Zacher moved, seconded by Mr. Atkins

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) Bylaws Amendment to Address the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Policies and Procedures

Ms. Gray presented an amendment to the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) Bylaws to address the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Policies and Procedures, as it is a subcommittee of the TTC.

Metro COG's Title VI audit identified the need to establish a procedure for selecting the citizen member of our Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. During the process of addressing this, we discovered that our Administrative Policies contain detailed procedures for designating Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee membership in an obscure location of the document, of which none of the current staff were aware. The formal action by the Policy Board will require an amendment to the Administrative Policies to eliminate the existing language regarding the Bike/Ped Committee.

Mr. Raso made the motion to recommend approval of the proposed amendments.

Mr. Wrucke asked that the West Fargo members be updated from Planning and Public Works to a Planning representative and Engineering representative for the TTC makeup. Ms. Van Beek asked that a transit representative be added to the Bike/Ped makeup.

Chair Gray asked Mr. Raso if he would like to make the friendly amendment to his original motion to include the discussed updates as well. Mr. Raso agreed, with a second from Ms. Crutchfield.

Motion: Recommend approval of the proposed amendments to the TTC Bylaws and the Administrative Policies to address the Title VI audit findings regarding the policies of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee membership, with additions as discussed.

Mr. Raso moved, seconded by Ms. Crutchfield

MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.

7. 2023 Budget Estimate

Ms. Gray presented the draft 2023 Metro COG budget. The budget included a breakdown of jurisdictional dues, internal operations and overhead, and projects that are in progress, and also programmed for 2023.

A variable is the increased amounts of consolidated planning grant funds being provided to the states through the IJA legislation. Some of this increase will find its way to Metro COG, but amounts have yet to be determined.

Another variable is the potential for the Minot area to become an MPO. The City itself was less than 50,000 in the 2020 census, but if the urbanized area boundary is drawn to include Surrey and/or Burlington, the population could exceed 50,000, resulting in MPO designation. If this were to occur, ND would need to spread the same amount of funds over four MPOs instead of three.

Ms. Gray explained that another variable is the extent to which NDDOT wishes to change the funding formula between the MPOs in North Dakota. If the formula is changed, Metro COG will likely receive less funding than it currently does. Ms. Gray stated that Metro COG disagrees with the notion of any such adjustments, especially at a time when our responsibilities are increasing with the Transportation Management Area (TMA) designation.

Once these variables have become clearer, we may need to adjust the budget to account for them.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board acceptance of Metro COG's draft budget estimate for 2023.

Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Ms. Crutchfield

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

8. 2023 Transportation Alternatives Competitive Selection Process

Mr. Farnsworth presented a discussion about the Transportation Alternatives Competitive Selection Process for 2023. As Metro COG transitions to TMA status, this process may change significantly. For 2023, \$320,000 is still available for funding TA projects, and applicable to jurisdictions in Metro COG's urbanized area, and applications are due Friday, May 27th. Mr. Farnsworth stressed that any projects submitted need to be "shovel-ready" by 2023, as losing the funding will be a real possibility if not.

9. Agency Updates

Metro COG - Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program, Red River Greenway Study Public Input opportunities, Housing Analysis Study contract review

MnDOT - MnDOT's Active Transportation Program just launched a Planning Assistance solicitation. MnDOT's Planning Assistance Grants provide

planning expertise and plan development support to communities. Planning is completed by a statewide planning consultant team in collaboration with a local advisory committee. MnDOT will contract directly with the planning consultant, no funds will be awarded directly to the community. In alignment with MnDOT's equity goals, we will be directing funds to priority populations that include individuals, groups and communities who are more likely to rely on walking, biking or transit for transportation

<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/active-transportation-program/>

Active Transportation

Minnesota Statewide Transportation Plans are updating:

- SMTP will be out for public comment period starting in June through August.
- MnSHIP will be starting public engagement process with 2 events in each Greater MN district.
- State Rail Plan is kicking-off.

Fargo – Planning: Growth Plan Update RFP process kick-off in mid-July, updates to the Downtown In-Focus Plan are being done as the plan is now five years old, public outreach is beginning on the 2nd Street Bike and Pedestrian Bridge, using CDBG funds on a Madison School trail addition to close bike/ped gaps.

Engineering: 32nd Ave S is being reworked to go out for bids in June, Design of 52nd Avenue and the roundabout at 52nd Ave/Sheyenne St is ongoing.

Transit: Triennial Review Audit underway

Moorhead - Engineering: Underpass at 20th/21st delayed due to rain. 11th Street underpass design is underway working toward the completion of 30% complete plans now that the project is being done as a CMPC process, bids received for signal at 34th Street and 28th Ave S, 12th Ave S reconstruction over the RR tracks is being planned but not constructed until the completion of other construction allows for more alternate routes, Center Ave reconstruction from 8th Street to the Red River will occur in the summer Moorhead Public Services will be installing waste water liners in downtown areas and will need to bypass sewer flows during that time, BNSF will be reconstructing the crossing at 8th St and 1st Ave N along with an overlay on 8th Street from Center to 1st Ave N.

Planning: New Assistant City Planner, Brittany Cameron

West Fargo - Engineering: Drain 45 Bike Path Phase II kick-off

Planning: Temporary art is being installed on Sheyenne Street

Dilworth - US10 corridor study project underway, 1st Public Input July 10

- Horace - Construction delayed due to rain. Completing Zoning Ordinance overhaul followed by public open house
- Cass Co - Subdivision Ordinance Update focusing on reorganization of document and defining the process. 45th St/ 76th Ave construction kick-off
- Clay Co - No updates
- NDDOT - MPO Mid-Year reviews, Statewide Plans (EV Study, Rail, I-29 Smart Corridor, Safety Corridor)
- FHWA - Notice of Funding Opportunities available soon (e.g. Reconnecting Communities)
- GFMEDC - Primary Sector Companies survey regarding views on community assets – results will be shared in the next few months, focusing on “master talent plan” – related to FOF, Document-Ready site plans, and other workforce related efforts
- Higher Ed - No updates

10. Additional Business

No additional business

11. Adjourn

The 529 Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on May 12, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD June 9, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant