

113th Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
December 9th, 2020 – 3:00pm
Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Malachi Petersen, City of West Fargo Planning (proxy for Tim Solberg)
Jeremy Gorden, City of Fargo Engineering
Maegin Elshaug, City of Fargo Planning
Tyler Kirchner, Fargo Park District
Kim Citrowske, City of Moorhead Planning
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering
Peyton Mastera, City of Dilworth
Barret Voigt, City of Horace
Grace Puppe, Cass County
Matthew Jacobson, Clay County Planning
Bob Walton, NDDOT
Jane Butzer, MnDOT District 4
Deputy Chief Joe Anderson, Fargo Police Department
Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health
Patrick Hollister, PartnerSHIP 4 Health
Chris Garty, Citizen Representative

Others Present:

Cindy Gray, Metro COG
Luke Champa, Metro COG
Rocky De Rosario, Metro COG
Andrew Wrocke, City of West Fargo Engineering
David Sweeney, SRF
Shawn Vasichek, Citizen

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:04 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approve minutes from October 7th, 2020 meeting

A motion to approve the October 7th minutes was made by M. Petersen and seconded by B. Voigt. The minutes were passed unanimously with no edits.

3. Public input opportunity

No public comments were made during this opportunity.

4. Revision to West Fargo voting seat arrangement

Now that West Fargo has a dedicated Engineering Department, it was requested that Metro COG and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee consider including West Fargo Engineering in the Committee's voting member list. After email exchanges with West Fargo Planning, Engineering, and the West Fargo Park District, it was requested that the voting member list be revised to include West Fargo's Engineering Department. The proposal is identical to Moorhead's voting arrangement where West Fargo would have two voting seats, which would be interchangeably filled by West Fargo Planning, Engineering, and the West Fargo Park District.

The Committee favored this revision to West Fargo's voting seat arrangement noting that it makes good sense to have West Fargo Engineering participating and voting in the Committee. A motion to make these revisions was made by P. Hollister and seconded by M. Elshaug. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Score/rank Transportation Alternatives Applications

This agenda item began by summarizing each of the applications/letters of intent submitted to Metro COG. In total 9 applications (ND) and 3 letters of intent (MN) were submitted to Metro COG. 4 applications were submitted by the City of Fargo, 2 from the City of Horace, and 3 from the City of West Fargo. For Minnesota projects, one letter of intent was submitted by the following jurisdictions: Barnesville, Dilworth, and Moorhead.

The group then used Metro COG's Transportation Alternatives scoring matrix to score each project. The scoring matrix was approved in 2019 and was developed using a subcommittee of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee. Due to the number of applications submitted this year, Metro COG preliminarily scored each project using the scoring matrix while leaving the more discussion-based criteria blank for the Committee to discuss and score at the meeting.

The following criteria was discussed and scored by the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee:

- The criteria question: "Does the project make a systematic effort to conserve natural resources?" This criteria question was discussed and it was decided that none of the projects met this criteria.
- Fargo Drain 27/Deer Creek project – criteria related to ¼ from commercial AND 3-plexes or greater. It was decided that although the Fargo zoning map shows SR-4 adjacent to the project, this area has been built-out and no dwellings greater than two units exist. 0 pts was awarded for this criteria
- Horace Center Ave project – criteria related to ¼ from commercial AND 3-plexes or greater. It was decided that even though Horace's zoning map does not accurately reflect what has been developed (particularly in the older parts of town), there is indeed existing commercial uses and multi-dwelling residential (greater than 3-plexes) within ¼ mile of the project. 10 pts were awarded for this criteria.

- West Fargo Veterans Blvd/9th St project – criteria related to being located in an area with high or medium levels of vehicle trip density. While this project spans trip density areas ranging from low to medium to high, it's safe to conclude that the medium trip density zones represent the majority and average areas within this project's limits. 5 pts (medium trip density) were awarded for this criteria.
- West Fargo Veterans Blvd/9th St project – criteria related to being located within or adjacent to an EJ area. With the northernmost intersection being located adjacent to an EJ area, this met the criteria. 5 pts awarded.
- Moorhead Bluestem Bridge project – criteria related to ½ mile radius from a K-8 public school. It was discussed whether or not this bridge would be used for kids to get to/from school. While there are two schools on the Fargo side within ½ mile of the bridge, there are not schools on the Moorhead side and Moorhead public students would not go to Fargo public schools or vice versa. However it was argued that Bluestem is affiliated with Fargo Public Schools, therefore students could theoretically use the bridge. A motion to award 5 of the 10 points was made by J. Atkins and seconded by M. Petersen. The motion was passed unanimously
- Moorhead Bluestem Bridge project – criteria related to being located in an area with high or medium levels of vehicle trip density. This was up for discussion as the Moorhead side of the project had low vehicle trip density while the Fargo side was on the boundary of low density and medium density. A motion to award 5 points (medium trip density) was made by C. Garty and seconded by J. Atkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Barnesville project - criteria related to ¼ from commercial AND 3-plexes or greater. While it's clear in both the zoning map and on-site that there are dwelling buildings greater than 3-plexes within ¼ mile from the project, it was discussed whether or not there was actual commercial ¼ mile from the project. It was decided that since the zoning map shows commercial on the north edge of project (currently a campground), that the 10 points would be awarded.

Upon discussing and scoring as outlined above, all scoring was complete and ready for recommendation to the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC), with the following follow-up items that the Committee tasked Metro COG to look into and score appropriately prior to the Dec 10th TTC meeting:

- Metro COG was tasked to look into a crash located at the junction of 10th St N, 36th Ave N, and 37th Ave N in Fargo to see if the presence of a trail would have prevented this crash. If so, 10 pts could be awarded to the Bison Village Shared Use Path project.
- Metro COG was asked to look into a possible 2018 Barnesville Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. This could help guide the scoring regarding whether or not the Barnesville project "is consistent with recommendations of a corridor, comprehensive, or other planning study."
- Metro COG wanted to follow-up with the Horace Engineer to get more details regarding Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan shown in Horace's Center Ave

application. There are currently several unknowns about this plan. Details of this plan will determine whether it warrants “a recommendation of a corridor, comprehensive, or other planning study” per the scoring matrix criteria.

6. Other business

No other business.

Meeting adjourned 5:15 pm.