

**514th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, January 14, 2021 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Robin	Huston	City of Moorhead Planning
Kim	Lipetsky	Fargo Cass Public Health
Peyton	Mastera	City of Dilworth Administration
Aaron	Nelson	Fargo City Planning
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4
Russ	Sahr	City of Horace Planning
Tim	Solberg	City of West Fargo Planning
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Lori	Van Beek	City of Moorhead, MATBUS
Mark	Wolter	Freight Representative, Midnite Express
Andrew	Wrucke	City of West Fargo Engineering
Wayne	Zacher	NDDOT – Local Government Division

Members Absent:

Matthew	Jacobson	Clay County Planning
Jaclynn	Maahs	Concordia College
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Dan	Bergerson	HDR
Baird	Bream	Cambridge Systematics, NDDOT
Luke	Champa	Metro COG
Jim	Dahlman	Interstate Engineering/City of Horace
Brenda	Derrig	City of Fargo Engineering
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Matt	Kinsella	Apex Engineering
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Stewart	Milakovic	NDDOT
Brent	Muscha	Apex Engineering
Anna	Pierce	MnDOT
Jordan	Smith	MATBUS
Tom	Soucy	Cass County Highway Department
Kristen	Sperry	FHWA
Kyle	Weiler	HDR

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on January 14, 2021 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present.

2. Approve the 514th TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the 514th TTC Meeting Agenda.

**Motion: Approve the 514th TTC Meeting Agenda.
Mr. Raso moved, seconded by Ms. Bommelman
MOTION, PASSED.
Motion carried unanimously.**

3. APPROVE December 10, 2020 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the December 10, 2020 TTC Meeting Minutes.

**Motion: Approve the December 10, 2020 TTC Minutes.
Mr. Sahr moved, seconded by Mr. Atkins
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.**

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

5. 2020 Metro Profile

Mr. Altenburg presented an update on the 2020 Metro Profile.

Mr. Raso asked if there has been a need for an addendum to note significant changes in statistics, and if there is any comparison data to similar markets outside of the Metro area. Mr. Altenburg said that in previous years there have been comparisons to similar communities, but have not done so in recent years.

Ms. Gray noted that this agenda item was listed as an action item, but will not be acted on during this meeting, as it was not finished in time for distribution to TTC members. The complete Metro Profile will be acted upon at the February TTC meeting.

6. 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #1

Mr. Champa presented Amendment #1 to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The proposed amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP is as follows:

1. Modification of Project 419002: City of Fargo reconstruction of North University Drive from 40th Ave N to 32nd Ave N (2021). The total project cost increased 6.8% from \$6,000,000 to \$6,409,519 of which the Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Urban (STBGP-U) funding decreased 9.4% from \$4,500,000 to \$4,077,892, and the local funding increased 55.4% from \$1,500,000 to \$2,331,627.

2. Modification of Project 3200035: City of West Fargo shared use path construction along Drain 45 project year changed from 2020 (ALOP) to 2021. The total project cost increased 34.4% from \$387,000 to \$520,000 of which the Federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding stayed the same \$232,000, and the local funding increased 85.8% from \$155,000 to \$288,000.
3. Modification of Project 3204001: City of West Fargo rehabilitation at 9th Street structure over I-94 project year changed from 2020 (ALOP) to 2021. The total project cost decreased 68.1% from \$482,000 to \$154,000 of which the Federal STBGP-U funding decreased 64.4% from \$390,082 to \$139,000, and the local funding decreased 83.7% from \$91,918 to \$15,000.
4. Addition of Project 9211001: North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) statewide intelligent transportation system (ITS) improvement project to update dynamic message signs (2021). The total project cost is \$25,052 of which \$20,275 is funded through Federal Interstate Maintenance (IM) funds, and \$4,777 through State funds.
5. Modification of Project 9190021: NDDOT safety project for turn lanes, signals, and pavement marking at the 38th St and I-29 ramp (2021). The total project cost increased 56.5% from \$361,000 to \$565,000 of which the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding increased 56.5% from \$324,900 to \$508,500, and the State funding increased 56.5% from \$36,100 to \$56,500.
6. Removal of Project 9210008: NDDOT mill and overlay on ND 10E from ND 18 E to the Raymond interchange (2023) project was bid in early 2020 and will be constructed in 2021 with 100% State funds therefore, the project is being removed from the TIP.
7. Modification of Project 9170019: NDDOT concrete pavement repair on I-29N from Main Ave to N Fargo Interchange (2021). The total project cost increased 41% from \$674,000 to \$950,000 of which the Federal IM funding increased 40.9% from \$607,000 to \$855,000, and the State funding increased 41.8% from \$67,000 to \$95,000.
8. Modification of Project 9170020: NDDOT concrete pavement repair on I-29S from Main Ave to N Fargo Interchange (2021). The total project cost increased 41% from \$674,000 to \$950,000 of which the Federal IM funding increased 40.9% from \$607,000 to \$855,000, and the State funding increased 41.8% from \$67,000 to \$95,000.
9. Modification of Project 9200012: NDDOT high tension cable median guardrail on I-94 from W of Main Ave to the 42nd St grade separation (previous project limits were from W of Main Ave to W of Veterans Blvd) (2021). The total project cost increased 80.5% from \$1,180,000 to \$2,130,000 of which the Federal HSIP funding increased 80.5% from \$1,062,000 to \$1,917,000, and the State funding increased 80.5% from \$118,000 to \$213,000.
10. Modification of Project 9210007: NDDOT hot bituminous pave, concrete median barrier on I-94 from 42nd St to I-29 (2021). The total project cost increased 364% from \$525,000 to \$1,914,000 of which the Federal HSIP funding increased 364% from \$473,000 to \$1,723,000, and the State funding increased 367% from \$52,000 to \$191,000.
11. Modification of Project 9200022: NDDOT median cross-overs on I-94W 6 miles east of ND 18 project year changed from 2020 (ALOP) to 2021. The total project decreased 8.1% from \$911,000 to \$837,000 of which Federal IM funding

decreased 8.1% from \$820,000 to \$753,300, and the State funding decreased 8% from \$91,000 to \$83,700.

12. Modification of Project 9210006: NDDOT high tension cable median guardrail on I-94 from Valley City District to West Fargo (2022). The total project cost increased 0.4% from \$5,978,000 to \$6,000,000 of which the Federal HSIP funding increased 0.4% from \$5,380,000 to \$5,400,000, and the State funding increased 0.3% from \$598,000 to \$600,000.
13. Modification of Project 9182611: NDDOT Illustrative project for structure, grade raise, PCC paving, drainage improvements, and median cross overs on I-29 S of the Metro Area at the Red River Diversion (2021). Total project cost has been updated and a range is provided to reflect base and alternative bids estimated between \$45,000,000 - \$64,000,000. Project is included in the TIP for informational purposes only.
14. Addition of Project 1211002: Cass County hot mix asphalt paving, paved shoulders, and minor grading and seeding on CR 10 from ND 18 to CR 11 (2021). The total project cost is \$3,100,000 of which \$2,500,000 is funded by Federal Non National Highway System – County Rural Project (Non NHS-CS) funds and \$600,000 through local funds.
15. Addition of Project 1211003: Cass County hot mix asphalt mill and overlay on CR 11 from CR 22 to CR 4 (2021). The total project cost is \$1,700,000 of which \$1,400,000 is funded by Federal Non NHS-CS funds and \$300,000 through local funds.
16. Modification of Project 2190038: Clay County Advance Construction (AC) bituminous mill and overlay on CSAH 31 from S County Line to CSAH 10 (2022). Total project cost increased 36.9% from \$1,260,000 to \$1,725,000 of which Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Regional (STBGP-R) funding stayed the same \$741,260 and the local funding increased 89.6% from \$518,740 to \$983,740. The AC payback in 2023 with Federal STBGP-R funding stayed the same \$840,000 however the AC project total cost increased 22.1% from \$2,100,000 to \$2,565,000.

The public hearing was opened. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

Mr. Gorden asked why the amount for project #419002 (North University) has been lowered, and asked if this project could not be changed. Mr. Zacher stated that he received a cost estimate that was lower than the original budget.

After discussion, Mr. Zacher said that the removal of that project change is allowed as an administrative change, and sees no issue with the removal.

Ms. Van Beek asked why a transit project was not listed. Mr. Champa said that the project in question was not received in time for advertising. He noted that this could potentially be an administrative modification and could be added, and will start working on the addition now, for a quick turnaround.

Motion: Recommend approval of Amendment #1 of the Metro COG 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Policy Board, with the removal of Project #419002 as discussed.

Mr. Gorden moved, seconded by Mr. Benson.
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.

7. 2021 FM Metro Area-Wide Traffic Count Request for Proposals

Mr. Farnsworth presented the request for proposals (RFP) for the 2021 Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area-Wide Traffic Counts. He stated that these counts are done every five years, the last done in 2015, but this new effort was ultimately programmed for 2021, due to NDDOT's plan to count the eastern third of the state in 2021 rather than 2020, and this worked out for the best anyway, due to the erratic fluctuations in traffic during 2020 caused by the pandemic.

The project budget is \$130,000 with counts at 515 locations. The number of counts may be subject to change (see paragraph below for more details). It is planned that these counts would begin in early-May and be completed in mid-October.

In developing this RFP Metro COG has also been in discussions with MnDOT. Since it is uncertain whether or not MnDOT will be conducting counts in 2021, this RFP assumes MnDOT will not be counting in 2021 and this project will take on the MnDOT count locations that were counted in 2015. However Metro COG will continue communicate with MnDOT in hopes that MnDOT may count some locations. If MnDOT chooses to count in 2021 the number of counts in this project will be lessened and key count locations can be reallocated from general vehicle counts to vehicle classification (truck) counts.

Ms. Safgren asked if Dan has reached out to MnDOT traffic engineers. Mr. Farnsworth said that he has spoken to representatives in both St. Paul, and District 4 (local), and neither committed, but did show interest. Ms. Safgren said that it could be due to COVID numbers as well.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the 2021 Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area-Wide Traffic Counts RFP.
Mr. Mastera moved, seconded by Mr. Atkins.
MOTION, PASSED
Motion carried unanimously.

8. MetroGROW: 2045 MTP Amendment #1

Mr. Maddox presented Amendment #1 to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, MetroGROW: 2045.

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) held a virtual public meeting to present a proposed amendment to its Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) entitled MetroGROW on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. The meeting consisted of a short presentation followed by an open discussion period where attendees could ask questions.

The Amendment removes project R16- 19th Ave N Preservation project and replaces it with a 17th Ave S (38th St S to 42nd St S) Preservation project.

Following the public open house, the TTC and Policy Board were polled to determine if both bodies approve of Amendment #1 to the MTP. After obtaining an adequate number of votes which constituted a quorum of the TTC and Policy Board, it was determined that both bodies unanimously supported the amendment. This allowed us to proceed with this Urban Roads application for the project that was added to the MTP; however, to formalize the amendment, Metro COG will bring this forward to the TTC and Policy Board for an in-person vote at the January TTC and Policy Board meetings.

Motion: recommend approval to the Policy Board of the MTP amendment as shown in Attachment 2

Mr. Gorden moved, seconded by Ms. Bommelman

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

9. NDDOT Transportation Connection Update

Mr. Milakovic and Mr. Bream presented an update to the NDDOT Transportation Connection, the North Dakota statewide transportation plan.

10. Agency Updates

Fargo Transit: TDP halfway through, free fares during COVID until March.

Fargo Engineering: FAA approval for North University, 64th Ave Overpass project, 7th Ave N (Broadway to University).

Moorhead Engineering: Otter Tail Valley RR back onto permanent alignment, 12th Ave S/20th St RR crossing update.

West Fargo: Sheyenne Street downtown updates

Horace: Water connection coordination with Cass Rural Water District

GFMEDC: projects in motion, Amazon warehouse and workforce needs, housing needs

MnDOT: The first round of public engagement for the SMTP is wrapping up on Monday, January 18th. The SMTP Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet for the first time on February 10th. D4 Freight Plan – CPCS as consultant

NDDOT: discussion with other ND MPOs on definition of "regionally significant" projects as required in the TIP

11. Additional Business

No additional business

12. Adjourn

The 514th Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on January 14, 2021 at 12:02 p.m.

**THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL
BE HELD February 11, 2021, 10:00 A.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant