

115th Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting
May 19th, 2021 – 3:00pm
Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Dan Farnsworth, Chair, Metro COG
Peyton Mastera, City of Dilworth
Christine Holland, River Keepers
Grace Puppe, Cass County
Kim Citrowske, City of Moorhead Planning
Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health
Barret Voigt, City of Horace
Andrew Wrucke, City of West Fargo Engineering
Matthew Jacobson, Clay County Planning
Jonathan Atkins, City of Moorhead Engineering
Jane Butzer, MnDOT District 4
Malachi Petersen, City of West Fargo Planning (proxy for Maegin Elshaug)
Jeremy Gorden, City of Fargo Engineering
Aaron Nelson, City of Fargo Planning
Bob Walton, NDDOT

Others Present:

Cindy Gray, Metro COG
Ari Del Rosario, Metro COG
Cory Mock, ND House of Representatives
Rocky Schneider, Metro COG Policy Board Member
Intern, Fargo Cass Public Health

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 3:03 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approve minutes from February 10th, 2021 meeting

A motion to approve the February 10th minutes was made by K. Lipetzky 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. FM Metro Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Consultant Selection

At the last Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee meeting, the Committee discussed the scope of work for the upcoming Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update. In March, the Metro COG Policy Board approved the request for proposals (RFP) for the Plan Update. This project has a budgeted amount of \$170,000 (\$136,000 funded via Federal CPG funds and \$34,000 funded with local funds).

The deadline for consulting firms to submit proposals was April 14th. Metro COG received proposals from three firms - Alta Planning + Design, Toole Design, and Ulteig. Metro COG and the consultant selection committee met on Wednesday May 5th to interview and select one of the three firms.

Upon interviewing all three firms, Alta (with subconsultants SRF and Asakura Robinson) was the highest ranked firm. Alta's cost proposal came in at \$169,951, which is within the project's budgeted amount.

A motion to recommend Policy Board approval of Metro COT entering into a contract with Alta for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan was made by C. Holland and seconded by J. Butzer. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. New North Dakota Bicycle Legislation

D. Schneider and C. Mock provided information on the three bicycle-related laws that were passed in the 2021 ND legislative session. The laws were the following:

- HB 1148 – E-bikes
 - This law defines e-bikes and legitimizes them as bicycle rather than other forms of transportation. This law also has certain regulations on e-bikes.
- HB 1252 – Yielding & stopping while operating a bicycle
 - This law is similar to 'the Delaware Yield', where bicycles can treat stop signs as yield signs under most circumstances.
- HB 1290 – Passing a bicycle
 - This law requires vehicles to pass a cyclist with a minimum of 3 feet

All laws will go into effect August 1, 2021. R. Schneider has been working on an informational flyer/pdf that can be used to notify and explain these new laws to the public. Metro COG and other jurisdictions offered to display the flyer when it becomes final.

There was also discussion about other ways of getting the word out. It was discussed that the most effective way would be to send a press release at the appropriate time. C. Mock suggested an optimum time for a press release could be in mid/late July. It was discussed that local police departments could be a good fit to send the press release. Others felt that Metro COG would also be a good entity to send out the press release. It was also suggested that an event could be used to let people know about these new laws.

6. 2021 Bicycle & Pedestrian Count Report

D. Farnsworth provided a summary of the latest Metro COG Bicycle & Pedestrian Count Report. This report included count data from 2013 – 2020 and included data from both Metro COG’s manual counts and automated counters (including one of MnDOT’s counters).

D. Farnsworth highlighted some results of the report including how COVID-19 affected count numbers throughout the Metro.

Metro COG will continue to count bicycle & pedestrian traffic consistent with the past years. Committee members and members of the public can find the report on Metro COG’s website at the following link: <https://www.fmmetrocog.org/resources/planning/bicycle-pedestrian-planning>

7. Update on potential shared electric scooter deployment

An update was provided by each of the main urban jurisdictions.

The City of Moorhead has been approached by Bird to deploy shared electric scooters within the City of Moorhead. The City Council received a presentation from Bird two months ago and will receive another presentation on Monday. The proposal would be to have the scooters in use in the areas of downtown, Concordia College, MSUM, and areas between these three locations. J. Atkins feels these scooters might be deployed this summer.

The City of Fargo was approached by Bird earlier this year, however to J. Gorden’s knowledge, little conversation has been had between Bird and the City.

The City of West Fargo has also been approached by Bird recently. A. Wrucke is not aware of details of these conversations.

D. Farnsworth asked if any other jurisdictions have been approached by Bird or another electric scooter company. Both Dilworth and Horace have not been approached about such scooters.

8. Other business

J. Atkins noted that MnDOT, in cooperation with the City of Moorhead, will be installing a demonstration project at the intersection of 8th St & 4th Ave S. This project will be a temporary median pedestrian refuge island which will be in place for two weeks. The effects of this demonstration project will be evaluated and a permanent installation may be considered if the demonstration project proves effective.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 pm.