

**510th Meeting of the
FM Metro COG Transportation Technical Committee
Thursday, September 10, 2020 – 10:00 am
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Jonathan	Atkins	City of Moorhead Traffic Engineering
Jason	Benson	Cass County Highway Engineering (not voting)
Julie	Bommelman	City of Fargo, MATBUS
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Transportation Engineering
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Robin	Huston	City of Moorhead Planning
Matthew	Jacobson	Clay County Planning
Kim	Lipetsky	Fargo Cass Public Health
Jaclynn	Maahs	Concordia College
Peyton	Mastera	City of Dilworth Administration
Grace	Puppe	Cass County Planning
Russ	Sahr	City of Horace Planning
Tim	Solberg	City of West Fargo Planning
Justin	Sorum	Clay County Engineering
Tom	Soucy	Cass County Highway Engineering (alt for Jason Benson)
Kristen	Sperry	Federal Highway (Ex-Officio)
Brit	Stevens	NDSU – Transportation Manager
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:

Aaron	Nelson	Fargo City Planning
Joe	Raso	GFMEDC
Mary	Safgren	MnDOT – District 4

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Baird	Bream	CamSys
Mike	Bittner	KLJ
Tim	Burkhardt	Alliant Engineering
Luke	Champa	Metro COG
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Evan	Enarson-Haring	CamSys
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Matt	Kinsella	Apex Engineering
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Jim	Mertz	Bolton & Menk
Brent	Muscha	Apex Engineering
Anna	Pierce	MnDOT
Bobbi	Retzlaff	MnDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, on September 10, 2020 by Chair Gray. A quorum was present. Ms. Gray introduced Ari Del Rosario as the new Assistant Transportation Planner/GIS Coordinator at Metro COG.

2. Approve the September 10, 2020 TTC Meeting Agenda

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the **September 10, 2020** TTC Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Approve the September 10, 2020 TTC Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter

MOTION, PASSED.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVE July 9, 2020 TTC MEETING MINUTES

Chair Gray asked if there were any questions or changes to the July 9, 2020 TTC Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approve the July 9, 2020 TTC Minutes.

Ms. Huston moved, seconded by Ms. Lipetzky

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

No MOTION

5. NDDOT Transportation Connection

Mr. Enarson-Hering presented an update to the NDDOT Transportation Connection, North Dakota's statewide transportation plan. TTC members and others were encouraged to go to the project website to participate in the scenario planning exercise.

6. 2021-2024 TIP Public Hearing

Mr. Champa presented the final draft of the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Three public notices were posted in the Forum. The public was further notified through electronic outreach (e-mail blasts, Facebook campaigns, website posts, etc), Metro COG held a virtual online open house, which yielded a successful turnout. Mr. Champa highlighted items that have been added to the TIP since the initial draft that was released in July. These projects included Regionally Significant and Regionally Significant locally funded projects, as well as a few others where changes were brought to his attention during the review process.

Mr. Soucy asked about project #9200023 as listed in Cass County, as Cass County did not have any projects slated. Mr. Champa found that this is an NDDOT project, on Highway 10. The location of this project was discussed, and

Mr. Champa will work with NDDOT and Cass County to correct the location where the project is shown on the map.

Mr. Atkins said that the Center Avenue project listed may need to be moved back to 2022, due to a funding crunch. Mr. Champa said that since this project is locally funded, this is an easy adjustment.

Mr. Gorden noted that each of the three 4th Street North projects listed will need to be pushed back by one year as well.

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

Motion: Pending public comment, recommend Policy Board approval of the Final Draft Metro COG 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ms. Van Beek moved, seconded by Mr. Mastera

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried unanimously.

7. FM Greenway Recreation Master Plan

Mr. Altenburg presented the FM Greenway Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Altenburg presented the project's visions for recreation opportunities, trails, nature reserves, etc. A key component for this plan is a recommendation to establish a governance structure for the design and implementation of recreational facilities, operations, and programming. Metro COG was recommended as a lead governing entity, which has not been established, and would need extensive structure and funding sources before consideration.

Mr. Sahr asked what "remnant parcels" means, and how the Diversion Authority would be acquiring the land. Mr. Benson answered that these are parcels that are already purchased through the diversion project, and not additional land purchases.

Mr. Solberg asked if the North Dakota Parks and Recreation would be involved as a governing entity. Mr. Altenburg stated that in coordination with senior leadership from the ND Parks and Rec Department, the agency said they would be interested in helping the project get established, but would most likely not seek out the entire project as a future state park. Rather, they may be interested in identifying a node of natural or historical significance for state park designation. Mr. Solberg said he was uncomfortable with the recommendation of Metro COG as a governance entity, and would be voting nay against the recommendation for approval. Ms. Gray emphasized that Metro COG will continue working with communities on the recommendations of the plan, and that this will take time for a specific strategy to be formed.

Ms. Gray noted that Metro COG and the team received a lot of positive comments about the potential for a recreation facility adjacent to the Diversion, and the project seems to have generated a lot of enthusiasm.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the FM Greenway Recreation Master Plan, pending approval by the FM Diversion Board of Authority.

Mr. Sahr moved, seconded by Ms. Lipetzky

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried. 18-1 (Mr. Solberg voted nay)

8. 2021-2022 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Gray presented the final draft of the 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Ms. Gray briefly went through the contracted projects programmed for 2021 and 2022, and highlighted three internal projects for which project descriptions were added after the previous draft was released.

Mr. Atkins noted that the Moorhead Intersection Traffic Data Collection project listed as a PILOT project is the incorrect line item, as Moorhead has two projects related to data collection, to switch the PILOT denotation to the other project line item.

Ms. Van Beek noted that she had not had yet reviewed the final draft, and would likely abstain from voting. Ms. Gray explained that there are no transit-specific projects listed in the work program since the TDP is currently underway, the Transit Authority Study is nearly completed, and the Transit Facility Study was completed two years ago. She also emphasized that Metro COG is working to take a multi-modal approach, including transit, in all of its corridor studies and transportation planning efforts. Ms. Van Beek recognized this, and stated that she feels there is not enough budget allotted for transit, but noted that she has made this comment on past UPWPs as well.

Motion: Recommend Policy Board approval of the 2021-2022 UPWP, with the addition of the recommended changes by the TTC.

Mr. Atkins moved, seconded by Mr. Gorden

MOTION, PASSED

Motion carried. 17-0-1-1. (Ms. Van Beek abstained, Ms. Puppe was absent for the vote)

9. 2020 Bicycle & Pedestrian Count Report

Mr. Farnsworth presented the annual bicycle and pedestrian count report.

10. Changes in Bicycle & Pedestrian Activity due to COVID-19

Mr. Farnsworth presented a brief study of the effects of COVID-19 to the bicycle and pedestrian counts in 2020, drawing the TTC's attention to the increase in the use of trail facilities during the spring and summer months (April – July) of the COVID pandemic. Ms. Gray stated that it will be interesting to look at August and September to see if these trends continue. She stated that this is good information for our local jurisdictions as it demonstrates how valuable these facilities are to the public, especially during times when they are specifically seeking healthy outdoor activities as recreational or commuting alternatives.

11. Agency Updates

Metro COG: working on an administrative adjustment to the 2020-2023 TIP to include adjustments in budget to the 64th Ave S project (418011), Sheyenne Street project (3190041), and a locally funded project related to Sheyenne Street (3190041)

Fargo: Main Avenue is open, with a ribbon cutting on Monday at 2:00 p.m., all construction projects wrapping up shortly

Moorhead: 8th street construction wrapping up, underpass in progress, 12th ave/railroad in progress, Comprehensive Plan

West Fargo: no updates

Dilworth: no updates – Mr. Mastera thanked Metro COG for continuing to work hard to move forward during this time while everything is being handled remotely.

Horace: no updates, just a lot of construction.

Cass County: CR6 project paving completed, Casselton to Mapleton paving project, Harwood box culvert project

Clay County: no updates

Freight: National Truck Driver Appreciation Week September 13th – lunches to be handed out in the westbound lanes on I-94.

Higher-Education: no updates

Federal Highway: no updates

Transit: no updates

12. Additional Business

No additional business

13. Adjourn

The 510th Regular Meeting of the TTC was adjourned on September 10, 2020 at 12:05 p.m.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR October 8, 2020, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach
Executive Assistant