

Agenda Item 1c, Attachment 1

**581st Policy Board Meeting
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
Thursday, September 17, 2020 – 4:00 pm
Metro COG Conference Room**

Members Present:

Duane	Breitling	Cass County Commission
Amanda	George	West Fargo City Commission
John	Gunkelman	Fargo Planning Commission
Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council
Steve	Jesme	Dilworth City Council
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission
Brad	Olson	West Fargo City Commission
Dave	Piepkorn	Fargo City Commission
Arlette	Preston	Fargo City Commission
Rocky	Schneider	Fargo Planning Commission
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission
Sara	Watson Curry	Moorhead City Council

Members Absent:

David	Fenelon	Horace City Council
Tony	Gehrig	Fargo City Commission
Johnathan	Judd	Moorhead City Council
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Luke	Champa	Metro COG
Ari	Del Rosario	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Joni	Giese	SRF Consulting
Cindy	Gray	Metro COG
Savanna	Leach	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Jimmy	Shoemaker	Alta Planning
Bob	Walton	NDDOT – Fargo District

1a. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS, convened

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, on September 17, 2020 by Chair Olson, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

1b. Approve Order and Contents of Overall Agenda, approved

Chair Olson asked for approval for the overall agenda.

MOTION: Approve the contents of the Overall Agenda of the September 17, 2020 Policy Board Meeting.

Ms. Watson Curry moved, seconded by Ms. Mongeau

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

1c. Past Meeting Minutes, approved

Chair Olson asked for approval of the Minutes of the August 20, 2020 Meeting.

MOTION: Approve the August 20, 2020 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Breitling moved, seconded by Mr. Gunkelman

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

1d. Monthly Bills, approved

Chair Olson asked for approval of the September 2020 Bills as listed on Attachment 1d.

Mr. Breitling asked why the Medicare and social security withholding for payroll is listed twice, with a one cent difference. Ms. Gray said she did not know, but will follow-up with the agency accountant.*

**Follow-up note – information was later provided that the amount denoted by “ee” is paid by the employee, and the amount denoted by “er” is paid by the employer, and the one cent difference is due to rounding.*

MOTION: Approve the September 2020 Bills List.

Ms. Watson Curry moved, seconded by Mr. Breitling

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Olson asked for approval of Item A on the Consent Agenda.

a. August Month End Report

Ms. Gray noted that the 200 category for staff hours is close to reaching 100% allocated time, but a UPWP amendment is usually approved at the end of the year to adjust those allocations.

MOTION: Approve Item A on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. George moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3. REGULAR AGENDA

3a. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

No MOTION

3b. NDDOT Transportation Connection

Mr. Bream presented an update to the North Dakota Department of Transportation's *Transportation Connection*, the NDDOT's statewide

transportation plan. Policy Board members and others were encouraged to go to the project website to participate in the scenario planning exercise.

3c. 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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 at the TTC meeting. These changes were addressed in the document provided to the Policy Board.

Chair Olson asked if there were any final public comments. No comments were received.

MOTION: Approve the Final Draft Metro COG 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Gunkelman moved, seconded by Ms. Watson Curry.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3d. 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.

Ms. Gray noted there has been discussion/debate on the plan's recommendation of Metro COG as the governing agency. Ms. Gray stressed that this is a recommendation in the document, but in no way a final decision.

Ms. George stated her support for the vision and facilities included in the plan, stating she hopes it can become reality. She also noted concerns with the governance and funding recommendations, and the potential impact on local jurisdictions. She asked how in-depth the conversation with state-level organizations were in regards to funding. Mr. Altenburg stated that multiple conversations occurred with the ND Parks and Recreation. The ND Parks & Rec is interested in possible collaboration in the future, but the agency indicated they are mostly able to aid with low-level recreation nodes. They also have reservations regarding their staffing levels and ability to take on a facility of this size and nature. Securing state funding would also be a potential difficulty.

Mr. Schneider commented that one governance entity seems a massive undertaking, and that collaboration with other local entities and jurisdictions would help alleviate this. Ms. Gray noted that the document does recommend this collaboration. Mr. Schneider is hesitant for Metro COG to be that lead entity. He also noted that there seems to be a distance from Minnesota overall in the document. Ms. Gray stated there is a potential to connect to Minnesota trails, which could be part of a larger involvement at that time. Minnesota entities also did not show interest with involvement, even though they were invited to sit on the study review committee. Mr. Schneider also noted that some language in the document could be considered adversarial towards Minnesota entities, which should be reviewed before finalization.

Chair Olson asked if the park districts are able to cross jurisdictional lines to financially manage and maintain any part of those nodes. Ms. Gray and Mr. Altenburg noted that in the past, and possibly currently, the Fargo Park District owns and is managing areas in Cass County, outside of the Fargo city limits.

Ms. George asked if Metro COG is staffed adequately to become a governance entity for the greenway. Ms. Gray said that depends on the level of responsibility that would fall on Metro COG when that decision is being considered. Federal funding for transportation planning, which is where Metro COG receives most of its funding, could not be used for this type of governance, and other funding would need to be secured. Ms. Gray added that Metro COG will always be involved in trail planning and ensuring connectivity to the trails within the future greenway, but beyond that, federal transportation planning funds cannot be used for plan implementation or on-going operations and maintenance.

Ms. George is concerned with the document recommending Metro COG as the governing entity, and would consider tabling the approval. Ms. Gray said that the document is not a final decision, but makes those recommendations to further this for the Diversion Authority and the P3. She explained that there are elements of the proposed project that cannot be elaborated on in detail in terms of the level to which they could be included with the P3 project. She added that language changes can be made within the report to address the Policy Board's input.

MOTION: Table the approval of the Final document until the October Policy Board meeting to allow for language changes and further review of the document by Policy Board members.

Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Ms. George

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3e. 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. Ms. Gray

received updated numbers from NDSU's ATAC, which is working on four of the carryover projects. She showed the revised carryover amounts based on estimates from ATAC, and stated that these numbers will be updated in the document before submittal to the state and federal agencies.

MOTION: Approve the 2021-2022 UPWP for submittal to NDDOT, MnDOT, FHWA, and FTA for their 30-day review
Mr. Breitling moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3f. 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Report / Changes in Bicycle/Pedestrian Activity due to COVID-19

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

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.

4. Additional Business

No additional business.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Adjourn the 581st Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board
Mr. Breitling moved, seconded by Ms. Watson Curry
MOTION, passed.
Motion carried unanimously.

The 581st Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, September 17, 2020 was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD October 15, 2020, 4:00 P.M. AT THE FM METRO COG CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE NORTH 2ND STREET, CASE PLAZA SUITE 232, FARGO, ND.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanna Leach, PACE
Executive Assistant