METROPOLITAN PROFILE 2023

Annual Report for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area



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Dear Interested Persons, Stakeholders, Jurisdictions, Agencies and Organizations

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) is pleased to present the Metropolitan Profile 2023 (Metro Profile), a document previously known as the Surveillance and Monitoring Report for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area. The data presented within this Profile pertains to the 2022 calendar year (January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022).

Metro COG began producing the Metropolitan Transportation Surveillance and Monitoring Report in 1981. Over time, this document has taken various forms in order to ensure compliance and compatibility with relevant surface transportation authorization. Under Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), the Metro Profile has become an essential performance management tracking tool.

The profile is structured to document and monitor the following:

- (a) Changes to the transportation system;
- (b) Demographic and socioeconomic conditions;
- (c) Changes in land use patterns and/or development patterns;
- (d) Accuracy of projections/assumptions made within the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); and
- (e) Implementation of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The Metro COG Policy Board believes this data to be critical to both accurat.., represent the state of the transportation network and to maintain and to implement elements of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program, such as the TIP, MTP, and regional Travel Demand Model (TDM).

It is Metro COG's goal to continue to enhance the ease and accuracy of collecting and reporting metropolitan transportation data; as well as improving accessibility to this information for all interested persons and stakeholders.

Any questions or comments on the content of this document should be directed to Metro COG. Supporting plans, studies, and other transportation data for the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area is available by contacting Metro COG (701.532.5100), by email at metrocog@fmmetrocog.org, or visiting Metro COG's website at www.fmmetrocog.org.

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INTRODUCTION

Who is Metro COG?

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) is both the designated Council of Governments (COG) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the greater Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area. An MPO is a transportation policy-making organization comprised of representatives from local government and transportation authorities. The Federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1973 requires the formation of a MPO for any urbanized area with a population greater than 50,000. MPOs ensure that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing planning process, known as the "3-C" process.

What is the Metro Profile?

The 2023 Metropolitan Profile is separated into five chapters, each of which focuses on trends affecting the development patterns and transportation network of the Fargo-Moorhead MPA. Together the chapters provide a comprehensive snapshot of the conditions and trends affecting the metro area based on 2022 data (or the most recent data available).

The chapters are grouped into two sections:

Community Profile

Transportation

The Transportation section encompasses topics focused on the:

- **Roadway System**
- Freight & Interstate Travel
- **Bicycle & Pedestrian Network**
- Local & Regional Transit

Within each of these chapters are metrics that Metro COG tracks from year to year. These metrics are used to track progress towards goals set in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The goals in the MTP are developed with Metro COG's vision, mission, and core functions in mind.

JURISDICTIONS

CASS COUNTY 1,768 SQ. MILES

Fargo 51.18 sq. miles

WEST FARGO 16.41 SQ. MILES

HORACE 12.68 SQ. MILES

CASSELTON 2.18 SQ. MILES

HARWOOD 1.31 SQ. MILES

MAPLETON 3.91 SQ. MILES

CLAY COUNTY 1,053 SQ. MILES MOORHEAD 22.32 SQ. MILES DILWORTH 3.22 SQ. MILES BARNESVILLE 1.96 SQ. MILES GLYNDON 1.59 SQ. MILES HAWLEY 2.448 SQ. MILES



NOTE: Jurisdiction acreage was calculated from the GIS information provided by each jurisdiction. Associate Jurisdictions are depicted in navy, while the Member Jurisdictions are color coded by pink, purple, greens, bright blues, or yellow.

2023 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



----- Committees that do not meet regularly or those that are called upon as needed.

VISION AND MISSION

Vision Statement Provide quality, proactive regional planning services for a changing society.

Mission

- 1. Harmonize the activities of federal, state, and local agencies
- 2. Render technical assistance
- 3. Encourage public participation in the development of the area

Core Functions

- Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- □ Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- □ Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- □ Increase accessibility and mobility for people and freight.
- Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.

- □ Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- □ Promote efficient system management and operation.
- □ Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
- □ Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate storm water impacts of surface transportation.
- □ Enhance travel and tourism.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Post COVID-19 Pandemic Trends

In early 2022, the metro experienced peak total infections due to the Delta and Omicron Variants of the COVID-19 Virus. In 2022, the number of people working from home decreased, showing the Metro's return to normalcy. The economy saw growth trends during 2022 as it neared prepandemic levels. This can be seen through Hector International Airport reporting its second highest passenger volume of all time.

Demographic Highlights

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has continued to experience faster population growth than the country as a whole. In 2022, proportionally, much of this growth is estimated to have occurred within Horace, Fargo, and Dilworth. The population of the metro remains younger and more educated than national averages thanks to the number of higher education institutions in the area. However, the metro showed signs of aging, but at a much slower trend than the national average. Furthermore, the metro also continues to look more diverse despite having lower rates of foreign-born individuals and those speaking a language other than English at home. Even though the MSA is diversifying, regional trends are slower than what is occurring nationally.

Economic Recovery

The unemployment rate in the Metro continues to decrease. In 2022, the Fargo-Moorhead Metro area was ranked #2 in the nation for lowest unemployment rate and saw a slight increase within the labor force. Despite the FM Area observing increased median household incomes, the region fell below the national average. Furthermore, the regional poverty rate increased, nearing the national average.

Transportation

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the region decreased from 2021, and has not caught up to pre-pandemic levels. VMT per capita rates in the Metro area are lower than 2021 and are still below the national average.

The Metro area welcomed two Amazon Warehouses at the end of 2021. In 2022 construction continued on a series of four buildings for the Dakota Commerce Center and Marvin Windows completed a major expansion. Despite new distribution center construction, both truck average daily traffic (ADT) and pounds of air cargo declined.

Amtrak's Empire Builder saw a significant increase in passenger ridership and a decline of their on-time performance in 2022. Hector International Airport also saw an improvement in both air passengers and enplanements.

Strava, a data source we previously used, is no longer available. The number of bicycle and pedestrian activity is slightly lower this year. Metro COG saw a slight decrease in the number of non-motorized crashes but the amount of serious injuries nearly doubled.

MATBUS ridership has increased in Fargo and West Fargo. Ridership is up for paratransit and Metro Senior ride as well. Ridership in Moorhead, however has decreased. In 2022, the ridership from local university students is up tremendously. Like 2021, driver shortages have required the reduction or suspension of service.

COMMUNITY PROFILE Overview



2013 - 2022 FM MSA Annual population growth



2013 - 2022 Population Growth by %



Sources in this section: Census data, American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, Federal Reserve Bank, Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead

COMMUNITY PROFILE Demographics





NOTE: For full industry titles and more comprehensive economic profile, see "Economic Profile" in Additional Resources.

^2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates

COMMUNITY PROFILE Housing



Associate Jurisdictions

NOTE: For more in-depth information, see "Permits Plus" in Additional Resources.

Associate Jurisdictions



United States

9,508

Average commute time in minutes[^] **United States** 26.8 Average Daily Traffic on I-94, I-29 and University Dr -1-94 (Red River Bridge) **—**I-29 (North of 12th Ave) (Bet 15 and 15 1/2 Ave) 20000

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

Sources in this section: NDDOT, MnDOT, American Community Survey (ACS) estimates ^2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates

FM Metro

9,154

ROADWAYS Projects



Number of TIP Projects

43

Total cost \$ 96,382,096

Federal funding 69,928,209

State funding

\$ 32,695,472

Local funding \$ 38,743,415

Top 2022 TIP Projects by Federal Revenue



Interstate Maintenance on I-94 (9190025) Interstate Maintenance on I-94 (9190027) Reconstruction of 32nd Ave S (4190003) Reconstruction of 52nd Ave S (4200016) Safety Improvements on I-94 (9210006) Safety Improvements on I-94 (9221007)

2022 Mapped Federally Funded TIP Projects



ROADWAYS

Safety & Pavement Condition Targets



ND-Side of the FM MPA 2022 Pavement Conditions



- of Interstate in good condition
- of Interstate in poor condition
- of non-Interstate in good condition
- of non-Interstate in poor condition

ND-Side of the FM MPA 2022 Bridge Conditions

54.2%	of NHS bridges in good condition
1.7%	of NHS bridges in poor condition

MN-Side of the FM MPA 2022 Pavement Conditions

61.95%	of Interstate in good condition
0.0%	of Interstate in poor condition
56.34%	of non-Interstate in good condition
1.60%	of non-Interstate in poor condition

MN-Side of the FM MPA 2022 Bridge Conditions

- **38.5%** of NHS bridges in good condition
 - **4.6%** of NHS bridges in poor condition

NOTE: For more information, see "Performance Measures" in Additional Resources.

ROADWAYS





Truck Travel Time Reliability Index (TTTR)

Fargo-Moorhead MPA 1.26

Minneapolis-St Paul MPA

1.75

TTTR Actual vs Target



NOTE: For more information, see "Performance Measures" in Additional Resources.

Sources in this section: Hector International Airport, NDDOT, NPMRDS, Amtrak

FREIGHT

Truck

9 Number of unreliable road segments

I-29 southbound approaching 12th Avenue N/EXIT 66 in Fargo

- I-29 northbound approaching 12th Avenue N/Exit 66 in Fargo
- I-94 eastbound approaching 45th Street/Exit 348 in Fargo
- I-29 northbound at 32nd Avenue/Exit 62 in Fargo
- I-94 westbound from County Road 15/Exit 340 in Fargo
- I-94 eastbound at I-29 Interchange
- I-94 eastbound approaching US-75/Exit 1 in Fargo & Moorhead

New Facilities

Amazon

1.3 million sf Fargo distribution warehouse opened (Late 2021)

Amazon 63,000 SF West Fargo distribution Center opened (March 2021)

Marvin Windows expanded their distribution center in March (2022)

Dakota Commerce Center

continued construction on their four-building e-commerce facility



FREIGHT 2022 was **Rail and Air** the **2**nd busiest passenger year on record Change from 2021 FAR air passengers Change from 2021 Fargo Amtrak station ridership in 2022 in 2022 14,723 ł +40.1% 908,075 +14.0% Т **Empire Builder** Change from 2021 FAR enplanements Change from year

(boarding) in 2022

455,512

passengers in 2022 303,568 +37.6%

Empire Builder service from Fargo per day : 2 Trains per day through Fargo (#070839F) : 8

ł

Empire Builder on-time performance **48.0%**

Change from 2021

-12.39



NOTE: For more information, see "Fargo Amtrak Station" in Additional Resources.

Direct Flights from Hector International Airport

previous

+14.1%

NOTE: For more information, see "Hector International Airport Year-End Statistics" in Additional Resources.



FREIGHT Rail and Air Map



Downtown Inset





All Aboard

Created in 2021, All Aboard Northwest officially became a registered 501(c)(4) nonprofit in 2022. All Aboard Northwest is the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Working Group, working to bring economic, environmental and equity benefits to the communities of the Greater Northwest. They advocate for the needs of rail passengers, especially on a regional scale over state lines, and coordinates with infrastructure and transportation interests to strengthen relationships with groups and citizens.

https://allaboardnw.org/



Safety Overview



Main Av

HHHMM

Mittan and the

12 Ave N

MINIMUM III

S SOUL AVO



BIKE & PEDESTRIAN

19

7 Ave NE

Projects



76th Ave S (63rd St to Cub Creek Pkwy) (90)

7th St NE (8th Ave NE to Summerwood) (19)

BIKE & PEDESTRIAN

Network map



Fargo-Moorhead Bike Map

The application is available on Google Play and the Apple App Store

The bike map of the Fargo-Moorhead metro area includes locations of bikeways (streets with sharrows, wide shoulders, bike lanes or bike-signed roadways) and shared use paths (paths for biking and walking). Also included in the map are the locations of bike repair stations and bike lockers.



NOTE: For the most up-to-date bike network map, please click *here* or see "Fargo-Moorhead Bike Map" in additional resources.



NOTE: For more information about the most recent counts, please click here or see "Bike & Ped Count Report" in additional resources.

BIKE & PEDESTRIAN

Pedestrian Counts



BIKE & PEDESTRIAN

Broadway Pedestrian Counts



NOTE: For more information about the most recent counts, please click here or see "Bike & Ped Count Report" in additional resources.

TRANSIT **Overview**

Total MATBUS passengers in 2022 1,244,233 Change from year previous +5.27%

Driver shortages have significantly decreased MATBUS operations. Including reduced and eliminated routes and shortened operating hours. However, MATBUS had exponential increases in the numbers of student ridership.

4.61% 28.59% 69.60% Adult College Fargo Moorhead Paratransit Disabled Elderly Youth Child





M | State + 46.39%

NDSCS - 21.52%

TRANSIT

Projects

Route and Service Changes - Due to Driver Shortage (January, 2022)

- □ MATBUS service end time was changed from 11:15pm to 9:45pm
- TapRide service to the Fargo Industrial Park was suspended on Saturday
- □ Route 32W was temporarily eliminated
- □ Route 33 was reduced to 10 minute frequency all day
- □ Routes 11, 13, and 14 were reduced from 30 minute frequency to 60 minute frequency
- Route 15 was reduced from 15 minute frequency to 30 minute frequency, with an additional vehicle on route from 10:30am to 5:30pm to provide additional service during peak service times

Marketing

- □ Created a new commercial to show the benefits of riding MATBUS during winter weather
- □ Promoted transit to new riders during Try MATBUS Week
- D Provided LinkFM service during the Street Fair, Scandinavian Festival, Frostival, Celtic Festival, and the Trollwood Mainstage Musical
- Offered Get Your Can on the Bus promotion during Earth Week
- Educated college students at back to school events in the Holiday Lights Parade
- □ Sponsored a Red Hawks and Fargo Force game

Fares

- Implemented the MATBUS Connect system, allowing riders to pay with their account balance through a MATBUS Connect card or the MATBUS Connect app
- □ Monthly fare rates were increased from \$40.00 to \$42.00 (adult) and \$26.00 to \$27.00 (discount) and monthly cycles were increased from 30 to 31 days
- The downtown business pass was changed to the business pass to allow other area business to purchase discounted bus passes for their employees. Fare was increased from \$22.50 for 30 days to \$27 for 31 days.
- □ College Semester Pass was changed from \$45 per semester to \$60 for 120 days (Non U-Pass Students)
- Established a new Paratransit Sunday Fare for the general public who are not ADA Paratransit eligible of \$25.

Studies

- Began Transit Reorganization Study
- Updated Safety Plan in July 2022
- D Updated to Transit Asset Management Plan in October 2022.
- Completed the FTA Triennial Review (covering four years due to pandemic)

Route Map



Inventory

Fleet

12 35 ft. Buses owned by Moorhead, all diesel (acquired between 2015-2020)

25 35' Buses owned by Fargo, of which 2 are diesel-electric hybrid buses (acquired between 2007-2021)

6 40' Buses owned by Fargo, of which all are diesel-electric hybrid buses

On Demand

2 - On Demand vehicles owned by Fargo

Paratransit

- 4 Cutaway buses owned by Moorhead
- 11 Cutaway buses owned by Fargo
- 1 Passenger Van owned by Fargo

Valley Senior Service

4 - Dodge Caravans owned by Moorhead

Vehicle Condition



TRANSIT Vehicle Condition



ACRONYMS

American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau)
Average Daily Traffic
Hector International Airport, Fargo
Fargo-Moorhead
Federal Transit Administration
Ground Transportation Center
Metro Area Transit of Fargo-Moorhead
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Metropolitan Planning Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Metropolitan Statistical Area (includes all of Cass County and Clay County)
Metro Transit Garage
Metropolitan Transportation Plan
North Dakota Department of Transportation
Non-Highway System
National Performance Management Research Data Set
Transit Development Plan
Transportation Improvement Program
Travel Demand Model
Transportation Management Area
Truck Travel Time Reliability (only applies to the National Highway System)
Vehicle Miles Traveled

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Bike & Ped Count Report fmmetrocog.org/resources/planning/bicycle-pedestrian-planning

Economic Profile https://fred.stlouisfed.org/

Fargo Amtrak Station greatamericanstations.com/stations/fargo-nd-far/

safetydata.fra.dot.gov/officeofsafety/publicsite/crossings

Fargo-Moorhead Bike Map fmmetrocog.org/fmbikemap

Hector International Airport Year-End Statistics fargoairport.com/december-2021-year-end-statistics/

Permits Plus issuu.com/homebuildersassociation/docs/permits_plus_issue_1_2021

Performance Measures fmmetrocog.org/resources/performance-measures

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) fmmetrocog.org/TIP

