

647th Policy Board Meeting
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
Thursday, September 25, 2025 – 4:00 PM

Members Present:

Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council
Brenton	Holper	City of Horace (Alt. for S. Landstrom)
Nicole	Mattson	Moorhead City Council
Sebastian	McDougall	Moorhead City Council
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission
Dave	Piepkorn	Fargo City Commission
Art	Rosenberg	Fargo Planning Commission
Dave	Steichen	Dilworth City Council
Michelle	Turnberg	Fargo City Commission
Aaron	Murra	NDDOT Fargo District Engineer (ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Rory	Jorgensen	West Fargo City Commission
Denise	Kolpack	Fargo City Commission
Stephanie	Landstrom	Horace City Council
Brad	Olson	West Fargo City Commission
Mike	Reitz	MATBUS Representative
Thomas	Schmidt	Fargo Planning Commission
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission
Joel	Vettel	Cass County Commission
Shiloh	Wahl	MnDOT District 4 Engineer (ex-officio)

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Karissa	Beierle Pavek	Metro COG
Paul	Bervik	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Ben	Griffith	Metro COG
Aiden	Jung	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Will	Hutchings	NDDOT - Local Government Division
Darvin	Becker	Fargo, ND
Marcella	Becker	Fargo, ND
Nick	Dietrich	Back 40
Paul	Gleye	Fargo, ND
Jeremy	Gorden	City of Fargo Engineering
Mike	Graalum	ND Dakota Resource Council
Eric	Hodgson	City of Fargo Engineering
Matt	Kern	Back 40

Tom	Knakmuhs	City of Fargo Engineering
Robert	Kost	6357 27th St S, Fargo, ND
Brent	Mitchell	6205 25th St S, Fargo, ND
Carol	Pink	Fargo, ND
Brandon	Raboin	West Fargo, ND
Walter	Samuel	Fargo, ND
Janel	Simonson	Fargo, ND
Johnathan	Stafford	Fargo, ND
Kevin	Torgerson	Strong Town Fargo
Nate	Vollmuth	Back 40
Julie	Wieser	Fargo, ND

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM, on Thursday, September 25, 2025 by Chair Mongeau noting that a quorum was NOT present. Although no business could be conducted until a quorum was obtained, Chair Mongeau noted that several visitors were present to provide public comments and she would begin the meeting with public comments and then address business and action items when a quorum was present. Introductions were then made.

3a. Public Comment Opportunity

The following attendees commented on the 64th Avenue/I-29 Interchange Project in the 2026-2029 TIP:

Kevin Torgerson - Strong Towns advocate for a Stronger Community. Increasing the capacity of roads increases the traffic, it does not lessen it.

Nate Volmout – Representing Back 40. The project follows the wishes of the Planning Department. Putting ramps in would increase tax base to Fargo.

Robert Kost – Resident. Summarized that 64th Avenue wasn't designed for an interchange.

Brent Mitchell – 64th wasn't designed for an interchange and urges Metro COG to add 76th back in.

Janel Simonson – Resident. It will increase traffic and have already been intruded on by the city of Fargo. None of the people on the east side believed we would have an interchange because that's what they were told.

Walter Samuel – It is unfortunate things were not transparent. Residents were told nothing but an interchange back in 2019. The city can't be trusted.

Johnathan Stafford – Resident of Maple Leaf Loop South. In agreement with those opposing the 64th Avenue project and support a ramp placed on 76th Avenue.

**** Chair Mongeau thanked the visitors for their comments and announced that a quorum was present to conduct Board business. ****

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

Chair Mongeau asked for approval for the overall agenda.

MOTION: Approve the contents of the Overall Agenda of the September 25, Policy Board Meeting.

Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

1c. Past Meeting Minutes, approved

Chair Mongeau asked for approval of the Minutes of the August 21, 2025 Meeting.

MOTION: Approve the August 21, 2025 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Turnberg moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

1d. Monthly Bills, approved

Chair Mongeau asked for approval of the September 2025 Bills as listed on Attachment 1d.

MOTION: Approve the September 2025 Bills List.

Mr. Hendrickson moved, seconded by Ms. Mattson.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Mongeau asked for approval of Items a-e on the Consent Agenda.

a. August 2025 Month End Report

b. Adoption of Metro COG Self-Certifications

c. Acceptance of 2024 Financial Audit

d. IRA Contact Authorization

MOTION: Approve Items a-e on the Consent Agenda.
Ms. Mattson moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall.
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3. REGULAR AGENDA

3b. 2026-2029 TIP Adoption

Mr. Altenburg presented information on the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. He stated this is a statutorily mandated four-year plan which details all federally-funded projects. The TIP is updated regularly with a public participation period with every amendment. Every project listed has funding identified.

Policy Board Members stated the 64th Avenue/I-29 Interchange Project is on the Fargo Commission agenda Monday at 5 PM. Residents can voice their opinion during the meeting.

MOTION: Approve the Final Draft Metro COG 2026-2029
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Mr. Steichen
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3c. 2026-2027 UPWP Adoption

Mr. Griffith stated all the comments regarding the July draft UPWP from oversight agencies have been addressed and incorporated into the document. The 2024 CPG Turnback funding, Safe and Accessible Transportation Set-Aside funding (Complete Streets) and MnDOT State Planning Grant funding are all shown separately for reference.

There are breakdowns of the 2026 and 2027 projects showing the 80/20 Federal and local match funding splits. Mr. Griffith pointed out changes required for line item 800p in the Overhead Costs table on page 103, along with the description of line item 800p on page 102. The total amount of funding for 2026 is \$1,942,396.65 and \$1,763,325.32 for 2027.

MOTION: Approve adoption of Metro COG's 2026-2027 Unified
Planning Work Program & Budget, with the changes proposed and
with the inclusion of comments received from NDDOT, MnDOT,
FHWA, and FTA during their 30-day review period.
Ms. Mattson moved, seconded by Mr. Steichen

MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3d. 2025 Minnesota Federal Functional Classification

Ms. Beierle Pavek presented information regarding the Minnesota Federal Functional Classification stating the Adjusted Urbanized Area Boundary (AUZA) was approved by the FHWA in December 2023. The North Dakota Federal Functional Classification was updated and approved in 2024.

Staff met with local jurisdictions to get feedback, analyzed the proposed changes, and detailed these changes on the map and change list. City of Moorhead staff specifically requested a change to include a segment of 15th Avenue North from 11th St N to Highway 75 be upgraded to a Minor Arterial from a Major Collector.

MOTION: Approval of the Policy Board of the 2025 Minnesota Functional Classification as Proposed
Ms. Mattson moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3e. Moorhead I-94 & 20th Street Interchange Study

Mr. Farnsworth stated the I-95 and 20th Street Interchange Study kicked off in 2023. At the first meeting held there were seventeen people in favor of the project and four people opposed. Stakeholders were contacted to find out how they used the interchange and to provide comments and feedback on future and alternative plans for the interchange.

Seventy interchange designs were considered before narrowing them down to five. Getting 28th Street to connect was a challenge. Roundabouts wouldn't work with the railroad tracks so close to the interchange area. One of the options was a modified single quadrant which the public preferred. The final report was brought to the agencies, Moorhead City Council, TTC and now the Policy Board. The City of Moorhead will have to decide what they would like to do going forward and work closely with MnDOT and FHWA-MN. One of the items discussed was encouraging the City to have more signage to lessen confusion of motorists driving in the interchange area.

MOTION: Approve the Moorhead I-94 & 20th St Interchange Study
Mr. Hendrickson moved, seconded by Ms. Mattson.
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3f. TTC Bylaw Amendment

Mr. Griffith stated Metro COG drafted the proposed amendment to the TTC Bylaws. Legal Counsel and the jurisdictions had the opportunity to look at them and give input. The amendment will formally establish the Prioritization Committee as a sub-committee of the TTC.

Changes were made to address the concerns of smaller jurisdictions that may not have a professional engineer on staff. After TTC recommended approval, NDDOT asked that a few words (in bold) be added for clarification. Metro COG staff supports all of the proposed revisions and has provided a “clean” copy of the proposed amendment for consideration in the packet. Metro COG's attorney offered suggestions to ensure compliance with the State's Open Meeting Law.

MOTION: Approve the proposed TTC Bylaw amendment formally establishing the Prioritization Committee as recommended by the TTC and including the verbiage provided by NDDOT.

Ms. Mattson moved, seconded by Mr. Piepkorn.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Additional Business

Mr. Griffith stated that rather than wait until closer to the end of the year, he would like to bring forward the 2026 public meeting schedule at the October meeting to address meeting time changes for the November and December meetings to avoid conflicts with Diversion Authority Board meetings to ensure both Boards could obtain quorums to conduct their end-of-year business.

5. Adjourn

With no further business, Chair Mongeau adjourned the meeting.

The 647th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, September 25, 2025 was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, October 16, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Brumbaugh
Office Manager