

649th Policy Board Meeting
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
Thursday, November 20, 2025 – 2:00 PM

Members Present:

Chuck	Hendrickson	Moorhead City Council (Left at 3:16 p.m.)
Rory	Jorgensen	West Fargo City Commission
Nicole	Mattson	Moorhead City Council
Sebastian	McDougall	Moorhead City Council
Jenny	Mongeau	Clay County Commission
Brad	Olson	West Fargo City Commission
Dave	Piepkorn	Fargo City Commission (Left at 3:11 p.m.)
Mike	Reitz	MATBUS Representative
Dave	Steichen	Dilworth City Council
Maranda	Tasa	Fargo Planning Commission
Michelle	Turnberg	Fargo City Commission

Members Absent:

Denise	Kolpack	Fargo City Commission
Stephanie	Landstrom	Horace City Council
Aaron	Murra	NDDOT Fargo District Engineer (<i>ex-officio</i>)
Aaron	Murra	NDDOT Fargo District Engineer (<i>ex-officio</i>)
Art	Rosenberg	Fargo Planning Commission
Thomas	Schmidt	Fargo Planning Commission
John	Strand	Fargo City Commission
Joel	Vettel	Cass County Commission
Shiloh	Wahl	MnDOT District 4 Engineer (<i>ex-officio</i>)

Others Present:

Adam	Altenburg	Metro COG
Karissa	Beierle Pavek	Metro COG
Dan	Farnsworth	Metro COG
Ben	Griffith	Metro COG
Aiden	Jung	Metro COG
Michael	Maddox	Metro COG
Angela	Brumbaugh	Metro COG
Will	Hutchings	NDDOT - Local Government Division
Jason	Gottfried	MNDOT - MPO Coordinator

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM, on Thursday, November 20, 2025 by Chair Mongeau, noting a quorum was present. Introductions were made.

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 November 20, 2025 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 October 16, 2025 Meeting.

MOTION: Approve the October 16, 2025 Policy Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

1d. Monthly Bills, approved

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

MOTION: Approve the November 2025 Bills List.

Mr. Hendrickson moved, seconded by Mr. Olson.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

a. October 2025 Month End Report

b. 2026 Health/Dental/Vision Insurance from BCBS-ND

c. 2026 Title VI Assurances

d. 2026 MnDOT State Planning Grant Agreement

e. 2026 NDDOT CPG Contract

MOTION: Approve Items a-e on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Peipkorn moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall.

MOTION, passed

Motion carried unanimously.

3. REGULAR AGENDA

3a. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were made or received.

3b. 2025 Metro Profile

Mr. Jung and Ms. Beierle Pavek presented information for the Metro Profile. Historically, there have been five chapters but a sixth chapter was added this year:

- Community Profile – The Metro has a faster population growth than the country as a whole. The population is younger and more educated than the average. Ranked #2 in the nation for the lowest unemployment rate.
- Roadways – The average commute time is 17 minutes which is less than the national average of 22 minutes.
- Freight – 349 million pounds of cargo landed. There has been a national downward trend in air cargo.
- Bike and Pedestrian – Approximately 300 miles of bike trails and paths with an upward trend of bike activity.
- Transit – Served over 1.3 million passengers in 2024 and continues to increase.
- System Performance – Traffic flow, travel times, and safety

Discussion included wondering if it's possible to know how frequent MATBUS stops? Could the Heartland Trail and the Diversion be added?

MOTION: Approval of the final draft of the 2025 Metropolitan Profile
Ms. Mattson moved, seconded by Mr. Hendrickson
MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3c. West Metro Perimeter Route Amendment

Mr. Maddox stated the West Metro Perimeter Route Project started in 2023 as a perimeter route around the Community. The study was paused to re-evaluate the study. After coordination with the jurisdictions and NDDOT, an agreement was reached with the consultants for the additional fees. An additional \$25,000 was programmed in the 2026 UPWP to complete the study. Currently the thought is to focus on existing roadways for a north-south corridor.

MOTION: Approval of Amendment #1 to the West Perimeter Route Study contract
Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Piepkorn

MOTION, passed
Motion carried unanimously.

3d. University Drive and 10th Street Corridor Final

Mr. Maddox presented the University Drive and 10th Street Corridor final study. A feasibility study was the completed and after that analyzing the feasibility study. This area has the highest bicycle and transit areas in our region along with higher auto accidents.

As part of the public comments, they knocked on over 600 residents' doors. The top comment was that speeds are excessive. People are looking for solutions to lower speeds and noise from speed.

"Rest in Red" improves safety, decreases speed, and the implementation is fairly easy. This would be a corridor-wide approach to pace the vehicle through the entire corridor to get the benefit. City of Fargo is preparing an application for HSIP and looking at implementation in 2030.

MOTION: Approval of the University Drive and 10th Street Corridor Study.

Mr. Piepkorn moved, seconded by Ms. Mattson
MOTION, passed

3e. 2055 Socioeconomic and Demographic Forecasts RFP

Mr. Altenburg stated we are seeking proposals for the 2055 Socioeconomic and Demographic Forecasts with the objective of completing the demographic forecast to the year 2055. The RFP has a not-to-exceed budget of \$120,000 and to be completed by the end of 2026.

MOTION: Approve the 2055 Socioeconomic and Demographic Forecasts RFP.

Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. McDougall
MOTION, passed

3f. 2026 Metro Area-wide Traffic Counts RFP

Mr. Farnsworth stated Metro COG retains consultant services every five years to assist with traffic counts. The counts are used to develop a dataset for the regional travel demand model, corridor studies, jurisdictional needs, traffic requests by the public, etc. We also receive information from NDSU as they have more accurate data as it is collected 24/7. There is \$150,000 budgeted with a start time of April 2026 and back by October 2026.

MOTION: Approval of the 2026 Fargo-Moorhead Metro Area-Wide Traffic Counts RFP

Mr. Hendrickson moved, seconded by Ms. Mattson

MOTION, passed

3g. 2026-2027 UPWP Update

Mr. Griffith stated the UPWP has been transmitted to our oversight agency. Many changes come from Figure 9. Increased the expenses by approximately \$16,000 which was used to “level up” the amount for the Socioeconomic Forecast and the Regional Freight Plan Update. The remainder was divided amongst various items, such as information systems, and for audit, legal and HR services. Due to Executive orders and NDDOT directives, changes were also made to the text. Metro COG’s Attorney stated most of the changes he saw were related to new and changing Federal requirements.

Metro COG received an approval letter earlier in the week, on November 17th.

Information Only. No Action Taken.

3h. Unpaid expenses by NDDOT

Mr. Griffith stated Metro COG is in a severe cash crunch. In 2024, \$49,000 was spent on the purchase of Bike-Ped counters listed in the UPWP which were deemed “ineligible when submitted for reimbursement and approximately \$6,000 for consultant invoices for planning studies were also denied. Other factors contributing to the cash crunch include longer wait times for reimbursements and unused vacation and sick time payouts for staff departures. As Metro COG’s funding relies on Federal grants, we do not get reimbursed until after expending the money. Metro COG has two sources of revenue, Federal funding through the UPWP and dues from the local jurisdictions. Mr. Griffith stated that Metro COG desperately needs to build up a cash reserve to prevent future financial disruptions.

There were questions regarding payment of dues, overhead expenses and other financial options. After a lengthy discussion amongst the attendees, it was determined that more information was needed to be brought to the Executive Committee in order to give a more thorough update.

Information Only. No Action Taken.

4. Additional Business

Mr. Griffith reminded the members that there would be many project presentations in December as well as the usual end-of-year reports. He also introduced Metro COG’s new transportation planning intern, Nicole Lipinoga, a graduate architecture student at NDSU.

5. Adjourn

The 648th Meeting of the FM Metro COG Policy Board held Thursday, October 16, 2025 was adjourned by Chair Mongeau at 3:48 PM.

THE NEXT FM METRO COG POLICY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025 at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Brumbaugh
Office Manager