

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
GRAND FORKS/EAST GRAND FORKS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Wednesday, May 18th, 2005 – 11:30 A.M.
Grand Forks City Hall Planning Conference Room**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Doug Christensen called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m.

CALL OF ROLL

On a Call of Roll the following members were present: Chairman Doug Christensen, Dick Grassel, and Steve Gander (Via Conference Call).

Staff present were: Earl Haugen, GF/EGF MPO Executive Director; Ryan Brooks, GF/EGF MPO Senior Planner; and Peggy McNelis, GF/EGF MPO Executive Assistant.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Chairman Christensen declared a quorum was present.

**MATTER OF CONSULTANT SELECTION FOR U.S. HIGHWAY #2 (EGF) ACCESS
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Gander commented that he did have the opportunity to view the May 13th, 2005, Finance Committee minutes, and he was wondering what options might be available. Christensen stated that he would ask that either Mr. Brooks or Mr. Haugen give their views on this subject.

Haugen reported that the options you have are: 1) you have a recommendation before you from the Selection Committee, which you can accept as is; or 2) because they did have to negotiate the proposal with SRF down to a certain dollar amount and SRF will not go lower, you could declare that amount as being outside of the budget, and non-responsive as far as the budget is concerned, which would allow you to go with the second bidder, which is the team of HDR and Floan-Sanders.

Gander asked if Mr. Haugen felt that, in the context of good government, that we have the necessary rationale for taking that step so that in the event the question were raised as to why this selection was made, we have the proper rationale in place for that decision. Haugen responded that he does feel we have the proper rationale in place, otherwise he wouldn't make the recommendation. Gander stated that, based on that recommendation, then, he would be willing to cast a vote that we go with the second ranked firm.

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A motion was made by Gander, seconded by Grassel, to reject SRF Consulting's cost proposal, and to enter into negotiations with HDR and Floan-Sanders to perform the U.S. Highway #2 (EGF) Access Management Plan.

*Voting Aye: Christensen, Grassel, and Gander.
Voting Nay: None.*

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Matter Of Interviews For Senior Planner Position

Haugen reported that with Lane Magnuson accepting the County Planner Position, the MPO is in the process of hiring a replacement for the position of Senior Planner. He explained that in the past the Finance Committee was involved in the interview process, and he was wondering if this Finance Committee wished to do the same, whether it be all three members, or one, or two. Christensen responded that he does not have any interest in sitting in on those meetings, however, if either Mr. Gander or Mr. Grassel, or both were interested that would be fine. Gander responded that he is not inclined to participate as he feels staff will do a very good job. He added, however, that if they were to need input from the Finance Committee, they should feel free to do so, but he does not feel the need to sit in on those meetings. Grassel agreed, stating that he also feels that staff has done a good job in the past, and he feels confident they will do so again.

Haugen commented that they are looking at interviewing three qualified applicants, and all of them are local as well.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Grassel, seconded by Gander, to adjourn the May 18, 2005, meeting of the MPO Finance Committee at 11:50 a.m..

*Voting Aye: Christensen, Grassel, and Gander.
Voting Nay: None.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Peggy McNelis
Executive Assistant