

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, April 12, 2006 – 1:30 p.m.  
Grand Forks City Hall Conference Room A-102**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Julie Romig, MPO Senior Planner, called the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006, meeting of the MPO Technical Advisory Committee to order at 1:33 p.m.

**CALL OF ROLL**

On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Wayne Lembke, Grand Forks Civil Engineer; Wayde Swenson, NDDOT-Grand Forks; Charles Durrenberger (Proxy for Brad Gengler), Grand Forks City Planning; Kent Ehrenstrom, MNDOT-Bemidji; Ryan Brooks, East Grand Forks City Planner; Richard Onstad, Grand Forks County Engineer; and Paul Benning (via conference call), NDDOT-Bismarck.

Staff present were: Peggy McNelis, MPO Executive Assistant.

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

A quorum was present.

**MATTER OF APPROVAL OF DRAFT 2007-2010 T.I.P.**

- a. Public Hearing
- b. Committee Action

Romig referred to the information in the packet, specifically Grand Forks Project #9, and reported that, as you will recall, at the last Technical Advisory Committee meeting, local government stated that because some new funding had been identified for the Columbia Road/24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South Intersection project, some safety funds would be freed up to be used on this project, thereby allowing it to be funded in 2007, however, this is not the case, therefore, this project is shown to be funded in 2008.

Romig then pointed out that Grand Forks Project #19 shows the wrong figure under Future Expenditures, adding that it should be \$850.51.

Romig stated that East Grand Forks is showing their 2010 projects as Illustrative Projects. She explained that this is due to the fact that Minnesota is not approving a four-year S.T.I.P.. She added that the Grand Forks Illustrative Project should show a total cost of \$1,000,000 instead of \$2,000,000.

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Romig distributed copies of the transit tables, which were not completed in time to include in the packets.

Romig stated that staff is recommending the Technical Advisory Committee approve forwarding a recommendation to the MPO Executive Policy Board to approve the Draft FY 2007-2010 T.I.P. subject to any recommended changes.

Brooks reported that East Grand Forks Project #11 should show \$64,000 federal and \$16,000 local instead of \$60,000 federal and \$20,000 local, and the right column should show the \$80,000 under Capital instead of Operations.

Durrenberger stated that Grand Forks Project #16 does not add up correctly. Brooks responded that he would check into this, adding that it may just be a typo. Durrenberger referred to Grand Forks Project #4, and pointed out that it also has an incorrect total shown. He asked if the correct total should be \$108 or \$1,000. Benning stated that he would check their S.T.I.P. to see what the correct total should be. Swenson referred to a March 18, 2006, letter from Mr. Benning, in which the total for this project was stated to be \$108. Brooks stated that this change would be made to the table.

Romig opened the public hearing.

There was no one present for discussion.

Romig closed the public hearing.

***MOVED BY BROOKS, SECONDED BY LEMBKE, TO APPROVE FORWARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD TO APPROVE THE DRAFT FY 2007-2010 T.I.P. SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE CHANGES.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**MATTER OF AMENDING GRAND FORKS' FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAP**

Romig reported that the MPO has been asked to update the Grand Forks Functional Classification Map to include a couple of roadways that have been constructed, or reconstructed since it was last updated. She referred to a copy of the updated existing and future Functional Classification map, and explained that it shows the proposed changes.

Romig added that Grand Forks staff also submitted a request to delete some segments, however both the MPO and City staff agreed that these requests should be considered by the City Council first, therefore they are not being discussed at this time.

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Durrenberger referred to the table that was included in the packets, and pointed out that the total local miles is shown as being 33, but that the previous total was shown to be 167, and he wondered if that was correct. Romig responded that this may be due to some local streets being converted to other classifications. She added that, while she did construct the table, the amounts were received from other staff, and could be incorrect, however, it also may be due to the addition of an “other” category. She explained that previously a lot of things were lumped into local that shouldn’t have been, and they have now been moved into the “other” category, so if you add those two categories together, it will bring the total miles closer to the 167 previous miles shown.

***MOVED BY DURRENBERGER, SECONDED BY BROOKS, TO APPROVE  
FORWARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY  
BOARD TO APPROVE THE UPDATED FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAP  
WITHIN THE MPO AREA – NORTH DAKOTA SIDE.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**MATTER OF THOMPSON BRIDGE FUNDING OPTIONS**

Onstad referred to the staff report, and stated that it appears that Mr. Haugen has done a very good job of documenting everything that was discussed concerning this issue, including everything Rich Sanders and himself submitted.

Onstad reported that Grand Forks County’s funds are obligated through 2010, but that they would, in their Long Range Transportation Plan, be submitting the Thompson Bridge to the State for replacement monies, at an estimated cost of \$8,000,000, with \$2,000,000 coming from Grand Forks County, and \$2,000,000 coming from Polk County. He stated, however, that in conversations with Dave Leftwich, he was told that two other counties are requesting bridge replacements as well, both Red River crossings, so we will be looking quite far into the future before we might see any replacement monies being awarded us.

Onstad went on to discuss some of the issues facing the Thompson bridge at this time, including the fact that bank instability has caused some problems with the structure, making future adjustments impractical. He added that currently this bridge is under water, although they are going to try to get it opened in the next day or so. He said that most of the water left is on the Minnesota side, and should still allow us to get it opened and cleaned up.

Brooks commented that he hasn’t heard that either County suggest that nothing be done with the Thompson Bridge in favor of putting in the Merrifield Bridge. Onstad said that that is true, that both Counties want to see the Thompson Bridge replaced in its original site. He added that back in the late 1930’s this bridge was put in with a congressional earmark, therefore he thinks that in order to get funds to replace it it would need to be

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located in the same location. Benning responded that it is true that in order to get bridge replacement monies, the bridge would have to be located in the same location, however earmarked funds would be different.

Romig asked if either County shows this as being a priority. Brooks responded that they may not as this project just came into the mix recently. Onstad stated that that is correct. Romig said that she was just directed to point out that neither County has this project included as a priority in their plans. Onstad responded that they do have it included in their long range plan, however there are some other projects that may be more of a priority.

Romig commented that the recommended action is to forward this on to the MPO Executive Policy Board for approval.

***MOVED BY ONSTAD, SECONDED BY SWENSON, TO APPROVE FORWARDING  
A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD TO  
APPROVE THE LIST OF POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE  
REPLACEMENT OF THE THOMPSON BRIDGE PROJECT.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**MATTER OF 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET EVENT TRAFFIC PLAN UPDATE**

Romig introduced Rick Lane of SRF Consulting Group, who was present for a brief presentation on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Event Traffic Plan Update. Lane distributed copies of a slide presentation (copies of which are included in the file and available upon request), and went over it briefly.

Presentation ensued.

Brooks asked about the assumptions used up and down 42<sup>nd</sup>, and, because there is a lot of vacant commercial property located across the street from the Alerus, whether any consideration was given to any build-out of those properties, and how it would affect the base numbers for 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Lane responded that they did consider this, but at this point there was no clear feeling on what they were planning for future land use, and, although they did increase the traffic background and traffic flows for daily use of the Canad facility, none was added for any other future land use in the area.

Lane stated that he would say that this is probably a traffic management plan that will be used for a five year cycle, until significant development occurs on the east side of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, at which time it will need to be revisited, and updated.

Presentation continued.

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Lane stated that Alternative 2, seven-lane exit (four lanes south and two lanes north on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street), is the recommended alternative.

Romig reported that this plan still needs to be reviewed by the Alerus Commission and the Canad Inn, then it will be submitted to the City Council for their approval.

***MOVED BY BROOKS, SECONDED BY LEMBKE, TO APPROVE FORWARDING  
A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD TO  
APPROVE THE FINAL 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**MATTER OF APPROVAL OF DRAFT UPDATE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
PLAN**

Romig reported that the Public Participation Plan has been available on the MPO's Website for review. She added that Marissa Champion, MPO Intern, actually performed the update to the Public Participation Plan, but was unable to attend today's meeting. She stated that requests for review were sent out, and two responses were received; one from the Polk County Development Achievement Center supporting the MPO's bus service to the eastern edge of East Grand Forks, and to their East Grand Forks location at 1011 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.E., and an expression of hope for it's continued service. She said that the other response was from the North Dakota Historical Society, noting the exclusion of the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission, and the Minnesota Historical Society, as well as a list of interests. She added that they also suggested that we include tribal authorities in Grand Forks County, that we add the seven North Dakota Tribal contacts, and a list of interests. She stated that the Grand Forks County recommended adding sections, townships, and ranges on the MPO's Planning Area Map.

Romig stated that staff recommends changes to the Draft 2006 Public Participation Plan to include the following:

- 1) The Grand Forks Historical Preservation Commission; Minnesota Historical Society, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, and Spirit Lake Nation in Appendix E in the list of interests.
- 2) Explore need to include Section, Township, and Range on the MPO Planning Area Map.

Romig reported that the Public Participation Plan, with this update, meets the new SAFETEA-LU requirements.

Brooks commented that, while we can certainly add them, he would question the need for including the seven tribes, as there is not any tribal land located within the MPO area. Romig responded that the letter from the State Historical Society states that to set a goal

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of the public participation of minority groups, they recommend that the tribal contacts be included as they have records of sites of tribal interest in the greater planning area.

***MOVED BY BROOKS, SECONDED BY EHRENSTROM, TO APPROVE FORWARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD TO APPROVE THE DRAFT MPO 2006 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**MATTER OF APPROVAL OF THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE SCHOOL SAFETY STUDY, AND AMEND THE MPO'S CONTRACT WITH ATAC**

Romig reported that the Safe Kids group in Grand Forks has received a grant from FedEx to use to look at safety issues around three different schools in the Grand Forks area: Viking, Kelly and Ben Franklin. She stated that in the past, when a similar study was done for Century School, they used ATAC's services to perform the study, and asked that the MPO be the fiscal agent for the funds to do the study. She said that this worked well, and staff is recommending that the MPO, once again, be the fiscal agent for this study.

***MOVED BY BROOKS, SECONDED BY LEMBKE, TO APPROVE FORWARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE SCHOOL SAFETY STUDY, AND TO AMEND THE MPO'S CONTRACT WITH ATAC TO COMPLETE THE STUDY.***

Lembke added that he worked with ATAC and the Safe Kids Coalition on the development of the scope-of-work for this study, which the Safe Kids Coordinator and the Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools both reviewed and approved.

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Reschedule Traffic Incident Management Course

Romig reported that because many people were busy with the flood issues these past weeks, it was determined that it would be best to postpone the Traffic Incident Management Course, which was scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the preferred week for rescheduling the course is the week of May 15<sup>th</sup>, and asked that everyone check their calendars to see which day, either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday would work best.

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b. Update on Street/Highway RFP

Romig reported that staff is negotiating with URS Consulting Group to perform this update, and hope to have them on board in April.

c. Update on Aerial Photo RFP

Romig reported that this item will be submitted to the MPO Executive Policy Board on Friday. She stated that four proposals were submitted, with the best and lowest priced coming from Mark Hurd. She added, however, that they are still trying to overcome a \$10,000 shortfall in the cost, so if anyone is interested in helping out with that please let staff know.

d. Update on Land Development Code RFP

Romig reported that they received three proposals for the Land Development Code Update, and that the selection committee will meet on Friday, and will forward their recommendation on to the MPO Executive Policy Board.

e. Functional Classification Maps

Romig stated that she has copies of the updated Functional Classification Maps that need to be signed by the MPO, the Federal Highway Administration, and the North Dakota Department of Transportation. She asked who she should forward them on to, whether it should be Mark Johnson or Paul Benning, and was told to send them to Paul Benning.

**ADJOURNMENT**

***MOVED BY BROOKS, SECONDED BY LEMBKE, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2006, MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT 2:50 P.M.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Peggy McNelis  
Executive Assistant