

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD OF THE
GRAND FORKS/EAST GRAND FORKS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Friday, December 14th, 2007 – 12:00 Noon
East Grand Forks City Hall Council Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER

Steve Gander, Chairman, called the December 14th, 2007, meeting of the MPO Executive Policy Board to order at 12:10 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL

On a Call of Roll the following members were present: Chairman Gander, Doug Christensen, Punky Beauchamp, Gary Malm, Warren Strandell, Dick Grassel, and Steve Adams.

Staff present were: Earl Haugen, GF/EGF MPO Executive Director; Nancy Ellis, GF/EGF MPO Senior Planner; Teri Nelson, GF/EGF MPO Planner; Ali Rood, GF/EGF MPO Intern; and Peggy McNelis, GF/EGF Executive Assistant.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Chairman Gander declared a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY MALM, SECONDED BY GRASSEL, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 21ST, 2007 MINUTES OF THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD, AS SUBMITTED.

Voting Aye: Grassel, Strandell, Malm, Beauchamp, Christensen, Gander, and Adams.

Voting Nay: None.

**MATTER OF APPROVAL OF THE NORTH DAKOTA TRANSPORTATION
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT PRIORITIZATION**

Haugen reported that this item was discussed in detail at the November 21st meeting of the MPO Executive Policy Board. He explained that per the board's action, the Grand Forks City Council was allowed time to reconsider its priority rankings. He stated that the Grand Forks City Council did approve reversing the project ranking so that the English Coulee project, south of 17th Avenue South, would be ranked first and the South Washington Street project, from 47th Avenue South to 55th Avenue South, would be ranked second. He added that the Technical Advisory Committee did concur with the new ranking at their December 12th, 2007, meeting, and staff is recommending approval as well

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Grassel asked if the South Washington Street project would tie in to any other bikepath. Haugen responded that it would. He referred to a map illustrating that area, and indicated where the path would tie in with another path.

MOVED BY CHRISTENSEN, SECONDED BY ADAMS, TO APPROVE THE GRAND FORKS FY 2009 NDDOT TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT APPLICATIONS AS BEING CONSISTENT WITH THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND IDENTIFY THE PRIORITY RANKING.

***Voting Aye: Grassel, Strandell, Malm, Beauchamp, Christensen, Gander, and Adams.
Voting Nay: None.***

MATTER OF NORTH DAKOTA 2009-2012 T.I.P. PROJECT SUBMITTALS

Haugen referred to the staff report and project summary table included in the packets, and explained that the Technical Advisory Committee, at their December 12th, 2007, meeting, did make some modifications to some of the projects, therefore a new project summary table is being distributed.

Haugen then gave a brief power point presentation (a copy of which is included in the file and available upon request).

Haugen explained that we are only discussing projects that are not currently in the approved T.I.P., or projects that have had a change of scope, cost increase, or other significant changes. He added that only two programs are being discussed, the Urban Roads Program and the Regional Highway Program.

Haugen commented that each year the MPO has to submit a new T.I.P., and that is done within a twelve month timeline. He explained that staff begins working on the T.I.P. in August, just after adopting the previous T.I.P.

Haugen stated that the Urban Roads Program, which involves direct allocation of funds to 13 Urban Cities, offers Grand Forks about \$2.5 million dollars each year. He said that the cost of projects funded under this program is typically split with 80% of the funds being federally funded and 20% being locally funded. He added that the Regional Highway Program is a statewide program in which urban areas compete for funding. He stated that both the North Dakota District Office and the City must agree on a project, the year it will be funded, and the funding match. He added that this program is divided into two categories: Regional Primary projects in which the project cost is typically split 80% federal and 20% state; and Regional Secondary projects in which the project cost is typically split 80% federal, 10% state and 10% local.

Haugen said that there is a third program, Interstate Highway, but there are no new projects shown for this program at this time.

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Haugen referred to the updated project summary table and went over the new and changed projects briefly:

FY 2009 North Dakota Grand Forks District is requesting Regional Highway funds to do a slurry seal of 5th Street (Business Highway #2) from Gateway to the Sorlie Bridge. The cost of this project is estimated to be \$200,000 with \$160,000 being federally funded.

FY 2010 or 2011 the City of Grand Forks is requesting Urban Roads funds for “intersection improvements” with an estimated cost of \$500,000. This request is a blanket request, with no specific intersection being listed, and that when a specific intersection is finalized and amendment to the T.I.P. would be processed at that time.

FY 2010 or 2011 staff is requesting Regional Highway funds to repair a pier on the Kennedy Bridge at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000, and an assumed 50/50 cost share with Minnesota.

FY 2012 is a new year and there are five new projects listed:

- 1) As previously discussed, the City of Grand Forks is again submitted a request for “intersection improvements” with an estimated cost of \$500,000, with \$400,000 being federally funded.
- 2) The City of Grand Forks, along with NDDOT Grand Forks District, are requesting a project to upgrade the downtown signals with an estimated cost of \$1,000,000, and the federal amount to be negotiated between Urban Roads and Regional Secondary Programs.
- 3) The NDDOT Grand Forks and the City of Grand Forks are requesting to complete two projects on 32nd Avenue South. The first segment involves a reconstruction/rehabilitation project between 31st Street and 37th Street with an estimated cost of \$1,800,000 and \$1,620,000 being federal funded. The second segment is a rehabilitation project between 15th Street and 25th Street with an estimated cost of \$2,150,000 and \$1,935,000 being federally funded.

Haugen stated that those projects that had a significant change in funding were:

FY 2009 the City of Grand Forks requested an increase in the cost estimate, which increased the federal funding request, for the lift station at the intersection of Columbia Road and 32nd Avenue South. The current T.I.P. shows a cost of \$260,000 with \$208,000 being federally funded and the new request is to increase the cost to \$540,000 with \$432,000 being federally funded. This increase request is a result of bid results from a similar project in Grand Forks.

FY 2009 the City of Grand Forks, at the advice of NDDOT, requested consideration for possibly delaying the Cherry Street Reconstruction until 2010. The possible delay may be because of cost estimate changes for the lift station project.

Haugen reported that North Dakota also requires that one year of projects outside the T.I.P. scope also be included. He referred to the project summary table and went over the 2013 projects briefly.

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Gander asked if all boards, committees, and commissions are on board with what has been submitted. Haugen responded that they are.

***MOVED BY MALM, SECONDED BY GRASSEL, TO APPROVE THE NORTH DAKOTA
FY 2009-2012 T.I.P. PROJECT APPLICATION AS BEING CONSISTENT WITH THE
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND GIVE HIGH PRIORITY RANKING.***

***Voting Aye: Grassel, Strandell, Malm, Beauchamp, Christensen, Gander, and Adams.
Voting Nay: None.***

MATTER OF HOLIDAY BONUS

Haugen reported that in past years the Grand Forks City Council has approved a holiday bonus of four hours for it's staff. He stated that the MPO does try to mirror what the City of Grand Forks does for its employees, therefore he is requesting approval of a holiday bonus of four hours for MPO Employees pending approval of the Grand Forks City Council.

***MOVED BY BEAUCHAMP, SECONDED BY STRANDELL, TO APPROVE A HOLIDAY
BONUS OF FOUR HOURS FOR MPO EMPLOYEES.***

Beauchamp clarified his motion to not be tied to Grand Forks City action.

***Voting Aye: Grassel, Strandell, Malm, Beauchamp, Christensen, Gander, and Adams.
Voting Nay: None.***

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Gander Farewell

Gander stated that, as everyone is already aware, this is his last MPO Executive Policy Board meeting, and per the MPO By-Laws he would like to request that the East Grand Forks members of the board determine which East Grand Forks member they would like to have fulfill the remainder of his term as Chairman. He said that this can then be voted upon at the January 2008 meeting of the board, and that person can then assume the roll of Chairman at that time.

He then thanked everyone for making his years on the MPO so enjoyable, and stated that he feels that the MPO and it's staff are a great asset to both the City of East Grand Forks and the City of Grand Forks, and we should all appreciate all the hard work they do to bring additional funding into our communities.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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ADJOURNMENT

***MOVED BY STRANDELL, SECONDED BY MALM, TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER
14TH, 2007, MEETING OF THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD AT 12:30 P.M.***

***Voting Aye: Grassel, Strandell, Malm, Beauchamp, Christensen, Gander, and Adams.
Voting Nay: None.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Peggy McNelis,
Executive Assistant