

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – 1:30 p.m.  
Grand Forks City Hall Conference Room A-101**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Earl Haugen, Chairman, called the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, meeting of the MPO Technical Advisory Committee to order at 1:45 p.m.

**CALL OF ROLL**

On a Call of Roll the following members were present: John Thompson, Grand Forks Assistant City Engineer; Nancy Ellis, East Grand Forks City Planner; Brad Gengler, Grand Forks City Planner; Dean Wieland, East Grand Forks Consulting Engineer; Jane Williams, Grand Forks Traffic Engineer; Jim Bittman, MNDOT- Bemidji; and Les Noehre, NDDOT-Grand Forks.

Staff present were: Earl Haugen, MPO Executive Director; Ali Rood, MPO Intern; Justin Klabo, Grand Forks Civil Engineer; and Peggy McNelis, MPO Executive Assistant.

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

Haugen declared a quorum was not present.

**MATTER OF APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2007 MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Haugen stated that because a quorum was not present, no action could be taken on the October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Minutes.

**MATTER OF CENTRAL AVENUE (MN 220 NO.) STUDY UPDATE**

Haugen reported that a more complete report was e-mailed to everyone just yesterday. He stated that a lot of the concepts shown in the draft were discussed at the meeting last month.

Ellis commented that she has a couple of items, from a transportation standpoint, that she would like to discuss. She referred to the traffic operations access management report that the consultants did, and asked that if you haven't already done so, please take time to look it over. She pointed out that there are a couple of items in the report that she would like to get comments on, specifically where they talk about some countermeasures on Page 14 that are specific to Central Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and Gateway Drive; and where they talk about ways they can improve safety and mobility with an access management plan on Page 21. She stated that she would like to make sure that this matches up with the access that MNDOT has purchased.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Ellis said that she is still working with JLG and SRF to try to get both of their studies combined. She added that these studies involve the traffic report, and the actual improvements to the corridor, which will include some landscaping. She added that the businesses have expressed their desire that the landscaping be kept to a minimum. She said that they are looking at making landscaping improvements on the business side of the corridor, as they would be reducing the frontage road on that side of the corridor, which would allow for additional greenspace and landscaping to the business properties and rights-of-way.

Ellis reported that the next steering committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007. She stated that the consultants intend to present a draft document to the committee at that meeting, which will include their recommendations for landscaping, pedestrian/bike access, landuse, etc.. Haugen asked if that document would be distributed to the Technical Advisory Committee as well. Ellis responded that it would not, that she would like to have the steering committee review it before it is distributed to any other entities. She commented that because of the holidays coming up, the slow start on the project, etc., they aren't certain they will be ready for a December finalization, but they are still pushing for it, but they also want to ensure that the document is well prepared, and answers all the questions so that when it is submitted to the City Council everything is complete.

Haugen reiterated that everyone did receive the Draft Traffic Report via e-mail, and it would be appreciated if you would please review it and get your comments to either Nancy or himself. He reminded everyone that the next Steering Committee meeting is on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. He commented that the intent, then, would be to meld the two documents for the December Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Haugen stated that Ulteig Engineers will be attending the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to give a presentation on the School Traffic Control Device Strategy Study they are doing for the City of Grand Forks. He commented that this study involves doing an inventory of all the different traffic control devices we currently use within the City; identifying where we are consistent and where we are inconsistent; and will help us develop strategies that will allow us to be more consistent throughout the metro-area. He added that they are also going to be looking at some of the more innovative, or up-and-coming control devices available so that we can be ahead of the game when we start getting more requests for these types of devices.

Haugen reported that MMM Group, formally ND-LEA, will also be attending the meeting. He explained that MMM Group is currently looking at all of our collector-collector functionally classified roadways, and the traffic control at those intersections. He stated that they are doing this in order to try to get some idea of consistency and strategies to address as traffic increases at

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

some of these intersections in order to help us determine how best to adjust traffic control, or if it is needed at all.

Haugen stated that lastly, this is when the North Dakota projects are due for the T.I.P.. He added that the Minnesota projects are due in January. He said that he knows the City of Grand Forks has submitted their projects to their City Council already, so MPO staff only needs the paperwork for those projects by the first Wednesday in December. Noehre commented that he has a couple more projects that need to be added; a T.E. project on Highway 2, and some repairs to the Kennedy Bridge piers.

2. Approval Process For Street/Highway Plan

Haugen reported that final approval of the Street and Highway Plan Update will be acted on by the Grand Forks City Council at their meeting on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, by the East Grand Forks City Council at their meeting on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, and by the MPO Executive Policy Board at their meeting on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. He added that both planning commissions did grant final approval at their November meetings as well.

Haugen stated that without a quorum we cannot take action on the remaining agenda items, however they will be forwarded on to the MPO Executive Policy Board for their approval in any event. He asked if the committee wished to discuss any of the items or adjourn the meeting. A copy of the draft report is available on the MPO's website.

**MATTER OF APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR 2008-2012 T.I.P.**

Haugen stated that the City of Grand Forks has submitted projects for both the Transportation Enhancement and Safe Routes To School programs. He said that the City of East Grand Forks did not have any projects to submit for the Safe Routes To School program.

**MATTER OF AMENDMENT TO THE 2008 MPO ANNUAL UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM**

Haugen reported that a request was made to modify our 2008 Annual Unified Work Program, and it has gone through the Grand Forks City Council for their approval.

**MATTER OF A.T.A.C. SCHOOL SAFETY STUDY SCOPE OF WORK**

Haugen reported that this study is included in our current work program, and is a continuation of their school site-specific look at safety around our schools. He stated that it is the standard scope of work they have had for all of the studies they have done over the last couple of years.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Haugen adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Peggy McNelis, Executive Assistant