

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 13th, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.
Grand Forks City Hall Conference Room A-102**

CALL TO ORDER

Nancy Ellis, in Chairman Earl Haugen's absence, called the August 13th, 2008, meeting of the MPO Technical Advisory Committee to order at 1:39 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL

On a Call of Roll the following members were present: Jane Williams, Grand Forks Traffic Engineer; Dean Rau, Assistant Grand Forks Engineer; Nancy Ellis, East Grand Forks Planner; Brad Gengler, Grand Forks Planner; Stacey Hanson, NDDOT-Bismarck; Teri Nelson (proxy for Dale Bergman), Cities Area Transit; *Les Noehre, NDDOT-Local Division reported present at 1:45 p.m.; and Brad Bail, East Grand Forks Consulting Engineer reported present at 1:51 p.m.*

Staff present were: Ali Rood, GF/EGF MPO Intern and Peggy McNelis, GF/EGF MPO Executive Assistant.

Guests present were: Troy Schroeder, NWRDC and Dave Leftwich, NDDOT-Bismarck (via conference call).

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

After roll call was taken at 1:39 p.m. Ellis declared that a quorum was not present, and requested that the agenda be suspended in order to discuss those agenda items not requiring action by the Technical Advisory Committee.

SUSPEND AGENDA

MATTER OF ITS REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE UPDATE

Ellis referred to the staff report and reported that it states that the Advance Traffic Analysis Center (ATAC) at NDSU was hired by the three MPOs to prepare updates to their Regional ITS Architecture Plans by the end of 2008. She explained that ATAC has already started working on both Fargo/Moorhead and Bismarck/Mandan's updates, and will begin the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks update soon. She added that the idea behind having all three done by the same organization is to ensure that the architecture is better coordinated with the rest of the state. She asked if either Stacey Hanson or Dave Leftwich had heard anything regarding the progress of Fargo's and Bismarck's updates. Hanson and Leftwich both indicated that they hadn't heard anything regarding the status of either update at this time.

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MATTER OF UPDATE ON MINNESOTA/4TH AVENUE CORRIDOR STUDY

Ellis reported that this update has been ongoing since May, and they just had their third Steering Committee meeting on August 6th. She referred to a power point presentation illustrating the discussion from the August 6th meeting, and stated that she would like to briefly highlight some of the issues discussed at that meeting. She explained that it was unfortunate that they ran out of time at the August 6th meeting, and therefore were not able to discuss everything she had hoped, but in any event good discussion was held.

Ellis commented that the next Steering Committee and Public Input meetings are scheduled to be held on September 30th, with one additional meeting scheduled for October 15th. She stated that after those meetings have been completed, the data gathered will be compiled into a draft document plan, and will be submitted for approval by the Technical Advisory Committee, the City Councils, and the MPO Executive Board in November.

Presentation ensued (a copy of the power point is included in the file and available upon request).

Les Noehre reported present.

Ellis reported that mitigation of the pavement along Minnesota and 4th, using a stamped concrete, was discussed and there was some confusion with the State Historic Preservation Office and the local office as to whether or not the stamped concrete needs to be colored. She stated that this is something that will be worked out, but the ultimate recommendation will be to remove the granitoid and replace it with a stamped, possibly colored, concrete that will run longitudinally so it won't chip.

Ellis stated that another suggestion made that would give the corridor a more aesthetically appealing appearance would be to reuse some of the historic features and provide some traffic calming with bulb-outs. She explained that they had asked the consultants at the last meeting if they would review the bulb-outs to make sure they meet the turning radius for larger vehicles, including emergency vehicles, snow plows, moving vans, etc., but they have not yet submitted the findings for that request.

Ellis continued going over the presentation, explaining that they also discussed salvaging sandstone curbs, some of which will be removed because we don't think we have enough sandstone curbing to use as an enhancement, but which we will stockpile to use as replacements for the remaining curbs. She stated that medians at the corridor entry were agreed upon provided that they don't block too many driveways.

Ellis said that one of their major concerns is the intersection of Minnesota and 4th Avenues, and at last night's Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission meeting the question of whether or

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not we have had any critical crashes, or any other concerns with this intersection that may require that something be done was discussed. She said that the result of that discussion was that the neighborhood did feel that that intersection poised some safety concerns, therefore four options were submitted for consideration. She referred to slides illustrating the four options and went over them, explaining that the neighborhood did like the roundabout options but were concerned about the fact that some trees might need to be removed in order to construct them, however they are willing to consider them. She added that some of the other enhancement options included matching the period lighting to what is currently in the Grand Forks Downtown area.

Brad Bail reported present.

Ellis stated that one of the biggest discussions involved the issue of mitigation of the granitoid, specifically if we mitigate and remove the granitoid on the Minnesota/4th Avenue Corridor are there other areas, such as side streets, on which we can preserve the granitoid as it is. She said that there are some areas where the granitoid is in relatively good shape that could be preserved, however this would require an agreement between the City of Grand Forks, the State Historical Preservation Commission and the Grand Forks Historical Preservation Commission.

Ellis reported that there are some other studies that have either already occurred or will be occurring in the near future, and one of those is an update the State Historical Preservation Commission will be doing to their National Register concerning pavement and it's condition, which may give us a better idea of what would be worth preserving.

Ellis commented that basically the biggest issue right now is to get a consensus between what the City sees as something they are able to do, what is affordable, what the State and Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commissions are willing to allow us to mitigate, and how we can pay for everything once a decision is made.

Information only.

Les Noehre reported present at 1:45 p.m., and Brad Bail reported present at 1:51 p.m., a quorum was then present, and Ms. Ellis requested that the agenda be resumed in order to act on those agenda items requiring action by the Technical Advisory Committee.

RESUME AGENDA

MATTER OF APPROVAL OF THE JULY 9TH, 2008 MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOVED BY HANSON, SECONDED BY WILLIAMS, TO APPROVE THE JULY 9TH, 2008, MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AS SUBMITTED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MATTER OF APPROVAL OF THE FINAL 2009-2012 T.I.P.

Ellis stated that a public hearing is required for this agenda item. She then opened the public hearing. There was no one present for discussion. Ellis closed the public hearing.

Leftwich referred to Grand Forks Project #19, and commented that this item was discussed at the last Technical Advisory Committee meeting, and he thought at that time that it was determined that the T.I.P. would indicate that \$3,000,000 of the project cost is pending. He explained that once the PCR is done for the project, and you move forward with it, those additional funds would be made available, but for now they would like to show only \$4,000,000 of the \$7,000,000 project cost being funded in the T.I.P. and S.T.I.P., and the \$3,000,000 as pending. He suggested that maybe an asterisk be placed by the \$7,000,000 with a note indicating that \$3,000,000 of the \$7,000,000 is pending.

Ellis referred to the staff report and pointed out that it indicates that there have been a couple of changes made since last month's meeting. She explained that the Cherry Street reconstruction project will now be shown as being done in 2010 instead of 2009; and the project termini for the North 51st Street project has been extended from 6th Avenue North to University Avenue.

Noehre referred to Grand Forks Projects #27 and 28, and explained that they will most likely be done in 2010, not 2011 as shown. He said that this change will be reflected in the S.T.I.P. as well.

MOVED BY GENGLER, SECONDED BY NOEHRE, TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD TO APPROVE THE FINAL 2009-2013 T.I.P. SUBJECT TO CHANGES AS DISCUSSED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MATTER OF SELF-CERTIFICATION

Ellis stated that a public hearing is required for this agenda item. She then opened the public hearing. There was no one present for discussion. Ellis closed the public hearing.

Ellis reported that typically what happens with Self-Certification is that it is basically a tool that is used by the MPO to show that they are fulfilling the metropolitan planning process requirements the USDOT has set, including DBE, Title 6, so that we aren't discriminating and are providing public participation. She added that this was something that used to be included in the T.I.P. document, but it is now required that it be pulled from the actual T.I.P. and be a separate item with a separate motion.

Ellis referred to the Self Certification Statement and pointed out that it has a list of those options that we need to meet. She then pointed out that there is also a checklist that discusses each item that we need to have in place to meet the requirements we need to fulfill whether it be a public

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participation plan, a Title 6 plan, a Long Range Transportation Plan, and the dates on which they have been completed or approved.

Ellis explained that Title 6 basically states that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participating or denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity involving federal financial assistance. She stated that we have never received any complaints regarding this. Noehre added that this means all programs, not just the federally funded programs.

MOVED BY WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY NOEHRE, TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD THAT THEY APPROVE THE 2008 SELF CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MATTER OF UPDATE ON 32ND AVENUE CORRIDOR STUDY

Williams reported that since the packets were mailed out an updated report was received from the consultants. She explained that currently they are in the process of doing some of the improvements the consultants recommended, including putting in permissive protective left turns at South 20th and 32nd. She stated that once these left turns are in the consultants will be coming back on September 3rd, along with the representative from Traffic Control Corporation, to hook up the detection for 38th for north and south bound left turns there as well, and then they will do the final calibration for the entire system.

Williams stated that they received a Draft Executive Summary, and according to the estimate in it, we will have an annual savings of about \$1,200,000.

Noehre asked if any comments had been received on this. Williams responded that she had, and they were wondering why we haven't done this on Washington. She added that she has gotten a couple of complaints about having to wait on the side streets, which they expected, but all in all it is working very well.

Ellis asked if this is something that the City will consider doing on all its corridors. Williams responded that she is going to make a request that we do all of them. She said that they will have some investments to do concerning signal controllers. She referred to the staff report and pointed out that a correction should be made concerning the statement about the 2070 controllers. She stated that they had already put 2070 controllers in, so they were already there. She commented that the consultant was actually extremely impressed with the 2070 controllers, and the ease in which he was able to program them to run different programs during the day.

Noehre asked if she had received any additional comments regarding the protective permissive left turns from the DOT. Williams responded that Sean said it was fine, and he didn't have any additional comments. She stated that after they got it in, she was amazed at the fact that people

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used it like it has always been like this. She is very pleased with these consultants – they have done a great job.

Information only.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. MNDOT Freight Study

Schroeder reported that MNDOT is starting a bridge study. He stated that they will be doing the northern and western tiers of the state, so one of the consultants will be contacting the MPO to get input on the impacts of freight on Northwest Minnesota. He added that this covers MnDOT Districts 2, 4, and 8, as the very southwestern portion of the state was done last year, and then the other tiers, District 1 and 2. Ellis stated that just for information, the MPO intern is currently working on an update to our Intermodal Freight Study and she met with some of the trucking companies, the railroad, Crystal Sugar, and others to gather information for that study, so information should be easy to get.

2. MPO Conference in Duluth

Ellis reported that Teri Nelson, Earl Haugen, and herself were in Duluth Monday and Tuesday, and Earl is actually still there today, for an MPO Conference. She stated that they received information concerning what the National Transportation Commission has come up with for the next transportation bill, and it will be interesting to see what happens.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY GENGLER, SECONDED BY NOEHRE, TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 13TH, 2008, MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT 2:15 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by,

Peggy McNelis,
Executive Assistant