

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.  
Grand Forks City Hall Conference Room A-101**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Earl Haugen, Chairman, called the August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009, meeting of the MPO Technical Advisory Committee to order at 1:46 p.m.

**CALL OF ROLL**

On a Call of Roll the following members were present: Jane Williams, Grand Forks Traffic Engineer; Daniel Ollhoff (Proxy for Nancy Ellis), East Grand Forks Planning; Stacey Hanson, NDDOT-Bismarck (Via Conference Call); Roxanne Achman (Proxy for Brad Gengler), Grand Forks Planning; Dale Bergman, Cities Area Transit Superintendent; and Lane Magnuson, GF County Planning.

Guests present were: Stephanie Hickman, FHWA - Bismarck (Via Conference Call).

Staff present were: Earl Haugen, GF/EGF MPO Executive Director; Kristen Benidt, GF/EGF MPO Intern; and Peggy McNelis, GF/EGF MPO Executive Assistant.

**SUSPEND AGENDA**

Haugen stated that because Lane Magnuson is not here yet, and his presence is required for a quorum, he would like to suspend the agenda to hear Agenda Item 9, which does not require action.

**MATTER OF SIGN MAINTENANCE PLAN**

Ollhoff distributed copies of slides from his power point presentation and, referring to the power point presentation went over the information briefly.

Presentation ensued.

Ollhoff commented that we are now at the point where a decision can be made as to which plan we want to go with. He stated that with stimulus funds having been made available to help with the cost of implementing this plan, the timeline for implementation has changed somewhat. He pointed out that the implemented replacement plan is now schedule to be completed by September 2009; the regulatory/guide (ground) warning signs are scheduled to be in place by January 2016; and the street name/guide (overhead) signs are scheduled to be in place by January 2019.

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Ollhoff referred to a slide illustrating how we plan on using the stimulus monies we will be receiving, and went over it briefly.

Ollhoff explained that the next couple of slides are maps illustrating how they broke down both Grand Forks and East Grand Forks into quadrants, which will make it easier for both public works to replace those signs that need replacing in each community. He pointed out that Grand Forks has been broken down into 24 quadrants, and East Grand Forks into three quadrants. He added that they also included the University of North Dakota replacement area, which will be done by university personnel, not city.

Ollhoff then went over the four potential replacement plans being considered:

- ❖ Sign costs for the Visual Nighttime Inspection Plan - He pointed out that the wage costs vary considerably depending on the type of workers being used; and that the retroreflective delineator is not necessarily a requirement, but is recommended. He stated that the signs can be purchased individually, with costs varying between \$35.00 and \$165.00 per sign, but added that you can also purchase them by square foot as well.
- ❖ Sign costs for the Measured Sign Retroreflectivity Plan – He stated that this is the most expensive plan to implement as it would require the purchase of at least one Retroreflectometer, at a cost of about \$11,500.00. In addition, certified personnel would be needed to test each sign at a cost of at least \$10.00 per hour, and it would require about 12 employees at 40 hours a week for six weeks, at a total cost of about \$28,000.
- ❖ Sign costs for the Expected Sign Life Plan – He said that this is actually the plan he would suggest be used, at least a portion of it. He stated that they have already begun replacing and tagging old signs. He explained that the tags will indicate when the sign was replaced, and will allow for it to be included in the future cycle of replacements as well.
- ❖ Sign costs for the Blanket Replacement plan – He commented that this method is also being used to some extent, with the primary corridors being replaced at this time. He stated that once the primary corridors are completed, they will then move on to the other quadrants to ensure they are meeting the requirements as well.

Ollhoff then referred to slides indicating the potential costs of sign replacement for both Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, and went over them briefly.

Williams asked what the boundaries are for the University of North Dakota replacement area. Ollhoff responded that it would be between Campus Road and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, along University Avenue to Columbia Road.

Magnuson reported present.

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**RESUME AGENDA**

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Haugen requested that, because we have people on the phone today, everyone please give a brief introduction of themselves so they know who is present.

**MATTER OF APPROVAL OF THE JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2009, MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

***MOVED BY WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY BERGMAN, TO APPROVE THE JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2009, MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AS SUBMITTED.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

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**MATTER OF 2009-2012 T.I.P. AMENDMENT**

Haugen reported that copies of the staff report, and proposed amendment to Fiscal Year 2009, were included in the packets, however, since the packets were mailed we have been informed as to what the actual dollar amount available for the proposed amendment is, so an amended table has been distributed.

Haugen explained that with congress acting late on the 2009 appropriations for this program, we are just now at the point where we can amend it into our 2009 T.I.P.. He stated that we originally thought there would be \$1,500,000 in federal monies available for this project, but have since found that there will only be \$1,000,000, therefore the project scope needed to be revised, and the purchase of a kiosk was removed from the project to get it in line for the \$1,000,000 in federal funds, and the \$250,000 local match programmed. He pointed out that the project scope now indicates that one Class 700 replacement coach hybrid will be purchased, that the roadway around the bus barn will be reconstructed, and that the fuel tank will be replaced.

Haugen commented that they did advertise that a public hearing would be held at today's meeting, therefore he would now like to open the public hearing. He stated that there is no one present for discussion, thus he would now like to close the public hearing. He added that they also allowed for written comments to be submitted by noon today, and received none.

***MOVED BY BERGMAN, SECONDED BY WILLIAMS, TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD THAT THEY APPROVE THE FY 2009-2012 T.I.P. AMENDMENT, AS SUBMITTED.***

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***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**MATTER OF SELF-CERTIFICATION**

Haugen reported that as part of our annual program we need to self-certify that we are complying with the rules and regulations required of us. He explained that for a long time this was part of our T.I.P. document, but a year or so ago it was requested that it be separated out and acted on as a separate agenda item, so that is why it is included on today's agenda.

Haugen pointed out that copies of the Self-Certification document, which identifies all of the various requirements we are certifying we are in compliance with, were included in the packets. He explained that this document is signed once the MPO Executive Policy Board takes favorable action on it. He added that we also include statements indicating how we are complying with the various requirements as well.

***MOVED BY MAGNUSON, SECONDED BY WILLIAMS, TO FORWARD A  
RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD THAT THEY  
APPROVE THE 2009 SELF-CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**MATTER OF JARC/NEW FREEDOM APPLICATIONS**

Haugen reported that these are programs out of the Federal Transit Administration. He explained that JARC is Job Access Reverse Commute, and New Freedom is geared for providing new services for the elderly and disabled. He stated that this is the third solicitation for these funds that North Dakota has gone through, and, as you were also informed at a previous T.A.C. meeting the dollar amounts are for two years; so the total JARC monies available are \$410,000 and the total New Freedom monies are about \$236,000. He added that all three MPOs are soliciting at the same time, the deadlines are the same, and we advertised using the same public notice, so this has been a coordinated effort in North Dakota.

Haugen commented that Minnesota's application process is also occurring at this time as well, with the applications being due to the District today, and then by the end of the month to St. Paul. He stated that he is unaware of any applications from the MPO area being submitted on the Minnesota side.

Haugen stated that we received one application for each program on the North Dakota side. He referred to the staff report, and pointed out that the Cities Area Transit is proposing to use JARC monies to continue the operation of Route 12/13 and New Freedom funds to purchase two replacement mini-vans for its demand response services.

Haugen commented that staff finds both applications as being consistent with our Long Range Transportation Plan, and with the Human Services Public Transportation Coordination Plan. He

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said that they did involve our local coordinating committee through the solicitation and selection process, however since we only received one application for each program, we did not convene a committee meeting to prioritize the projects, therefore, staff and the Coordination Committee are recommending that each application be approved and submitted as high priority for the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks MPO area.

***MOVED BY BERGMAN, SECONDED BY WILLIAMS, TO APPROVE FORWARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD THAT THEY APPROVE THE APPLICATIONS FOR NDDOT JARC AND NEW FREEDOM FUNDS, AS SUBMITTED.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**MATTER OF FINAL 2010-2013 T.I.P.**

Haugen reported that staff is recommending approval of the Final 2010-2013 T.I.P. document, a copy of which he did include in the packets for review. He explained that the T.I.P. document is essentially a listing of Grand Forks projects that are programmed, East Grand Forks projects that are programmed, and illustrative projects. He added that the document also has appendices: Appendix 1 is our annual listing of obligations for 2008; Appendix 2 is a status report of programmed projects for 2009; Appendix 3 is a map of the MPO study area; and Appendix 4 is the public participation done to complete the document.

Haugen referred to Page 49, and pointed out that it is our analysis of environmental justice. He stated that in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks they have identified one area as having a higher than average concentration of protected populations, which are minority and low income populations. He said that they are generally located in the University of North Dakota housing area, and all of the T.I.P.s programmed projects, and their relationship to this area have been identified. He commented that in our analysis, we have identified that these projects do not have an adverse impact because they are virtually maintenance issues within the existing right-of-way.

Haugen stated that he has worked with both states, and the locals, to ensure that all of the individual project listings have accurate dollar amounts programmed, that the project descriptions are correct, and that the funding sources are correct.

Haugen commented that the illustrative projects are projects that we know have been submitted for either earmark requests, or will be done if a committed funding source can be identified. He said that if additional monies become available, these are the projects that would be moved up and funded. He stated that there are three projects on the North Dakota side, all of which have been submitted by the NDDOT, and all of which have been requested they be given high priority ratings. He referred to Page 81, and pointed out that the DeMers Avenue project would involve repair of the roadway on either side of the overpass, between Washington and North 5<sup>th</sup> Street. He said that this project is being identified as pending, which means that if there are additional federal funds available North Dakota will do this project, so it is one project that does not have a

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specific earmark or high priority status, but is listed as pending in the hope that the necessary federal funds are appropriated to the state. He commented that if any of the illustrative projects receive monies an amendment would need to be done to bring them into the regular program of projects.

Haugen stated that East Grand Forks submitted one high priority project, and that is their full intersection project at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.W. and US Highway 2.

Haugen commented that all of these high priority projects have been submitted by their respective congressmen, and do appear on their websites as well, so there is a reasonable expectation that they may get considered for funding.

Haugen reported that they did advertise that a public hearing would be held at today's meeting, therefore he would like to open the public hearing at this time. There was no one present for discussion, so Haugen closed the public hearing. He added that they did allow for written comments to be submitted by noon today, however none were received.

Hickman referred to Page 41 of the document, and asked why it shows a negative under state revenues for 2010, and where did the revenue estimates come from. Haugen responded that the reason for the negative number is due to the project being advanced constructed, meaning that it is being done in 2009 and paid for in 2010. He stated that the revenue estimates are received from the local agencies, Grand Forks City and East Grand Forks City, and then from the states as they get the revenues they then put into a particular program for projects that are programmed.

Hanson referred to Page 58 of the document, and stated that Grand Forks Project #21, reconstruction of south-bound lane of I-29 between 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to near ND #15, is being looked at for possibly being moved to 2010. She said that she would let us know if that should occur.

***MOVED BY WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY MAGNUSON, TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD TO APPROVE THE FINAL 2010-2013 T.I.P., SUBJECT TO ANY MINOR CORRECTIONS NEEDING TO BE MADE.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Granitoid Listing Update

Haugen reported that, locally, Granitoid pavement in Grand Forks is being recommended for a property list update. He stated that the hearing is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> in Bismarck.

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Haugen referred to a map that shows the effects the update would have on the existing Granitoid pavement. He said that he would say that 2/3 of the Granitoid pavement itself would be de-listed from the National Register. He pointed out those areas that are being recommended to remain on the register include: 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, between Belmont and Cottonwood; Cottonwood itself between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues; 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between Chestnut and Cottonwood; and a block of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Cottonwood and Chestnut; and the rest would be recommended for de-listing for the near southside neighborhood. He went on to state that only the Granitoid on Woodland Avenue would remain on the list for the area near Central Park, all other areas including Franklin, 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and Gertrude would all be taken off the list; and all of Lewis Boulevard would remain on the list.

Haugen commented that, as everyone knows, Granitoid pavement has been an interesting issue locally, as well as between the State Historical Society and Grand Forks, so this is a promising proposal to get a lot of the Grantoid that is not in very good condition off the register so that, perhaps, the residents can get the streets in front of their homes fixed. Williams asked if this includes removal of the sandstone curb as well. Haugen responded it does include the curbing.

Hanson asked that any information regarding the hearing in Bismarck be forwarded to her as she would be interested in possibly attending. Haugen agreed that he would forward an e-mail to her containing that information. Hickman asked that it be forwarded to her as well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

***MOVED BY WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY BERGMAN, TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2009, MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT 2.28 P.M.***

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Peggy McNelis, Executive Assistant