

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
GRAND FORKS/EAST GRAND FORKS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Friday, September 25th, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.
Grand Forks City Hall Planning Conference Room**

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary, Warren Strandell called the September 25th, 2009 Finance Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

CALL OF ROLL

On a Call of Roll the following members were present: Warren Strandell, and Punky Beauchamp.

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

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Strandell declared a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 5, 2009, MINUTES OF THE MPO FINANCE COMMITTEE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BEAUCHAMP, SECONDED BY STRANDELL, TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 5, 2009, MINUTES OF THE MPO FINANCE COMMITTEE, AS SUBMITTED.

Voting Aye: Beauchamp and Strandell.

Voting Nay: None.

MATTER OF AWARDING CONTRACT FOR RAILROAD CROSSING STUDY

Haugen reported that the Selection Committee did meet to review the three proposals that were submitted, and are recommending that the MPO enter into a contract with SRF Consulting Group to perform the Railroad Crossing Study.

Haugen commented that the Scope of Work has been negotiated down to about \$77,000, which is lower than the \$80,000 budgeted. He stated that the primary object of the negotiations was the

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Federal Railroad Application that SRF was proposing to submit, but, which Federal Highway said could not be paid using federal monies. He said, however, that with the materials SRF will be giving us, there should be no problem with staff completing it and submitting it on their own. Haugen referred to the staff report, and pointed out that it does discuss a possible addendum to the Scope of Work, and that is the Bacon Road Crossing Closure Study. He explained that the State Mill and BNSF are trying to figure out how to get more storage space for rail cars on the north end of the spur, and closure of that crossing would allow them several hundred feet of track that could be used for storage. He stated that should this addendum come to fruition, it could create an additional \$20,000 of work that would be added on to the contract. He said, however, that that additional cost would not be born by the MPO, but instead would be covered by another entity, possibly BNSF, the State Mill, or a combination of the two.

Haugen reported that we are asking SRF to give us an assessment of quiet zone status at approximately 15 crossings, and then to also look at the State Mill Spur itself at which we don't meet any of the minimum requirements for a quiet zone in order to determine what we can do to improve safety, and to work towards to making it a quieter location.

Strandell asked what the timetable is for this study. Haugen responded that they need to have a draft report completed by November 6, 2009, for the quiet zone assessment; and a draft report completed by April for the State Mill Spur area.

Beauchamp asked if we would be approving awarding the Bacon Road Crossing Closure Study subject to financing being made available by an outside agency. Haugen responded that the motion could include that contingency.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BEAUCHAMP, SECONDED BY STRANDELL, TO APPROVE THE MPO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SRF CONSULTING TO PERFORM THE RAILROAD CROSSING STUDY AT A COST OF NO MORE THAN \$80,000, AND TO INCLUDE THE BACON ROAD CROSSING CLOSURE STUDY ADDENDUM SUBJECT TO FUNDING FROM AN OUTSIDE AGENCY BEING AVAILABLE.

Voting Aye: Beauchamp and Strandell.

Voting Nay: None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY STRANDELL, SECONDED BY BEAUCHAMP, TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2009, MEETING OF THE MPO FINANCE COMMITTEE AT 9:06 P.M.

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Voting Aye: Beauchamp and Strandell.

Voting Nay: None.

Respectfully submitted by,

Peggy McNelis
Executive Assistant