

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD
OF THE GRAND FORKS/EAST GRAND FORKS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Wednesday, October 20, 2021 - 12:00 Noon
East Grand Forks Training Conference Room/Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Warren Strandell, Secretary, called the October 20, 2021, meeting of the MPO Executive Policy Board to order at 12:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL

On a Call of Roll the following members were present: Warren Strandell, Bob Rost, Al Grasser, Mike Powers, Clarence Vetter, Marc DeMers, and Ken Vein.

Absent: Jeannie Mock.

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

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Strandell declared a quorum was present.

MATTER OF APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2021, MINUTES OF THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD

MOVED BY VETTER, SECONDED BY POWERS, TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2021, MINUTES OF THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD, AS PRESENTED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MATTER OF UPDATE ON FUTURE BRIDGE TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY

Haugen reported that at your last meeting, if you recall, there was discussion on looking into mitigating at a different level of service. Staff spent some time discussing with some of the Technical Advisory Committee members and the NDDOT about how far we could go into that. He said that all of the information we were sharing and displaying was using just the 2045 traffic volumes. So the question or comment was, well what type of congestion are we going to be at when this opens, and just because we were displaying everything at the 2045, it looked like if we were to build a bridge any earlier than that that we would have the minimally acceptable level of service right away. We do have the 2030 volumes, so we asked Alliant to just to determine if

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the bridge was built prior to 2030 or soon after 2030, with those volumes what would the level of service be at the intersections There are four key intersections: 1) DeMers/Washington, 2) 32nd Avenue/Washington, 3) 32nd Avenue/Cherry and 4) 32nd Avenue and Belmont Road.

Haugen commented that in all cases except for DeMers/Washington there was an improvement in the level of service for those 2030 volumes, and so as we discussed this at the Technical Advisory Committee meeting, the question was; yes we could look at mitigating to a higher level of service per the discussion the MPO Executive Policy Board had a month ago, or if we felt that this information, if it was built in or around 2030 and had those volumes is the level of service being provided with the mitigated alternatives in place, if that was reasonable traffic conditions.

Haugen stated that with that we had a motion from the Technical Advisory Committee not to pursue any additional study to mitigate to a level of service C because if it is built, and he thinks everybody is trying to get this thing built, in and around 2030 instead of in and around 2045, that the 2030 volumes show a reasonable traffic capacity, traffic congestion, traffic operations taking place along all the corridors.

Haugen said that this really the information we have to share with you, is that at the last meeting there was discussion about mitigating to a Level of Service C instead of settling for a Level of Service D. He stated that the concern was that as soon as it would be open that we would have the minimal level of service we would accept and the analysis is saying that if we were able to get it built sooner than 2045, if we use 2030 volumes then we think that the level of service will be reasonable for the corridors, and therefore the recommendation is that there is not a need for additional study to mitigate these intersections to a Level of Service higher than D, even by 2045, and then where DeMers and Washington is at, the NDDOT is doing as safety audit, or a safety study for that intersection, and so they are looking at that in great detail to see if there are improvements that we could do in the short period because there are issues at that intersection today, and then they are also looking at what longer term solutions there might be as well, so that intersection is kind of on its own study path through the NDDOT for any alternatives and recommended improvements to it, so it remains at a Level of Service D even in 2030, and we wouldn't be studying it anymore as an MPO because the NDDOT is already got it under a study development and they had indicated to us that they expect to have some of their early findings out by either the end of November or early December, and he will follow-up with them to see if that is still the timeline.

Haugen reported that the last thing in the staff report is an update on the school surveys. He said that all of the schools were collected the last week of September and Safe Kids has received that data and the School District and themselves are still crunching all that information. He added that he does have a meeting with Safe Kids tomorrow so he may have additional information on the status of where those surveys are at to help inform our study for school crossing concerns, etc., that were expressed.

Haugen stated that that is all the information he has to share today unless we are wanting to do something other than what the Technical Advisory Committee and staff are recommending.

Vetter said that his first thought was wouldn't we want to; looking at the Columbia Road Overpass, we built the overpass and then five or so years later we are adding two more lanes to the overpass because it wasn't meeting the needs, so his first impression was are we going to get into that same type of scenario here if we don't mitigate to a higher standard; but then he is thinking, when we look at these four we wouldn't be doing anything to the bridge, we wouldn't have a two lane bridge and then expand it to a four lane bridge to mitigate the level of service on these four intersections, we would be doing something with those intersections anyway, so with a second glance he can live with going with a lower level of service or using the 2030 year level of service guidelines and not have to change anything, he is okay with the recommendation.

Grasser reported that the City of Grand Forks has hired another consultant to take a look at some of the intersections in a little more detail, so whatever this group wants to do is fine, they are going to take probably a separate path and take a look at them in more detail at a real planning level at this point. He stated that one thing they want to look at is to place a mitigation technique in there and let's find out more detail on how we might need to construct it, do we need more right-of-way, do we need to add lanes, and some of that so they are going to take a look at some of those things; if nothing else they would use it in some of their planning, for instance, if they reconstruct one of these roadways or intersections or something out here, they want a pavement with the expectation of a 50-year life span, they want to be looking out so if there is something they build today that can save a lot of money in the future, that is part of what they are looking at utilizing some of that information for.

Information only.

MATTER OF APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO 2045 MTP

Haugen reported that this is the final step with the proposed amendments to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He said that, as noted in the staff report, as part of your previous motion you granted preliminary approval but withheld one of the projects, all the other projects went forward and staff sent to each City the information and asked if they felt they needed to amend their plans, and both responded that it didn't rise to a level that required them to amend their plans so we were able to include this faster than the up to 60-days, so this will be the last step for you to take action to make those improvements.

Haugen stated that the projects on the Minnesota side; MnDOT is adding the 220 North, north of the City of East Grand Forks about 8 miles onto the project list. He said that on the North Dakota side we are switching between short and mid-term a couple of projects, both on the Urban Local and Urban Regional Systems, and then they are using COVID funds to do some work on North Mill, and since it is still federal monies it still has to show up in our T.I.P. and plans, and then the last one is converting some gravel paths on the bike trail system into hard surface.

Haugen reported that we did have a public hearing at the Technical Advisory Committee meeting last Wednesday and there were not oral or written comments submitted.

Haugen referred to the packet and pointed out that the information shows how the amendments actually look. He went over the information briefly.

Haugen stated that these are the amendments that both the Staff and the Technical Advisory Committee are recommending be approved.

MOVED BY POWERS, SECONDED BY ROST, TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2045 MTP, AS PRESENTED.

Voting Aye: Powers, Rost, Strandell, Grassser, DeMers, and Vetter.

Voting Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Mock and Vein.

Haugen commented that the status of the one project that wasn't forwarded, next month we will be doing a T.I.P. amendment and currently that project has federal funding programmed for it. He explained that the federal funds for East Grand Forks in 2022 are programmed to the roundabout at Rhinehart and Bygland and the City has requested, and has worked out with MnDOT, an amendment to delay that federal funding to 2023, and so next month you will be asked to consider a T.I.P. amendment, among other T.I.P. amendments, but specifically for the 2022 dollars to be delayed to 2023. He stated that the 2022 dollars will be used for a Polk County project and in 2023 the dollars from a Polk County project will be switched to City Sub-Target dollars, so that is where we are at with that.

Haugen said that he was also informed that the East Grand Forks City Council is entering a mitigation process to try to resolve what project they would like to submit for the MPO to consider. He added that he doesn't know if either of the two East Grand Forks City Council reps would like to expound further on that. DeMers responded that it is actually in preliminary mitigation status to see if mitigation is warranted. He added that the mitigation will be handled by the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. He explained that they have mitigation services that they provide and they are just reaching out to what the scope of the issue is, if it something that they feel is resolvable, and even if it isn't resolvable would it be something that they can help move forward in the process.

Haugen stated that he is just hopeful it is part of, if that process moves forward much, you still have the issue of whether or not it is consistent with our plan, is it consistent with our priorities, so at some point we will have to be engaged with that study. He added that we do have to take some action on the 2022 dollars next month, and then as he alluded to there will be a lot of other amendments to the T.I.P. on both sides of the river to catch it up to date on some issues.

MATTER OF SOLICITATION OF CANDIDATE PROJECTS FOR THE NEXT T.I.P.

Haugen reported that this is, again, restarting the cycle of T.I.P. preparation. He said that the first thing we do is solicit for candidate projects for the new year of the T.I.P, it is a rolling four year document, so we will drop of 2021 and add in 2026.

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Haugen commented that principally we are looking at projects in that 2026 year; in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, those projects have been vetted and fiscally constrained through several iterations of this process, so if there are only insignificant minor tweaks to those, we will make changes in the document, but if there are significant changes, we will be going through a T.I.P. amendment process.

Haugen referred to information in the packet (a copy of which is included in the file and available upon request) and explained that it highlights information and the submittal dates of all the individual programs. He went over the information briefly.

Haugen said that we just got done approving the T.I.P. last month, we know that next month we will be amending the current T.I.P. and also next month, hopefully there are projects for the following T.I.P. to consider as candidate projects to submit for federal funds. He added that if you have a project you want to pursue outside of the Point Bridge, he would guess that would complicate things quite a bit, but if you have the other programs there is opportunity for candidate projects to submit go through your staff and make sure they are eligible and all the other necessities are processed.

Information only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Haugen reported that there were no public comments submitted, and there is no one from the public in attendance either in person or online for comments.

Strandell said that he received an e-mail from the Chamber of Commerce talking about a joint meeting to try to come up with projects for anticipated federal funding that may come about. He asked if anybody else received it as well. He added that he isn't a member of the Chamber, but he does get a lot of e-mails from them. He said that he would pass it on to Mr. Haugen.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. 2021 Annual Work Program Project Update

Haugen reported that this is our monthly one-page report shows the updated activities for each of the agenda items. He said that the only thing he would highlight for you is that the reason why Ms. Kouba isn't here today is because we are off and running with the update to the Transit Element; there are pop-up events happening in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks today and tomorrow, and the website has also been established and there is an on-line survey and an on line mapping tool, so because of those activities she wasn't able to participate in today's meeting.

Haugen stated that everything else is moving forward, and if you have a chance the new aerial photo is available, the easiest way for you to access it right now is on the City of Grand Forks' website. He said that it is an impressive, fairly detailed photo, since we did go through that

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refined pixel effort. He added that the Lidar was submitted a long time ago so that information is available as well on both sides of the river.

DeMers asked if this was something we should reach out to Polk County with as well. Haugen responded that he will get in touch with Mr. Sanders and give him the information.

Haugen stated that for the Pavement Management Update; they drive every mile of our Functionally Classified roadways, plus both Cities added on to the scope of work to have all of the local streets run, so all of the photo imagery has been captured and they are now in the process of analyzing cracks and such that they see in the photos to update the pavement management, so that is where we are at with that work activity.

Ken Vein joined the meeting via Zoom.

Information only.

B. Approval Of Bill/Check List For 9/11/21 to 10/15/21 Period

MOVED BY POWERS, SECONDED BY ROST, TO APPROVE THE BILLS/CHECKS FOR THE 9/11/21 TO 10/15/21 PERIOD.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

STRANDELL DECLARED THE OCTOBER 20, 2021, MEETING OF THE MPO EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD ADJOURNED AT 12:28 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy McNelis, Office Manager

Grand Forks East Grand Forks MPO
Transaction List by Vendor
 September 10 through October 15, 2021

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Clr	Split	Amount
AFLAC.							
Liability Check	09/17/2021	AFLAC	501	104 · Checking	X	-SPLIT-	-517.90
Alerus Financial							
Liability Check	09/17/2021	EFTPS	45-0388273	104 · Checking	X	-SPLIT-	-2,569.16
Liability Check	10/01/2021	EFTPS	45-0388273	104 · Checking		-SPLIT-	-2,569.16
Liability Check	10/15/2021	EFTPS	45-0388273	104 · Checking		-SPLIT-	-2,569.14
Alliant Engineering							
Bill	09/23/2021	Inv. #...	Work On Futu...	206 · Accounts Pay...		565 · Special ...	-10,314.63
Bill Pmt -Check	09/23/2021	7114	Work On Futu...	104 · Checking		206 · Accounts...	-10,314.63
Ayres Associates, Inc.							
Bill	10/12/2021	Inv. #...	Work On Orth...	206 · Accounts Pay...		-SPLIT-	-9,820.64
Bill Pmt -Check	10/12/2021	7122	Work On Orth...	104 · Checking		206 · Accounts...	-9,820.64
CitiBusiness Card							
Bill	09/24/2021	Acct. ...	Charges For ...	206 · Accounts Pay...		517 · Overhead	-64.32
Bill Pmt -Check	09/24/2021	7116	Charges For ...	104 · Checking	X	206 · Accounts...	-64.32
Fidelity Security Life.							
Liability Check	09/17/2021	AVESIS	50790-1043	104 · Checking	X	210 · Payroll Li...	-8.44
Forum Communications Company							
Bill	09/10/2021	Inv. #...	Public Hearin...	206 · Accounts Pay...		555 · TIP	-153.87
Bill Pmt -Check	09/10/2021	7107	Public Hearin...	104 · Checking	X	206 · Accounts...	-153.87
Bill	10/12/2021	Inv. #...	2050 EGF LU...	206 · Accounts Pay...		560 · Land Us...	-220.79
Bill Pmt -Check	10/12/2021	7123	2050 EGF LU...	104 · Checking		206 · Accounts...	-220.79
GoodPointe Technology							
Bill	10/05/2021	Inv. #...	Work On 202...	206 · Accounts Pay...		565 · Special ...	-7,393.94
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2021	7118	Work On 202...	104 · Checking		206 · Accounts...	-7,393.94
Kimley-Horn And Associates, Inc.							
Bill	09/24/2021	Inv. #...	Work On Tra...	206 · Accounts Pay...		548 · EGF FT...	-6,003.88
Bill Pmt -Check	09/24/2021	7117	Work On Tra...	104 · Checking	X	206 · Accounts...	-6,003.88
Liberty Business Systems, Inc.							
Bill	10/06/2021	Inv. #...	Contract Bas...	206 · Accounts Pay...		517 · Overhead	-178.93
Bill Pmt -Check	10/06/2021	7119	Contract Bas...	104 · Checking		206 · Accounts...	-178.93
LSNB as Trustee for PEHP							
Liability Check	09/17/2021	PEHP		104 · Checking	X	216 · Post-Hea...	-123.75
Liability Check	10/15/2021	PEHP		104 · Checking		216 · Post-Hea...	-123.75
Madison Nat'l Life							
Liability Check	09/17/2021	7108		104 · Checking		215 · Disability...	-67.34
Mike's							
Bill	09/15/2021		VOID: MPO L...	206 · Accounts Pay...	X	711 · Miscellan...	0.00
Bill Pmt -Check	09/15/2021	7111	VOID: MPO L...	104 · Checking	X	206 · Accounts...	0.00
Bill	09/15/2021		MPO Lunche...	206 · Accounts Pay...		711 · Miscellan...	-130.00
Bill Pmt -Check	09/15/2021	7112	MPO Lunche...	104 · Checking		206 · Accounts...	-130.00
Minnesota Department of Revenue							
Liability Check	09/17/2021	MNDOR	1403100	104 · Checking	X	210 · Payroll Li...	-200.00
Liability Check	10/01/2021	MNDOR	1403100	104 · Checking		210 · Payroll Li...	-200.00
Liability Check	10/15/2021	MNDOR	1403100	104 · Checking		210 · Payroll Li...	-200.00
Minnesota Life Insurance Company							
Liability Check	09/17/2021	7109		104 · Checking	X	-SPLIT-	-111.72
Nationwide Retirement Solutions							
Liability Check	09/17/2021	NWR...	3413	104 · Checking	X	-SPLIT-	-495.89
Liability Check	10/01/2021	NWR...	3413	104 · Checking		-SPLIT-	-495.89
Liability Check	10/15/2021	NWR...	3413	104 · Checking		-SPLIT-	-495.89
NDPERS							
Liability Check	09/17/2021	NDPE...	D88	104 · Checking	X	-SPLIT-	-3,059.28
Liability Check	10/01/2021	NDPE...		104 · Checking		-SPLIT-	-2,535.92
QuickBooks Payroll Service							
Liability Check	09/16/2021		Created by P...	104 · Checking	X	-SPLIT-	-6,383.87
Liability Check	09/30/2021		Created by P...	104 · Checking	X	-SPLIT-	-6,383.87
Liability Check	10/14/2021		Created by P...	104 · Checking		-SPLIT-	-6,383.88
SRF Consulting Group, Inc.							
Bill	09/15/2021	Inv. #...	Work On GF ...	206 · Accounts Pay...		560 · Land Us...	-9,427.70
Bill Pmt -Check	09/15/2021	7113	Work On GF ...	104 · Checking	X	206 · Accounts...	-9,427.70
Bill	10/08/2021	Inv. #...	Work On Gra...	206 · Accounts Pay...		560 · Land Us...	-8,853.61
Bill Pmt -Check	10/08/2021	7120	Work On Gra...	104 · Checking		206 · Accounts...	-8,853.61
Standard Insurance Company							
Liability Check	09/17/2021	7110		104 · Checking	X	217 · Dental P...	-118.88
State Tax Commissioner							
Liability Check	10/01/2021	NDST...	45038827301	104 · Checking		210 · Payroll Li...	-372.00

8:58 AM

10/14/21

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Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Clr	Split	Amount
The Exponent							
Bill	09/24/2021	Inv. #...	Public Notice ...	206 · Accounts Pay...		560 · Land Us...	-148.76
Bill Pmt -Check	09/24/2021	7115	Public Notice ...	104 · Checking	X	206 · Accounts...	-148.76