

**EAST GRAND FORKS
REGULAR
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
Wednesday, June 14, 2023 – 12:00 Noon**

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Powers, President called the June 14, 2023 meeting of the East Grand Forks Planning Commission to order at 12:00 pm

CALL OF ROLL

On a Call of Roll the following members were present: Commissioners: Mike Powers, Chad Erickson, Brad Ortzman, Karen Peterson and Gary Christian

Absent: Randy Boushey, Richard Audette

Guest(s) present: Stephanie Halford, MPO, John Cock, Raymond Elliot, Bolton & Menk Consultants.

Staff present: Nancy Ellis, East Grand Forks City Planner; Brenda Ault, Executive Assistant, Ron Galstad City Attorney

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATION

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2023 ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING

A Motion was made by Commissioner Erickson, Seconded by Commissioner Christianson to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2023 Regular Meeting M/S/P- Erickson, Christianson; 5-0, mc.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Matter of preliminary and possible final approval of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Stephanie Halford, MPO

CP Ellis stated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Element is part of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The Plan is updated every five years. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Element was last updated in 2018. The Greater Grand Forks pedestrian and bicycle draft plan was developed from public & steering committee input, analysis of

existing conditions, and the needs & demands analysis. She then invited MPO Halford to speak to the Commissioners.

MPO Halford stated that bicycling and walking are increasingly important parts of urban transportation. They're simple, affordable, and healthy ways to get around cities, but they need planning and investment for people to make an easy choice to bike or walk for more trips. Throughout 2022 and into 2023 the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and community partners has been updating the Bicycle and Pedestrian Element. The Element is part of the larger Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which guides planning and investment through 2050. This updated bicycle and pedestrian plan will be used to prioritize improvements in bicycling and walking that will make Grand Forks and East Grand Forks better places to walk and bicycle for all transportation needs. She then directed the consultants from Bolton & Menk; Mr. John Cock and Mr. Raymond Elliot to present their presentation to the Commissioners.

The two consultants shared the MPO Vision for Greater Grand Forks, the guiding principles are to improve safety, improve mobility, increase walking and biking rates, replace private vehicle trips, develop a plan from community needs and invest wisely.

They further reported that of those who are walking; 7% of households do not have access to a vehicle, 40% of households are single vehicle households, vital to recreation and downtown businesses, and safe routes to school. 40% of survey respondents said that they would make more walking and biking trips if they felt that the network was safer. In Greater Grand Forks between 2017 and 2021; 1 fatal bicycle crash, 2 fatal pedestrian crashes and 12 serious injury pedestrian/bicycle crashes.

Public input involved over 700 comments. Public bike audit issues identified were East-West Connectors, Bridges, Signage and Wayfinding, Pavement Conditions, Railroad Crossings and Rules of the Road.

They also stated that the implementation priority corridor projects will include 13 projects along 9 corridors for East Grand Forks.

CP Ellis stated that there is a need for more or better maps of the Greenway and they need to be available at more locations, including the Greenway, downtown and the campground. She also informed the Commissioners that in the next 5 years, the ADA transition plan is to add more sidewalks to the park facilities, playgrounds, baseball fields and the picnic area in East Grand Forks.

The draft plan itself can be found on the MPO's website or at the attached link: <https://clients.bolton-menk.com/gfegf-bikeped/>.

CP Ellis recommended to the Commissioners that they make a motion, for preliminary and possible final approval, if no substantive changes are made, of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

EAST GRAND FORKS
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, June 14, 2023

Commissioner Erickson motioned for final approval of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan if no substantive changes are made, during the public comment process and recommending that the City Council approve, as recommended by CP Ellis, Commissioner Peterson seconded the Motion. M/S/P- Erickson, Peterson; 5-0, RCV; Peterson-Y, Christianson-Y, Powers-Y, Erickson-Y, Ortzman-Y. 5-0, mc.

CP Ellis thanked Halford, Cock and Elliot for the presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

President Powers asked for a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Christianson made the motion, meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Brenda Ault
Executive Assistant