

**EAST GRAND FORKS
REGULAR
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – 12:00 Noon**

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Powers, President called the November 8, 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, Richard Audette, Chad Erickson, Brad Ortzman, Karen Peterson and Gary Christian.

Absent: Randy Boushey

Guest(s) present: Teri Kouba, Stephanie Halford and Jason Carbee; Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATION

1. Commission comments on the EDA workshop in October. Commissioners Mike Powers, Brad Ortzman, Rick Audette, Gary Christianson, and City Administrator Huttunen attended the workshop. They reported that it was well attended and lots of good information was provided.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE September 13, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

A Motion was made by Commissioner Christianson, Seconded by Commissioner Audette to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2023 Regular Meeting M/S/P-Christianson, Audette; 6-0, mc.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing. Matter of request from the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization to amend the City's Comprehensive Plan to include the update to the Street & Highway element of the Metropolitan Plan

CP Ellis informed the Commissioners that every 5-years the Forks MPO with partnership from the Cities (Grand Forks and East Grand Forks) and Counties (Grand

Forks and Polk) leadership review and update the community's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This plan must identify how the community will manage and operate a multi-modal transportation system (including transit, highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and accessible transportation) to meet the region's economic, transportation, development, and sustainability goals for a 20 plus year planning horizon, while remaining fiscally constrained.

The plan has been broken up into three elements. Those elements are:

- o The Transit Development Plan- adopted by the MPO Executive Board in December 2022;
- o The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan- adopted by the MPO Executive Board in July 2023; and
- o The Street & Highway Plan

Once all three elements are done, or close to being done, they are combined into a cohesive MTP for adoption by the MPO Executive Board and approval by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

This plan is being developed under the new transportation bill Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). IIJA continued the requirement for performance measures and targets to be set for all modes of transportation. The FTA and FHWA have put out regulations on how these performance measures and targets need to be presented.

To follow the regulations of IIJA, the MPO has given more prominence to the performance measures the MPO already collects data on. The MPO has also updated financial information to reflect the changes in funding that IIJA outlines. Staff from both Federal Highway Divisions, both State Departments of Transportation, both Counties and both Cities have been involved and concur with the update for the Street & Highway Plan Element.

The Street & Highway Plan is a full update that includes maps, data, and information about the vehicular network throughout the Forks MPO area. The update recommends a future focus of preserving the existing roadway network in a "state of good repair". This focus has allocated most of the available future funding in preserving, rehabbing, or reconstructing the existing street and highway system. In fact, the revenue has not been sufficient to keep the system in the desired "state of good repair."

With the adoption of the Street & Highway Plan Element, the Multi-modal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) out to the horizon year of 2050 identifies the goals, performance, and recommended projects for the total transportation system. This assists in the goal of a transportation system in any city to provide access to facilities, goods, services and activities. Supporting different forms of transportation modes gives users the choice whether it is to make trips entirely by walking and biking or catching a ride on the public transit or in a vehicle transporting on the street highway network.

CP Ellis then invited the MPO to present their findings. Jason Carbee, MPO Consultant gave the presentation to the Commission. He stated there are 7 chapters. 1. Street & Highway Plans; an overview of the MPO Planning Process; 2. Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures; 3. Plan Engagement; 4. Community Profile; 5. Existing Transportation System Performance; 6. Future Trends and Needs; 7. Street & Highway Strategies. The State of Good Repair Plan which is a committed project. Street & Highway Plan, with goals and objectives; Efficient and Reliable, Safe, Connected & Accessible, Preserved & Maintained, Sustainable & Resilient.

He gave an overview of the MPO Planning Process, explained the Federal Planning Requirements, in alignment with State planning, the open houses held, the online surveys, an overview of the community profile, traffic operations, safety, bicycle and the pedestrian system, gave an update to the forecasted household and employment growth. He also shared the short-term, mid-term and long-term plans for reconstruction & repair work.

CP Ellis asked for a motion to have the MPO draft the plan and if there are no changes between now and December, to hold it and recommend forwarding it on to the Council in December.

Commissioner Erickson motioned to have the MPO approve this document as a draft and potentially final plan, if there are no changes before December; and to recommend the Council approve the plan. Commissioner Audette seconded the Motion. M/S/P- Erickson, Audette; 6-0, mc.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Erickson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 pm, Commissioner Christianson seconded the Motion.

Respectfully submitted by,
Brenda Ault
Executive Assistant