

**BISMARCK-MANDAN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

The Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met February 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room, City/County Building, 221 N 5th St, Bismarck, ND. Kim Riepl presided.

Members present or participating via Zoom were Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Gabe Schell, John Saiki, Andrew Stromme, Jarek Wigness, Greg Feser, Will Hutchings, and Kim Riepl. Members absent were Ben Ehreth, Mitch Flanagan, Natalie Pierce, and Dean Schloss. The Freight Industry Representative membership is vacant.

Others present or participating via Zoom were Stephen Larson and Paulette Jacobsen, Bismarck-Mandan MPO; Kristen Sperry, FHWA; Chris Holzer, City of Bismarck Engineering; Sharijad Hasan, NDSU/ATAC; and Luke Champa, SRF.

MINUTES

Chair Riepl called for consideration of the minutes from January 21, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Stromme made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Wigness seconded the motion and with Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Gabe Schell, John Saiki, Andrew Stromme, Jarek Wigness, Greg Feser, Will Hutchings, and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the minutes were approved.

2025 SAFETY POLICY STUDY

Mr. Champa presented an update for SRF. SRF is meeting bi-weekly with the MPO for this project. They held their first Steering Committee meeting on January 27. They are working through data collection for the study. They have received some good data already, but they are still needing some additional information from Morton County, Mandan, and the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). They are getting close to starting their crash analysis. They have developed a study logo and are planning to complete the study by year end.

2025 ITS RA UPDATE

Ms. Riepl noted TAC and Policy Board approved an addendum to the Advanced Traffic Analysis Center (ATAC) Master Agreement last month. That addendum was for the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Regional Architecture (RA) update. ATAC and the MPO have begun working on the update, which is performed every 3-5 years.

Mr. Hasan provided an overview of the project on behalf of ATAC. ITS describes various transportation related technologies the MPO's jurisdictions use or are planning to use in future. These technologies, such as video surveillance, traffic signals, and communication centers, help create a safe and efficient transportation network. To ensure this, it is important to have good connectivity between the different technologies, and the stakeholders that manage them. That is the purpose of the RA. The RA provides a planning framework for ITS in the MPO area. It defines the existing technologies and what those technologies require to operate well, and it lays out the responsibilities, agreements, and connections between the various

stakeholders who manage these technologies. The RA is a living document. This update will identify changes in regional needs, new stakeholders, and service changes. Current and future ITS projects will be evaluated, and the RA will be compared to the latest National Architecture guidelines released at the federal level.

Mr. Hasan showed a chart of the MPO's existing RA (updated in 2021). The RA breaks out ITS into service packages. Bismarck-Mandan currently has service packages in the areas of Public Transportation Management, Traffic Management, Emergency Management, Maintenance and Construction Management, and Data Management. These service packages will be evaluated and updated as needed. Mr. Hasan provided an RA overview, showing the history of the document, the current stakeholders, and the service packages. The current ITS RA is online.

ATAC intends to complete data collection for this project by May. They will hold small group or agency meetings to collect data and coordinate proposed changes with stakeholders. They will identify changes to the RA and update the region's ITS inventory by August. By September they will integrate the MPO's planning goals with the RA and make sure the RA conforms to national standards. The updates, final report, and ITS RA website should be completed in October and November. ATAC has reached out to potential stakeholders for this update. Stakeholders will be invited to attend small group meetings and will be asked to provide feedback and information to support the update.

Mr. Schell suggested the small groups should be based on municipality (a Bismarck group, a Mandan group, etc.). He said his biggest challenge with this project is the security component. Cybersecurity requirements are challenging to manage. Sharing information between stakeholders can create security issues, so he believes having IT personnel involved as stakeholders early on in this project is very important. He also noted that a lot of ITS equipment is now sharing information through third-party services, such as the cloud, and he wonders if the RA is accounting for this.

Ms. Riepl said the MPO has expanded its stakeholder list to emphasize IT personnel. Mr. Hasan acknowledged Mr. Schell's small group concerns and added that he will also be working one-on-one with relevant stakeholders throughout this process. The RA can demonstrate possible solutions to ITS challenges but cannot make final decisions on which path the MPO's stakeholders choose to adopt. The RA will also identify communication and security standards to help with the cybersecurity concerns.

Mr. Schell thanked Mr. Hasan and said it is good this project will focus on connectivity and communication. There needs to be a path to achieving connectivity laid out in the RA for it to be useful to the stakeholders.

Mr. Stromme noted they have a new IT staff member for Mandan, and he has made them aware of this project. He asked if the outcome of this project will be more software based, or if it will also lead to recommendations for hardware and infrastructure. Ms. Riepl said it will involve both.

Mr. Stromme asked how the MPO sets its goals for ITS. He noted there have been instances in the past where shortfalls prevented ITS projects from going forward. Ms. Riepl said the MPO looks to its stakeholders for goals and objectives for this project, based on the services they are providing and how they believe ITS can support those services. Mr. Hasan said improving ITS in a region is an important part of an RA update. The update will make proposals, which stakeholders can then consider. Mr. Hasan's experience with other MPOs and

with the state will help inform recommendations. ATAC will also look at the MPO's long-term planning documents to assist in establishing RA goals.

Mr. Stromme asked how cities working on projects can make sure they are looking at ITS elements. Mr. Hasan noted stakeholders can look at the current RA online to identify existing services and connections, and to look at current standards and guidelines for various technologies. ATAC also works to keep track of ITS projects and helps with ITS standards.

2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION

Ms. Riepl presented. The MPO is allowed to move UPWP funding within or between tasks up to an amount of 10% of the cumulative yearly amount without having to formally amend the UPWP. The MPO has found it necessary to move some funding for a study (the Safety Policy Study) that was intended to begin in 2024 but was not able to start until January 2025. \$41,205 was originally intended to be spent on this study in 2024. The Fringe Area Road Master Plan (FARMP) Update was intended to start in January, but will now be starting in August, so this modification moves \$41,205 that would have been spent on that update to the Safety Policy Study within Task 102. This modification became effective February 5, and Ms. Riepl contacted the MPO's jurisdictions to inform them of some minor changes to their local match for 2025. Bismarck's local match was decreased by \$1,442 and Mandan's by \$206. Burleigh County's match was increased by \$1,236, Morton County's by \$206, and Lincoln's by \$206. Ms. Riepl noted she has not heard any concerns from the jurisdictions about this.

Mr. Hutchings asked when the FARMP Update will be completed, and Ms. Riepl said it will carry over into 2026. The MPO will be working on a 2026-2027 UPWP soon, and it is Ms. Riepl's intention to switch back to a biennial budget.

2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Larson presented. This month, the MPO processed three modifications to the 2025-2028 TIP. The first of these changes is to move a shared use trail project on Old Red Trail in Mandan from FY 2024 to FY 2025. The second modification moves a PCC Paving project on I-94 from FY 24 to FY 25. Finally, the third modification moves a collection of 6 projects for structure paint on various bridges along I-94 from FY 2025 to FY 2026.

Mr. Schell asked about the PCC Paving Project. He asked about the project it is tied to, cited as 26.6.06 on the modification form (it is 26.6.05). Mr. Larson said this project has the same description, but one is eastbound and one is westbound, and they have different PCN numbers. Mr. Schell and Mr. Hutchings discovered they are indeed separate projects, and Mr. Schell requested changing the project description so that the projects are not described as being tied together. Mr. Larson made note of this correction.

OTHER BUSINESS

MPO TAC Freight Representative

Mr. Stromme said he has been working with Mandan Mayor Froelich on the possible identification of a Freight Representative for TAC. Ms. Riepl said the MPO would be excited to fill this vacancy and offered to engage with potential candidates wanting more information.

ND Transportation Conference

Mr. Hutchings said the North Dakota Transportation Conference is open for registration. It will be March 4 and 5 at the Bismarck Event Center.

Government Partners Program Webinar

Ms. Riepl said Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA) is holding a Government Partners Program (GPP) webinar for the MPO on February 27 at 11:00 a.m. She has notified the GPP jurisdictional representatives and is encouraging those representatives to forward the webinar information to others. Even if someone cannot attend the webinar, registering will allow them to access a recording after the fact. The MPO's jurisdictions have submitted questions on the return of passenger rail service, and those questions will be answered at the webinar. The webinar will also showcase some initiatives undertaken by the City of Jamestown, and Missoula, Montana.

Bicycle Friendly Community Designation

Ms. Riepl said the MPO recently received a renewed Bronze designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community from the League of American Bicyclists. This designation will be good for another four years.

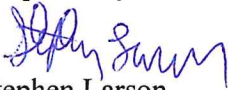
MPO Transportation Planner Opening

Ms. Riepl said the MPO is accepting applications to fill its open Transportation Planner position. There are postings in various places, but the easiest place is at www.bismarcknd.gov. Applications will be accepted through March 2.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m., with the next scheduled meeting to take place on March 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room of the City/County Building, 221 N 5th St, Bismarck.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephen Larson
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: ✓



MPO TAC Chair