

**BISMARCK-MANDAN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

The Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board met February 18, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room, City/County Building, 221 N 5th St, Bismarck, ND. Mike Schmitz presided.

Members present or participating via Zoom were Mike Schmitz, James Froelich, Keli Berglund, and Steve Schwab. Member absent was Andy Zachmeier.

Others present or attending via Zoom were Kim Riepl, Paulette Jacobsen, and Stephen Larson of the Bismarck-Mandan MPO; Luke Champa, SRF; Sharijad Hasan, NDSU/ATAC; and Will Hutchings, NDDOT.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schmitz called the February 18, 2025 meeting of the Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board to order.

MINUTES

Chair Schmitz called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025 Meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Froelich made a motion to approve the January minutes. Ms. Berglund seconded the motion and with James Froelich, Keli Berglund, Steve Schwab, and Chair Schmitz voting in favor, the motion was 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 are working on a study website and have developed a study logo. They are working to make sure the study will align with best practices and safety planning nationwide. They are on schedule 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.

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. Schmitz asked how the MPO will pay for the FARMP update. Ms. Riepl said the MPO was not able to start the FARMP update as early as intended, due to staffing issues. The current plan is to begin the update in August. Part of the budget will be covered in 2025, and the remainder will be budgeted for in 2026.

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. Schwab asked what the Federal Funding Source acronyms for these projects signify. Mr. Larson said the TAU designation on the trail project in Mandan refers to Transportation Alternatives grant funding, and the IM designation on the other two projects refers to Interstate Maintenance funds.

OTHER BUSINESS

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.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Schmitz adjourned at 1:57 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will take place March 18, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room the City/County Building, 221 N 5th St, Bismarck.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Larson
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:


MPO Policy Board Chair