

BISMARCK-MANDAN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 16, 2026

The Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met March 16, 2026, 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 included Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Chris Holzer attending for Gabe Schell, Loretta Marshik, Riley McAdoo-Roesler attending for Jarek Wigness, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Mitch Flanagan, Will Hutchings, and Kim Riepl. Member absent was Natalie Pierce. The Mandan City Planner and the Freight Industry Representative positions are vacant.

Others present or participating via Zoom included Stephen Larson, Tracy Walters and Paulette Jacobsen, Bismarck-Mandan MPO; Kristen Sperry, FHWA; Joel Mann; Bolton & Menk; and Paul Benning, WSB Engineering.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Riepl called for public comment on items on the current agenda or the prior Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting agenda, excluding public hearing items. Seeing and hearing none, she closed the public comment period.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Riepl stated the March TAC meeting consent agenda includes the February 17, 2026, TAC meeting minutes and the Fringe Area Roads Master Plan (FARMP) Update ATAC Addendum Time Extension.

MOTION: Ms. Hughes made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Ms. Marshik seconded the motion and with Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Chris Holzer, Loretta Marshik, Riley McAdoo Roesler, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Mitch Flanagan, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

2026-2029 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT

Mr. Larson stated this month, the MPO processed an amendment to the 2026-2029 TIP. The amendment was advertised for the required 15-day public comment period and no comments have been received. The amendment adds a new statewide project to the TIP for Automatic Traffic Record (ATR) maintenance. The project includes one location in the MPO area in Bismarck. The cost for this project is \$1,127,945. Staff is seeking a motion to recommend approval of the 2026-2029 TIP amendment.

Chair Riepl called for public hearing for the 2026-2029 TIP Amendment. Seeing and hearing no comments, she closed the public hearing.

MOTION: Ms. Hughes made a motion to recommend approval of the 2026-2029 TIP Amendment. Mr. Nairn seconded the motion and with Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Chris Holzer, Loretta Marshik, Riley McAdoo Roesler, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Mitch Flanagan, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

2026-2029 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT

Mr. Larson stated this month, the MPO processed a second amendment to the 2026-2029 TIP. The amendment is being advertised for the required 15-day public comment period. The public hearing will be held on Friday, March 27, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. in the David Blackstead Room on the 2nd floor of the City/County Office Building. The amendment adds a new statewide project to the TIP for pavement markings on various highways within NDDOT's Bismarck district (including some within the MPO area). Staff is seeking a motion to recommend approval contingent on no substantive public comments received at the public hearing.

MOTION: Mr. Holzer made a motion to recommend approval of the 2026-2029 TIP Amendment, contingent on no public comments received at the public hearing. Mr. Nairn seconded the motion and with Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Chris Holzer, Loretta Marshik, Riley McAdoo Roesler, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Mitch Flanagan, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

2026-2027 UPWP AMENDMENT

Ms. Riepl stated she will present the first amendment to the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which provides updates to the work programs and the budgets for the 2026 and 2027 years. These modifications are necessary in order to revise study dates, schedules and budgets to accommodate recent delays and the addition of projects required to prepare for the update to the Travel Demand Model (TDM) in early 2027. These additional projects are necessary for the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which is a required core document of the MPO. Approval by the MPO Policy Board and the Federal Highway Administration is required in order to enact this amendment.

Ms. Riepl gave an overview of the revisions to the 2026-2027 UPWP.

Ms. Riepl gave an overview of the modifications to the 2026 Task 102 Projects, Description and Schedules.

Mr. Nairn noted the description for the Parking Constrained Areas Study included the City of Mandan.

Ms. Riepl stated that she would take Mandan out of the description for the Parking Constrained Areas Study.

Mr. Hutchings asked if any discussion with Mandan has taken place to determine whether they had interest at a later time. He noted there is only a \$30,000 decrease in budget. The base cost for the City of Mandan to independently do the study at a later time would be a significant cost increase up to \$100,000.

Ms. Riepl stated the MPO had a discussion in January and the City of Mandan stated the timing wasn't right for them to participate in the study. She noted that the City of Mandan has expressed interest in participating in a potential 2029 study similar to this.

Ms. Riepl gave an overview of the amendments to the 2027 Task 102 Projects, Descriptions and Schedules.

Ms. Riepl gave an overview of the amendments to the Final Products.

Ms. Riepl gave an overview of the amendments to the 2026 UPWP Budget table, which had no change to the budget amount, nor the federal or local share but had changes to the local match breakdown for the participating jurisdictions.

Ms. Riepl gave an overview of the amendments to the 2027 UPWP Budget table, which include very high-level estimates regarding funding levels. The federal funding level shows an increase which we will likely have to adjust. When the next UPWP is developed, the revised budget worksheet will be provided to make sure everyone knows how the studies are moving between the years and what that might entail.

Ms. Riepl stated staff would be looking for a recommendation of approval of Amendment 1 to the 2026-2027 UPWP.

MOTION: Ms. Hughes made a motion to recommend approval of the 2026-2027 UPWP Amendment. Mr. Holzer seconded the motion and with Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Chris Holzer, Loretta Marshik, Riley McAdoo Roesler, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Mitch Flanagan, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

2026 FRINGE AREA ROAD MASTER PLAN (FARMP) UPDATE

Mr. Mann stated the evolution of a regionally significant corridor network takes a subset of the Fringe Area Road Master Plan (FARMP) network and designates corridors as regional priorities. The plan's next steps define how these priorities are identified, advanced and implemented. Significantly, the network would define major regional investments with potential MTP inclusion and NDDOT partnership.

Mr. Mann gave an overview of the recent stakeholder engagement that was held on March 11th and 12th. He noted that over 20 stakeholders representing agencies, private sector industry and community institutions had attended the meetings. This prompted several active discussions about new connections, market trends for development and major infrastructure, including new potential bridges. He provided a map of the FARMP opportunities which focuses on policy and detailed review on the core network for regional connectivity.

Mr. Mann stated 66th Street NE provides a continuous connection from north to south across fringe growth areas, including East Bismarck and Lincoln. He noted that 80th Street could be a preferred location for an interchange with I-94 due to emerging plans with the FARMP and its connection between Lincoln and the northeast fringe areas of Bismarck. He also stated that 66th Street NE to 71st Avenue North connects north Bismarck growth areas, provides regional ties with potential north river crossings and offers access to I-94.

Mr. Mann stated the 57th Avenue extension is the western extension of the 71st Avenue east-west corridor, selected because it links to a preferred candidate for a new northern Missouri River Crossing. He noted that topography issues are being identified and discussed as the FARMP study progresses.

Mr. Mann stated the McKenzie Drive corridor is currently a collector street covering a short distance which features an interchange with I-94 and Bismarck Expressway. He noted that potentially extending this corridor across the Heart River would provide connectivity directly to expanding southwest neighborhoods of Mandan and not require these areas to travel through downtown Mandan while traveling to Bismarck.

Mr. Mann noted the next steps for the FARMP project will include outreach discussions and community outreach events that will take place in late March or April in coordination with NDDOT.

FY27 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) SOLICITATION

Mr. Larson stated the North Dakota Parks and Recreation District solicitation for the fiscal year 2027 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) will open April 1, 2026, and close on April 13, 2026. The MPO has sent notice to the jurisdictions in February so that they may coordinate with the MPO to obtain project approval at the April or May TAC and Policy Board meetings. He noted the letter of support can be provided after the application window, since the timeframe does not align with the TAC and Policy Board meeting schedule.

2026 TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TDP) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) UPDATE

Ms. Jacobsen stated the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Transit Development Plan (TDP) was sent out on February 19, 2026, and the deadline is today, March 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. She noted that the goal is to have the selection committee conduct interviews with the proposing consultants within the week of April 13th. The MPO expects to bring the top-ranked consultants to TAC and Policy Board for possible approval at the April Board meetings.

SPRING DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT

Ms. Riepl stated that NDDOT and the North Dakota MPOs held their spring MPO Director's meeting on March 3, 2026. She noted NDDOT is in the midst of the update to their Long-Range Transportation Plan right now. NDDOT is excited to announce that they have an interactive funding tool which is designed so that people can budget their monthly transportation costs. Ms. Riepl noted the tool will assist with monthly transportation budgeting in your personal household and she encouraged everyone to try the interactive tool. The link for the interactive tool is www.dot.nd.gov/transportation-connection and can also be found on NDDOT's website.

Ms. Riepl stated there is approximately \$352,000 of unspent Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funds for fiscal year 2025 amongst the four MPOs.

- Central Dakota MPO reported \$38,000 in unspent CPG funds.
- Grand Forks, East Grand Forks MPO reported \$94,000 in unspent CPG funds.
- Fargo-Moorhead Metro COG (FM COG) reported \$65,000 in unspent CPG funds.
- Bismarck-Mandan MPO reported \$155,000 in unspent CPG funds.

Ms. Riepl explained that the MPOs had various reasons for not being able to spend down the CPG funding completely. The Bismarck-Mandan MPO experienced staffing and capacity issues in 2025 and spent the first six months filling positions and training staff. The four ND MPO Directors met to discuss their needs as far as projects and funding. The MPOs had two weeks to make a recommendation and provide that information to NDDOT. She noted that a signed letter was sent to NDDOT on Friday, March 13, 2026, stating that the Bismarck-Mandan MPO is requesting to receive approximately \$86,000 in turnback funds. If approved by NDDOT, these funds will be allocated within the 2027 budget and work program needs. Turnback funds will also be distributed between FM COG and Grand Forks, East Grand Forks and Central Dakota MPO, who contributed \$10,000 of funding to other MPOs in the state. NDDOT will address the recommendations of the MPOs and potentially send a letter of approval pending their review.

Ms. Riepl stated Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA), Surface Transportation Bill is set to expire on September 30, 2026. She noted Congress is preparing for the next surface transportation reauthorization and approval from Congress is necessary for the BASICS Act to take effect.

Ms. Riepl gave an overview of the proposed BASICS Act and provided examples of how it would affect the four ND MPOs. She also discussed the importance of all four of ND MPOs acting together to draft a letter of support stating their needs, concerns and priorities for the BASICS Act. She noted that NDDOT has proposed their own recommendations on the BASICS Act and would not be in collaboration with the MPO's in their letter of support; however, NDDOT has encouraged the MPOs to draft their own letter of support.

Mr. Holzer asked if the planning and project costs would increase with the BASICS Act.

Ms. Riepl stated yes, they are looking at increasing funding. The BASICS Act proposes specific types of funding for bridges and road projects. The BASICS Act will maintain the sub-allocations that are required. NDDOT has stated the funds come from the separate funding pods and that it can become challenging when they have the sub-allocations for cities of less than 5000 to 50,000; 50,000 to 200,000; and 200,000 plus; because those are mandated by the sub-allocations. She noted it hinders NDDOT in their flexibility to move funding into other areas where the state communities need it or maybe where the state could use it themselves.

Mr. Nairn asked if the MPO has weighed in on the federal transportation regulation with letters of support in the past, or if this would be a new process.

Ms. Riepl replied this is a new process. She explained that the MPOs feel that they have a lot to gain by expressing their needs and concerns, while adding the momentum of support and making sure to incorporate appropriate pieces of the bill that will benefit the MPOs in ND.

Mr. Hutchings stated that Chad Orn indicated at the Spring Directors meeting, that there is a House and Senate version of the BASICS Act bill that address two different angles. Ultimately, the direction of the BASICS Act is not necessarily any one bill in particular that will be passed. The bill will

be subject to change through modifications and amendments. He encouraged the four MPOs to draft a letter of support identifying the specific needs in ND and how the MPOs' needs will collectively be applied across multiple versions of the bill.

Ms. Riepl thanked Mr. Hutchings for his input and observations and she agreed that the BASICS Act will go through several iterations before it is passed.

Ms. Riepl stated the last item from the Spring Directors meeting is that the Urban Interstate Priorities process is going to resume. She noted it has been several years since discussions have taken place and that meetings will be scheduled for conversations to be held to address interstate priorities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hutchings stated the North Dakota Transportation Conference was held last week. He gave a shout out to Stephen Larson and Kim Riepl for presenting at the conference. Stephen was responsible for two sessions, and one of them was led by North Dakota Planning Association. He talked about planning efforts and what goes into transportation planning, as well as the MPO's work on the Bike-Ped Subcommittee. He noted both Stephen and Kim did an excellent job presenting and thanked them for their excellent presentations.

Ms. Riepl thanked Mr. Hutchings for his kind words and noted the North Dakota Transportation Conference was a successful conference which hosted over a thousand attendees.

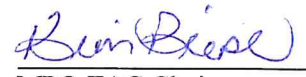
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m., with the next scheduled meeting to take place on April 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room, City/County Building, 221 N 5th St, Bismarck.

Respectfully submitted,


Tracy Walters
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:


MPO TAC Chair