

BISMARCK-MANDAN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JUNE 15, 2026

The Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met June 15, 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, Gabe Schell, Loretta Marshik, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Will Hutchings and Kim Riepl. Mitch Flanagan participated via Zoom but was not able to provide an audible vote. The members absent were Jarek Wigness and 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; Paul Benning, WSB Engineering; Jordan Woroniecki, WSB Engineering; Dena Ryan, WSB Engineering; Luke Champa, SRF and Joel Mann, Bolton & Menk.

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 called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

MOTION: Ms. Hughes made a motion to approve the consent agenda item. Ms. Marshik seconded the motion and with Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Gabe Schell, Loretta Marshik, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

DRAFT 2027-2028 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Ms. Riepl stated the UPWP is a two-year program and budget for the Bismarck-Mandan MPO and she provided an overview of the draft 2027-2028 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the changes made to the document.

- Introduction and Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area map
- MPO Board membership tables for TAC and Policy Board
- MPO's meeting dates for 2027 and 2028; Previous Accomplishments (2025-2026)
- Source of UPWP funds including a Bismarck-Mandan MPO Revenue table for 2027 and 2028
- Safe and Accessible Transportation Options, which includes Complete Streets funding for 2027 and 2028
- MPO's Eligible Expenses and UPWP Amendment Guidance
- Federal planning factors, MTP performance goals, UPWP projects which included a table addressing MTP goals addressed by program area 200 activities planned for years 2027-2028

- Timeline for Metropolitan Transportation Plan update

Ms. Riepl noted that a change in the 2027-2028 UPWP included several items that were moved to an Appendix section.

Mr. Hutchings noted that because the new federal transportation bill is being developed, the estimated amounts will be subject to change when the final numbers are calculated.

Ms. Riepl stated that the 2027-2028 UPWP consists of three task categories; Task 100, Task 200 and Task 300 and she provided an overview of each task category:

- Task 100: Administration Task. Administrative tasks are outlined by the MPO's bylaws. Task 100 includes a table that provides a timeline for the BMMPO's required work products including the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the UPWP and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) development for 2027 and 2028.
- Task 200: Professional Services/ Vendors/ Consultants. Task 200 provides an outline for BMMPO's studies and work program and includes a table for 2027 and 2028 Task 200 projects, descriptions and schedule. The table breaks down total project costs, budget allocation, target start or contract date and completion date for each study. Ms. Riepl gave an overview of the studies, costs, budget allocation and projected start and completion dates in the 2027-2028 UPWP tables.
- Task 300: Capital, Operational and Travel Expenses. Task 300 provides for the operational expenses and capital investments necessary to carry out the transportation planning process. Task 300 is divided into four categories which include rental space, lodging and associated travel expense, office operations and office supplies and subscriptions.

Ms. Riepl provided an overview of the Appendix of the 2027-2028 UPWP which includes the following:

- Transportation Planning Process Self Certification Document
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title VI and the Bismarck-Mandan MPO Public Participation Plan
- 2027 UPWP Budget Worksheet
- 2028 UPWP Budget Worksheet

Ms. Riepl noted that the draft 2027-2028 UPWP that is being presented to TAC and Policy Board is seeking a recommendation for approval contingent upon a 30-day comment period. A final document of the 2027-2028 UPWP will be brought back to TAC and Policy Board for adoption once all comments from TAC, Policy Board, NDDOT, FHWA, and FTA have been addressed.

Mr. Schell noted that the Traffic Data Analysis (TDA) project was only allocated \$140.00 in Task 200 for 2027 and asked if that was intentional.

Ms. Riepl replied that the TDA is intended to be concluded in 2026, however; the \$140.00 allocation for the TDA is intentional and that the MPO recognizes that the TDA may have some carryover funds to be allocated in 2027.

Mr. Hutchings added that this is a good practice to allocate funds into the next calendar year when studies end in December and costs are expected to carry over into January. He noted that the funds could be easily amended using this practice.

Mr. Nairn suggested that the budget tables in the Appendix should be on separate pages and use the landscape format in order to read them clearly.

Ms. Riepl replied that she would make that change. She also noted that for anyone looking at it digitally, the pages zoom in to be read clearly.

Mr. Schell asked if the two-year UPWP would be updated annually or biennially.

Ms. Riepl replied that the MPO updates the two-year UPWP annually.

Mr. Hutchings stated that NDDOT, FHWA, and FTA's oversight review is ongoing and they will be providing their comments during their review.

MOTION: Mr. Nairn made a motion to recommend approval of the draft 2027-2028 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), contingent upon the 30-day comment period. Mr. Schell seconded the motion and with Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Gabe Schell, Loretta Marshik, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN (PTASP) & TARGETS

Ms. Jacobsen stated the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires public transportation operators to develop the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) & Targets. The Transit Board adopts these targets and PTASP on an annual basis. Targets may be set by a state department of transportation and adopted by local transit providers or the provider may set their own safety targets separately. Bis-Man Transit set its own Safety Targets for 2026-2027 and adopted them in May 2026. FTA asks that the MPO support Bis-Man Transit's PTASP and safety targets. MPO staff is seeking a motion to recommend the adoption of the Resolution of Support.

MOTION: Ms. Marshik made a motion to recommend adoption of the Resolution of Support for the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) & Targets. Ms. Hughes seconded the motion and with Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Gabe Schell, Loretta Marshik, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

SFY 2027 BIS-MAN TRANSIT MID-YEAR 5339 GRANT APPLICATION

Ms. Jacobsen stated the NDDOT has solicited a mid-year grant opportunity for the SFY 2027, Section 5339 grant program, which is a bus and bus facilities program. Bis-Man Transit is requesting approval to submit their grant application for the mid-year grant opportunity. Bis-Man Transit is applying for two cutaway buses and if they are awarded, the federal share would be \$305,592 and Transit will provide the local share of \$53,928. The 5339-grant application was presented and approved at the June 9, 2026, Bismarck City Commission meeting. She noted that staff is seeking a recommendation for approval to submit the 5339 mid-year grant application.

MOTION: Ms. Hughes made a motion to recommend approval of the SFY 2027 Bis-Man Transit Mid-Year 5339 Grant Application. Ms. Marshik seconded the motion and with Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Gabe Schell, Loretta Marshik, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

BISMARCK-MANDAN MPO SELF-CERTIFICATION

Ms. Walters stated the Bismarck-Mandan MPO's self-certification is required by United States code. MPO's must certify their planning processes are being carried out in accordance with federal law, and that the MTP and TIP that the MPO develops are consistent with federal law. The self-certification must be updated at least every four years, but the MPO updates its self-certification each year as part of its annual TIP development. The self-certification declares MPO compliance with current highway bill legislation, specifically in ten different areas including MPO operations and functions, air quality control standards, Title VI, the Civil Rights Act, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and five areas of non-discrimination.

MOTION: Mr. Nairn made a motion to recommend approval of the Bismarck-Mandan MPO Self-Certification. Ms. Hughes seconded the motion and with Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock,

Deidre Hughes, Gabe Schell, Loretta Marshik, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

2026 PASSENGER RAIL STATION SITING STUDY CONSULTANT SELECTION

Ms. Riepl stated the interview for the Bismarck-Mandan MPO Passenger Rail Station Siting study was held Tuesday, June 9, 2026. The selection team included representatives from the City of Bismarck, City of Lincoln, City of Mandan, Burleigh County and Morton County. KLJ Engineering LLC (KLJ) was interviewed as the prime contractor, along with David Evans and Associates, INC. and Übl Design Group, P.C. as sub-consultants for the study. The selection committee's scoring indicates that they support the firms in their proposal and interview presentation. The MPO staff recommends KLJ, David Evans and Associates, INC. and Übl Design Group, P.C. to further negotiate and execute a contract.

Mr. Schell asked for clarification why the QBS letter does not specify that KLJ and their sub-consultants were the only interviewed consultant team for the study and therefore the selected entity.

Mr. Hutchings stated that the QBS letter states that the MPO followed the rules set forth by NDDOT.

Ms. Riepl stated that the letter that Mr. Schell is referring to is a qualification-based selection letter to certify that the MPO has followed all of the procedures outlined by NDDOT in performing a qualifications-based selection of a consultant. The MPO is also required to submit a QBS packet with substantive information pertaining to the items listed in the letter.

Mr. Hutchings noted that the consultant's name could appear in the QBS letter.

Mr. Nairn supported Mr. Hutchings suggestion that the selected consultant's name should be on the QBS letter.

***Secretary's Note:** A general discussion occurred regarding the QBS letter and procedures in which it was agreed upon that going forward, the MPO would add the consultant's name on the QBS letter. Ms. Riepl noted that the QBS letter is not an action item but will be signed by the Policy Board Chair upon Board approval and submitted to NDDOT.*

MOTION: Mr. Schell made a motion to recommend approval of the 2026 Passenger Rail Station Siting study consultant selection, contract negotiation and execution. Ms. Marshik seconded the motion and with Daniel Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Gabe Schell, Loretta Marshik, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

NDDOT 2026-2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Ms. Riepl stated the amendment to the NDDOT 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Contract is needed to reconcile the MPOs 2026-2027 UPWP funding budget with the additional allocation of \$1,031.93 from FTA's apportionment of section 5303 funds. She noted this is a standard contract amendment and that TAC and Policy Board approved this change to the UPWP at their May 2026 meetings. Ms. Riepl stated she is looking for a motion to recommend approval of the NDDOT 2026-2027 UPWP Contract amendment.

Mr. Schell asked if there was any discussion for the UPWP Contract to not include the dollar amount but instead look back to the UPWP as approved. He noted that this could significantly save employee time and effort.

Mr. Hutchings added that it is NDDOT's practice to make sure that the dollar amount is listed in the UPWP contract.

MOTION: Ms. Hughes made a motion to recommend approval of the NDDOT Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) contract amendment. Mr. Schell seconded the motion and with Daniel

Nairn, Dan Schriock, Deidre Hughes, Gabe Schell, Loretta Marshik, John Saiki, Logan Beise, Will Hutchings and Chair Riepl voting in favor, the motion was approved.

2026 FRINGE AREA ROAD MASTER PLAN (FARMP) UPDATE

Mr. Mann stated the Fringe Area Road Master Plan (FARMP) study drafts will be reviewed by the Steering Committee in late June to early July and ready for public review by the end of July to early August. Presentations to member jurisdictions will occur in August and TAC and Policy Board adoption meetings are anticipated for September 2026. He noted the refinement of the Fringe Area Road Master Plan (FARMP) concept has recognized major regional routes will be subject to separate standards and expectations. NDDOT corridors that have been identified will be reviewed by the MPO to consider whether regional functions might be precluded by development action. The MPO, TAC and Policy Board would review these types of scenarios and make a recommendation back to the member jurisdiction.

Mr. Mann stated each of the six hot spot locations being addressed have potential design and management strategies. He noted that receiving feedback from staff, TAC, Policy Board and Stakeholders is important to determine new areas that need to be addressed. Mr. Mann provided an example targeting the topographical issues for the proposed on 57th Avenue Extension, and potential for a new northern bridge over the Missouri River. He added that the plan is considering multiple alternatives routes and locations to address factors that are currently unknown. By laying out different options, they can weigh the pros and cons of each one to determine the best route, while addressing cost and the functionality of connecting roads. Mr. Mann stated public review for upcoming study drafts will include report documents to provide detail on processes and overall recommendations. Dynamic maps will allow review of the FARMP network with multiple attributes helping to explain revised statuses. He noted that the anticipated adoption meetings for TAC and Policy Board will potentially take place in September 2026.

Mr. Schell asked if the Steering Committee would have an opportunity to look at the materials before the meeting as this would engage the members in discussion.

Mr. Mann stated he would provide information to the Steering Committee members before the next meeting. He noted he has been talking to staff about providing additional week of review time for the Steering Committee members to provide comments.

Mr. Schriock noted that a lot of the groundwork for 57th Avenue has already been done. He noted they acquired a significant amount of right-of-way through that corridor. He noted that this is the first time he has seen that link potentially being eliminated and stated that it would be beneficial for the Steering Committee and partners to have input on the 57th Avenue NW project.

ROADWAY PROJECTS UPDATE

NDDOT: Mr. Beise stated that on Memorial Highway, they are working on Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 has some concrete, median pavement, shared use path work, and striping left. Phase 2 at Mandan Avenue and Main Street intersection is on pace to have this opened up by June 27th. Work will also begin on Memorial Highway, east of Main Street for shoulder work on the main line. Main Street and Mandan Avenue intersection will be open by July 4, 2026. Curb and gutter projects are ongoing at Exit 161 as well as sign foundations, concrete pavement, a cantilever sign and some striping. The Exit 161 project is on target to be completed by mid-to-end of July.

City of Bismarck: Mr. Schell stated they have two federally funded roadway projects. The first is at Centennial Rd and Jericho Rd which will implement pedestrian improvements such as putting a rectangular rapid flash beacon at that intersection. The second project is at 19th Street and Century Avenue, which is a signal project and turn lane modifications project.

- Burleigh County:** Mr. Schriock stated most of Burleigh County's projects are currently in the pre-construction meeting phase. They will anticipate starting their flex-fund projects in July.
- City of Lincoln:** Ms. Marshik stated they are working behind the scenes to develop projects starting next year.
- City of Mandan:** Mr. Wigness was not present at the meeting to provide an update for the City of Mandan.
- Morton County:** Mr. Saiki stated their projects within the MPO area will anticipate to start in August. They currently are working on projects in western Morton County.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hutchings stated that NDDOT has conducted BMMPO's mid-year review and it was very successful. He noted that they were impressed with BMMPO's staff and their responses to NDDOT's questions at the meeting. He congratulated BMMPO on a job well done.

Mr. Larson stated that the proposal period for the Curb Management Study has closed. He added that the MPO received three compliant proposals from KLJ, SRF and Walker Consulting. Consultant interviews are anticipated to take place in July and consultant approval will be brought back to TAC and Policy Board at the July meetings.

Ms. Riepl stated that the next TAC meeting will be held on July 20, 2026, at the Mandan City Hall in the Ed "Bosh" Froehlich Meeting Room, 205 2nd Ave NW, Mandan ND.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m., with the next scheduled meeting to take place on July 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ed "Bosh" Froehlich Meeting Room, City Hall, 205 2nd Ave NW, Mandan, ND.

Respectfully submitted,


Tracy Walters
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

MPO TAC Chair