

## 76th Avenue South Corridor Study – SRC #1

Metro COG Conference Room – Case Plaza – One 2nd Street North, Suite 232, Fargo, ND 58102

Date: December 18, 2018 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm

### Meeting Attendees:

- Peggy Harter – Stantec Consulting
- Joel Paulsen – Stantec Consulting
- Brent Holper – City of Horace
- Barrett Voigt – Cass County
- Kyle Litchy – Cass County
- Michael Maddox – Metro COG
- Jeremy Gorden – City of Fargo
- Aaron Nelson – City of Fargo
- Bob Walton – NDDOT Fargo District
- Mark Lemer – West Fargo Public Schools
- Jim Frueh – Fargo Public Schools
- Jason Benson – Cass County
- Angela Bolstad – Stantec Consulting (via Phone Conference)

### Meeting Discussion Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions – Michael Maddox welcomed everyone to the SRC Meeting for the 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South Corridor Study. Peggy Harter introduced herself as the Stantec project manager for the corridor study and then introduced the study by reviewing the “About this Project” and “Why this Study” sections of the project newsletter handout. Peggy then asked each SRC member to introduce themselves and provide input as to the most important aspects and needs of this study for their agency. Responses from each SRC members is as follows:
  - Joel Paulsen – Stantec Consulting – assisting Peggy with public and agency outreach. Joel is also working with the City of Horace on the update to their comprehensive plan and wants to ensure that the two plans coordinate efforts where needed. Particularly when looking at future land uses and growth assumptions.
  - Brent Holper – City of Horace – identifying future land use and the future elements and attributes of the corridor in how it looks. To ensure consistency between the multiple stakeholders.
  - Barrett Voigt – Cass County – Land use and transportation



- Kyle Litchy – Cass County – what will happen between 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and I-29 – who will be the jurisdictional owner.
- Michael Maddox – Metro COG – ensure the roadway will operate at a regional level but also be responsive to the local context.
- Jeremy Gorden – City of Fargo – interested in the future interchange and potential configuration with I-29 and 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South
- Aaron Nelson – City of Fargo – how this study relates to the City’s Comp Plan Go2030 and vision/goals of the City of Fargo
- Bob Walton – NDDOT – interested in how we handle the interchange with I-29 or grade separation realizing that we need to provide justification to install the interchange. Also interested in what is being done on the east termini of the corridor with a potential Red River crossing. Is this still a possibility with all the past discussions and current buyouts?
- Mark Lemer – West Fargo School District – interest in traffic flow and how it relates to the future West Fargo school district. They will be a major traffic generator and looking for alternative routes for students and residents of the City of Horace to gain access to the Metro.
- Jim Frueh – Fargo Public School District – interested in traffic flow for Davies and new 80 acres purchased for a future elementary and middle school. Recently purchased from the Boys and Girls Ranch.
- Jason Benson – Cass County – interested in what is going out in Horace with CR 17 and CR 6 along with challenges dealt with in the past on University Drive and potential for future Red River crossing.

**Action Item:** Jim Frueh will send Peggy Harter the property that was recently purchased by Fargo Public Schools. – **COMPLETE as of 12/19/2018**

2. Review Scope of Work and Project Schedule – Peggy referenced everyone to the scope of work and updated project schedule in their packet. She pointed out the top tasks to be completed for the study and the timeline of their completion with an anticipated study completion date of November 2019.
3. Public Participation Plan – The following items were discussed regarding the public participation plan for the 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South corridor study:
  - Project Branding – Peggy reviewed the project branding attachment. No comments were made on the project branding.
  - SRC Meetings – Peggy reviewed the project schedule noting that this is the first of six (6) SRC meetings to occur for this study. She noted that the role of the SRC members were to provide



input and feedback on project materials for the study. The SRC members are also requested to attend all six SRC meetings and the one project public input meeting.

- Stakeholder Meetings – Peggy noted that three (3) stakeholder meetings will occur throughout the study. The first stakeholder meeting will occur in January where Stantec staff will meet one on one with the project stakeholders to discuss the study and any plans within the project area. The second and third stakeholder meetings are planned to be held as a group to have a hand in the visioning and alternative development for the project. The SRC members reviewed the “Adjacent Property Ownership” map handout as they discussed stakeholders for the corridor study. The SRC asked if every jurisdiction will need to approve the plan regarding including elected officials as project stakeholders. Michael Maddox responded that since Metro COG’s policy board, which includes elected officials from every jurisdiction, will have to approve the study, then in a sense they will. Metro COG would like each of the involved jurisdictions to approve the study, but they don’t have to.

The stakeholders identified at the meeting are listed below. Additional stakeholders should be identified by SRC members by January 3, 2019.

- Developers:
  - Kevin Christianson
  - Ace Brandt
  - Dabbert Custom Homes, LLC
  - Eagle Ridge Developer for the Madelyn Meadows Development.
  - Randy Kramer for Tom McInnes property
  - Dennis and Cathy Holmen property
- Elected Officials:
  - Mary Scherling – Cass County Commission chair
  - Duan Breitling – Cass County Commissioner with the highway and planning portfolio
  - Shara Fischer – City of Fargo Planning Chair
  - Tony Grindberg – City of Fargo Planning Department’s Commission Liaison (Note: reach out to Tony through Nicole Crutchfield)
  - City of Fargo staff decided not to add any City Commissioners to the stakeholder group
  - John Koerselman – Horace City Council
  - Kory Peterson – City of Horace Mayor
- Stanley Township – Todd Ellig – Stanley Township Chair and Cass County Planning Commission
- Major Utilities – OH Powers, Minnkota (Major substation), Stantec will review maps received by the utility one-call to determine if additional utilities should be added.



- SE Cass Rural Water District
- Fargo Park District
- St. Benedicts Cemetery – Check with Tom Soucy for a contact
- Project Website – Peggy reviewed the project website at [www.76thAvestudy.com](http://www.76thAvestudy.com). The website is currently password protected with the password as “password.” Once the SRC gives final approval of website review, the website will go live in January. The website will allow the public to stay informed throughout the duration of the study. SRC members should send any comments on the project website by January 3, 2019.
- Project Newsletters – Peggy reviewed the project newsletter handout and noted that the three (3) separate newsletters will be sent out during the study. The intent is to keep members of the public informed throughout the study. The committee reviewed the first draft project newsletter. Ms. Harter noted that the newsletter will be mailed out ½ mile both north and south of the corridor limits. Addresses were requested from Fargo, Horace and Cass County for ½ mile both north and south of the corridor within the study limits. The follow items were recommended as changes to the existing project newsletter:
  - Put relevant past studies in order of completion from, newest to oldest
  - The City of Horace noted that there may be a push for 63<sup>rd</sup> to be more of the north/south arterial than 66<sup>th</sup> Street. The City has also talked to the property owner about shifting 63<sup>rd</sup> Street.
    - Have talked to property owners about shifting 63<sup>rd</sup>
  - Change the future north/south major roadways being shown with arrows from “proposed” to “potential”
  - Concern with showing the school layout as it isn’t currently approved. The school district decided if we hatch over the layout, so it is less legible, then we can show the approved layout on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter as it will be approved by then.
  - Peggy Harter noted that we would like to receive any additional comments on the newsletter by January 3<sup>rd</sup>

**ACTION ITEM: Stantec** – update the project newsletter

**ACTION ITEM: Horace, Fargo and Cass County** – provide address lists for the property owners within ½ mile north and south of the corridor to receive the project newsletter within the corridor study boundaries.

- Public input meeting – Peggy noted that there will be one public input meeting after preliminary alternative development has occurred for the corridor. SRC members should do their best to try and attend the meeting. The same meeting will be held twice – once in Fargo and once in Horace.



4. Review Existing and Future Forecast Condition Information – Peggy Harter shared the following documents for discussion with the SRC Members for existing and forecast conditions. Comments discussed during the meeting are identified under each.
  - Existing conditions maps
    - Bob Walton questioned what the existing right of way is along the corridor. Jason Benson responded that right of way west of I29 is the standard 33'. However, this will be changing soon with re-platting for the school property along the south side of 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to have an additional 25-feet of right of way (total 58-feet) from Lake View to 63<sup>rd</sup> Street.
    - Peggy Harter noted that existing right of way is not showing up on any of the maps. Stantec will add the existing right of way on the jurisdictional ownership map. Stantec will add this to the map including the re-platting happening now with the West Fargo school site.
    - Peggy discussed how everyone is using the future land use plan for decisions, but no one has adopted it yet. We won't be developing new future land use maps of the entire southwest area for each agency to adopt as part of this study, but we do want to make sure we are using the correct planning assumptions as needed for transportation planning purposes.
    - Michael added that future land use is an important element in transportation planning, so it is important to coordinate between the two.
    - The City of Horace and West Fargo School District noted that our existing conditions map may need to be updated to show the proposed 2019 roadway project for current conditions. Peggy said we can add this in as a 2019 committed project to show it as a 4-lane divided concrete pavement roadway.
    - Peggy asked for concurrence on showing a long-range bike facility from 45<sup>th</sup> Street and 25<sup>th</sup> Street (as shown in SWMTP). The group suggested we add this as a long-range project to our map. Bob Walton asked Metro COG to amend this into the Bike-Ped plan. Michael Maddox said they can add it into the LRTP that is being updated now as that document supersedes the Bike-Ped Plan.
    - The group asked to add a note of some kind to the bike-ped map indicating that a future Red River crossing at or near 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South should have a 10-foot or wider facility to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.
    - Jeremy Gorden asked if Drain 53 could be re-routed through the future interchange area at 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Bob Walton replied that they will not want to reroute the legal drains through NDDOT right of way as that area gets identified as a jurisdictional wetland and then NDDOT struggles to maintain the interchange area or make any needed changes to the interchange area in the future.



**ACTION ITEM: Stantec** – update the existing conditions maps as noted in this summary.

**ACTION ITEM: Metro COG** – add in the long-term bike facility along 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South between 45<sup>th</sup> Street and 25<sup>th</sup> Street as part of the LRTP update.

- Relevant Studies Write-Up – Peggy Harter introduced the relevant studies write-up noting that there are multiple past studies and plans that have some relationship or relevance to the 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South corridor. She asked each jurisdiction to review the past studies that relate to them and provide comments no later than January 3, 2019. Comments received during the meeting include:
  - Re-order the studies from newest to oldest (same as the order for the list of projects on the inside of the project newsletter.)
  - Make updates to the Go2030 Fargo Comp Plan that were received via e-mail from Aaron ahead of the meeting.

**ACTION ITEM: Stantec** – Make updates to the relevant studies write-up as noted above.

- Future forecast ADT Volumes discussion – Peggy wanted to begin the discussion with the SRC members on the options for future forecast ADT Volumes. A group discussion should occur on which future forecast traffic volumes to use. She asked the committee members if we should use the SWMTP volumes or should we hold off for the updated LRTP volumes? Michael gave an update on the status of the travel demand model for Metro Grow 2045. Existing and committed network are complete. Metro COG is planning to model growth centers. Physical constraints will be used so growth will be less than SWMTP. The SRC discussed that the travel demand modeling for the SWMTP was done well and is likely the best way to look at the full-build plan for the area so that we know what is needed for preservation for the future long-term needs. Peggy added that we need to agree which travel demand model output we hang our hat on as this will determine the forecast traffic volumes for corridor capacity needs. We will need to decide this as Jan/Feb comes around and we begin our Visioning for the future portion of the study. At the end of this discussion, most SRC members were leaning toward using the TDM results from the SWMTP for identifying future traffic volumes along the corridor. Peggy asked the SRC members to review the SWMTP on Metro COG's website and provide concurrence.

**ACTION ITEM: All SRC Members** – Review the Southwest Metropolitan Transportation Plan on Metro COG's website by January 15, 2019 and provide feedback on whether we should use the SWMTP Best Case Scenario for development of future corridor daily traffic volume projections.



- Peggy then asked each SRC member to share any new infrastructure plans with the group to include in existing or forecast committed projects – new transportation, utilities, pending developments, schools, etc.
  - Mark Lemer asked about the possibility of 45<sup>th</sup> Street extending down to 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South? This may affect the impacts for the pressure onto I-29 for an interchange. This is a question to the City of Fargo. Michael responded that he knows it will be built down to 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue South but that will be short one mile down to 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Peggy Harter asked if the additional one-mile extension could be a County roadway?
  - Jason Benson noted that after 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South is complete, most of CR 6 will be turned over to the Cities (except for the Sheyenne River Bridge which will be done in 2023). Current discussions as to whether the County Commission is going to accept new mileage with the CR 6 turnback are ongoing. Bob Walton added that Cass County will be very busy with roadways if the Red River Diversion is approved.
  - Aaron Nelson noted that the City of Fargo is working on a study right now, not quite complete, but is a growth scenario looking at land consumption rates and what type of density that buildout occurs at. Aaron will send this to us to compare to the SWMTP assumptions.
  - Jason Benson noted that the substation at the intersection of 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and CR 17 could go away. This is a smaller substation and new service could be coming from a new station further to the east.
  - Improvements between CR 17 and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street will be a 4-lane divided urban roadway section to be completed in 2019. This includes a shared use path/trail on the south side of 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.
  - The City of Horace is also putting in a shared use path along the east side of Lakeview Drive and on the south side as it turns and goes west. Lighting will also go in with the 2019 project, especially at the roundabout. If the underground is in place along the corridor, they could wait to put in the lights until this study identifies a continuous aesthetic.
  
- 5. Segments of Like Context Exercise – Peggy explained that given the length and differences along the 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue South corridor, there may be the need to identify segments of like context that will have differing transportation needs. Peggy then distributed the “Segments of Like Context” worksheet to each of the SRC members and provided time for them to rank the criteria that they feel should be used when identifying the segments of like context. Jason Benson questioned what might be the result of the segments of like context? Peggy responded that it may provide guidance on breaking points for some of the following items:
  - Future functional classification



- Future access restrictions
- Future roadway section
- Future right of way needs
- Comparison to the roadway types in Metro COG’s recently completed access study
- Others to be determined.

Each member completed the Segments of Like Context worksheet. The segments of like context could be based on a variety of physical and political features. The worksheet provided five options in which the segments could be broken out into as future traffic volumes, future land uses, natural boundaries (rivers, diversion, drains, etc.), major north-south intersecting roadways (both existing and proposed), and jurisdictional ownership. The SRC was asked to rank each of the criteria based on a scale of 1 to 5 where a score of 1 is the least important and 5 is the most important for consideration. A total of nine scoring sheets were received. The average results of the scoring are shown in the table below:

Criteria	Individual Scores									Total Score	Average Score
Future Traffic Volumes	2	3	5	5	5	4	3	2	2	31	3.44
Future Land Uses	5	5	4	4	3	3	4	4	5	37	4.11
Natural Boundaries (Rivers, diversions, drains, etc.)	2	5	3	2	2	4	3	3	4	28	3.11
Major North-South Intersecting Roadways (Existing and Proposed)	3	5	5	3	4	5	5	5	4	39	4.33
Jurisdictional Ownership	1	2	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	18	2.00

6. Next Project Steps – Peggy reviewed the next project steps as follows:

- **ACTION ITEM: SRC Members** – should send comments on all SRC materials by January 3, 2019. Please see individual action items throughout this meeting summary and respond to them by January 3, 2019 as well.
- Finish existing conditions report – January 2019
- Hold Stakeholder Meeting #1 – January 2019
- Send out Newsletter #1 – January 2019
- Schedule and prepare for SRC #2 – February 2019

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.



# SRC Meeting #1 – Meeting Summary

76<sup>TH</sup>  
AVE

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

**Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.**



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Attachments: Meeting Sign in Sheet and Meeting Handouts



**76th Avenue South Corridor Study**

**METROCOG**  
FARGO-WOODHEAD METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## 76th Avenue South Corridor Study – SRC #1

Metro COG Conference Room – Case Plaza – One 2nd Street North, Suite 232, Fargo, ND 58102

Date December 18, 2018 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL ADDRESS
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