



EDITOR'S DIALOGUE

Greetings from the Bis-Man MPO! The office has been full of activity and we are excited to share updates about our current projects and recently completed studies. Enjoy our newest edition of Metro-Link, a biannual update of MPO studies and transportation initiatives.

Our goal at the MPO is to plan for productive transportation in all forms - motor, pedestrian, cycling, and mass transit. Metro-Link is designed to connect you, our stakeholders, to our office and the many projects we undertake. The current issue will inform you on major studies and products produced by the MPO in recent months. Topics include the draft 2015 - 2018 TIP, updated Fringe Area Road Master Plan, draft 2015 - 2040 LRTP, and the importance of citizen participation in MPO planning activities. Maintaining a focus on relevant MPO issues is our highest priority. We hope you receive our newest publication with enthusiasm and interest.

Also note that our website has recently changed, as well as our email addresses. All our studies and contact info can be found at: www.bismarcknd.gov/mpo

If you have comments or questions, please direct them to: whutchings@bismarcknd.gov

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Each year the Bismarck-Mandan MPO releases an updated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This document details federally funded projects in queue for start-up within the next four years. Updated in partnership with MPO area jurisdiction members, Bis-Man Transit, and the North Dakota Department of Transportation, the TIP provides a guide for planning, budgeting and implementing MPO area transportation projects. Although MPOs are only federally mandated to publish a TIP every 4 years, the Bismarck-Mandan MPO - as well as the other North Dakota MPOs - publish their TIPs annually. All TIP projects are consistent with the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), an MPO planning document that provides a long term strategy for transportation development.

TIP projects aim to improve all avenues of regional transportation - roadways, transit, bicycles and pedestrian movement. The draft 2015-2018 TIP was approved by the Policy Board in September. It outlines several projects, including Transit funding related expenditures, expansion projects for Washington St. (north of Century Ave.) in Bismarck and reconstruction projects for Old Red Trail and 27th St. NW in Mandan. It also outlines an intersection improvement at Highway 10 and N 66th St., as well as traffic signal improvements along Bismarck Expressway in Bismarck and Memorial Highway and Main Street in Mandan / Morton County.

The completed TIP can be viewed in its entirety on the City of Bismarck's Community Development web page. Under 'Metropolitan Planning Organization', click 'MPO Publications', followed by 'Transportation Improvement Program'

CONNECTING THE BISMARCK-MANDAN
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) PARTNERS

Autumn / Winter 2014 Edition

editor's dialogue
featured mpo initiatives

- TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
- FRINGE AREA ROAD MASTER PLAN
- CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
- 2015-2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

alternative mpo initiatives

- PAST AND PRESENT MPO PROJECTS AND STUDIES

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metro-link
the newsletter of the Bismarck-Mandan MPO
Fall / Winter 2014



Updated Fringe Area Road Master Plan

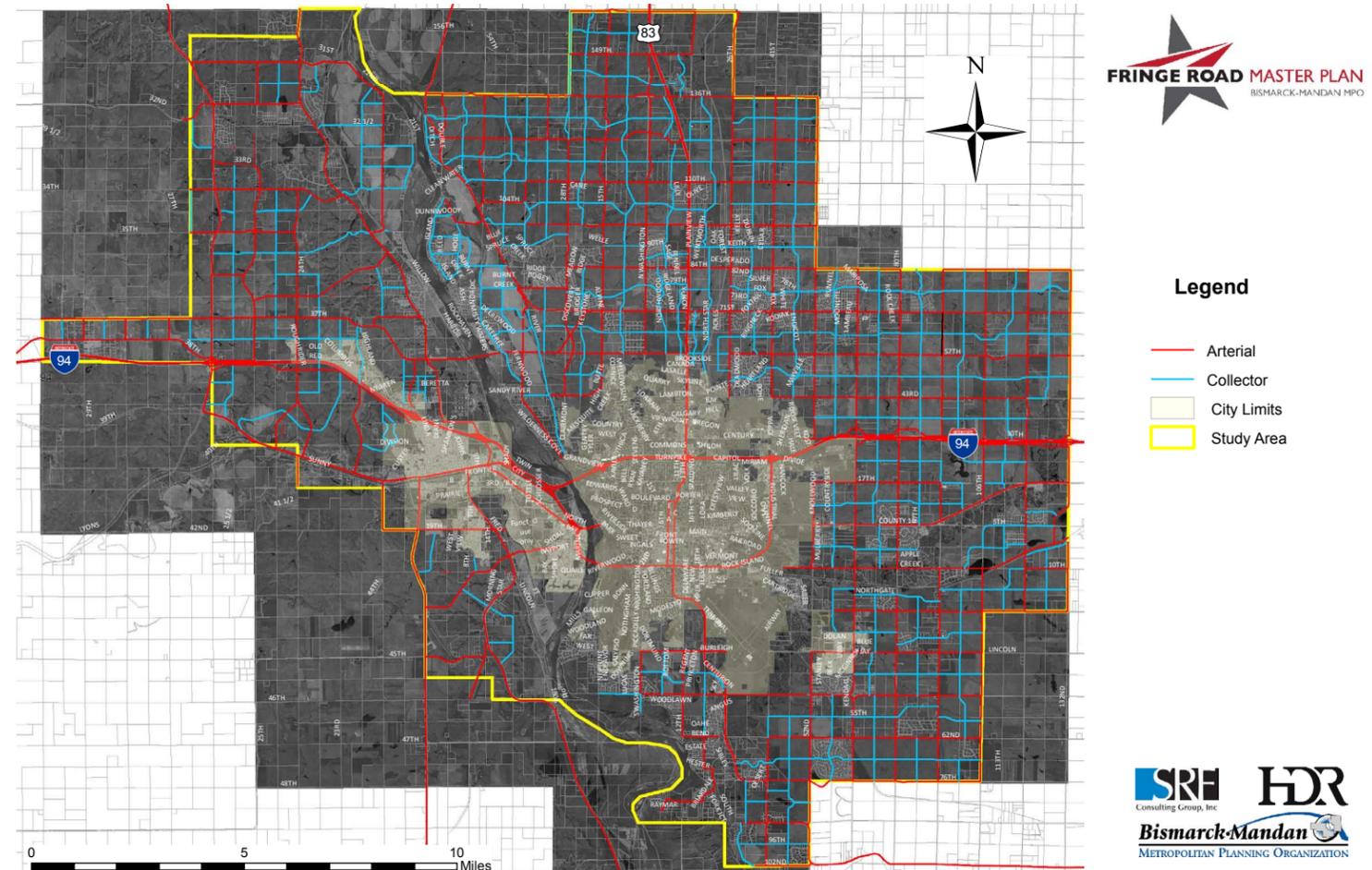
The MPO recently adopted a new Fringe Area Road Master Plan, completed by SRF Consulting Group Inc., to address the growing Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Fringe Areas. The Fringe Area Road Master Plan serves as a framework for a suitable future roadway network and will also help guide land use planning for the future. It is one of the most referenced planning documents produced by the MPO and is used by jurisdictions and developers.

Substantial economic and population growth trends have brought significant new housing and business development in areas that lay outside the current city limits and jurisdictions. The 2014 Fringe Area Road Master Plan study establishes the anticipated arterial and collector roadway infrastructure for this area. The last Fringe Area Road Master Plan was completed in 2003. The latest study builds on previous recommendations and incorporates new areas of focus, primarily in the north and west. This study was started in November 2013 with a vision and goals workshop. Through a series of meetings with stakeholders, refinements and alternative proposals were made to determine technically feasible options. The findings were sent for commission review and adopted at the September, 22 2014 MPO Policy Board meeting.

2014 Fringe Area Road Master Plan Study Objectives:

- Reflected current and/or known changes to land ownership boundaries, such that appropriate access is provided.
- Resulted in corridor alignments consistent with applicable local and state design guidelines.
- Provided transportation facilities that complement the adjacent land uses.
- Promoted input by the public property owners and community officials.
- Provided opportunities for landowners and developers to propose logical modifications to the arterial and collector networks to address the fluid nature of development plans over time.

The updated report also included an amendment process, which was a new addition from the 2003 Fringe Area Road Master Plan. Because parcel development may deviate from proposed master plans, the 2014 study included an amendment process to provide developers, landowners, jurisdictional agencies and planning staff a logical and consistent method for reviewing future changes. Each of the five jurisdictions will now incorporate a review process so that amendments are consistent across jurisdictions.



Above: Proposed Fringe Area Collector & Arterial road connections .

Citizen Participation

Promoting Involvement in Transportation Planning

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody." - Jane Jacobs

The MPO welcomes and encourages citizen involvement in several aspects of our planning process. Citizen engagement plays a key role in all of the documents, reports and studies we produce. Often times, citizens may have information that is more current or detailed than is available to transportation professionals. They may also see things in different ways than transportation officials and stakeholders, so we want to hear and gather input from those who live in the area and are affected by our communities' transportation systems.

Ways to Connect with our MPO

We offer a variety of ways that citizens may connect with us through public meetings, social media and comment opportunities. We ask that our stakeholders help us build stronger conversations about transportation planning by asking your friends, colleagues, neighbors, family and others to get involved.

1. Put your name on a mailing list to receive newsletters, updates, and other information. We offer Email / Text Message Notifications: From www.bismarcknd.gov go to 'Online Services', click on 'Notify Me', then enter your email address and sign in to receive email or text message notifications for any of the following: Bid Postings (Community Development), Headlines & Announcements (Community Development – Metropolitan Planning Organization), Calendar (Community Development), Agenda (Policy Board - MPO).
2. Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BismarckMandanMPO>
3. Attend transportation meetings of MPO, State and jurisdictional entities.
4. Provide your input on transportation plans and programs. A complete and current list of all MPO Planning Studies and Documents can be found on our website: www.bismarcknd.gov/mpo
5. Ask an MPO Planner to talk with you about a transportation project or study that is of interest to you.

Long Range Transportation Plan

The 2015 - 2040 Bismarck-Mandan MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a guide for the development of the area's transportation system over the next 20+ years. The LRTP is required by federal regulations governing all MPO jurisdictions and is required to be updated once every five years in order to maintain eligibility for federal transportation dollars. The updates allow the communities an opportunity to re-examine their values related to transportation as well as provide a variety of visions about the future goals and direction of our transportation system.

The LRTP address transportation system needs and provides a set of methods, strategies and actions for developing an integrated multi-modal transportation system. This system supports the efficient, effective, secure and safe movement of people and goods while preserving the existing system, enhancing the local economy, and limiting impact to the built, social and natural environment.

Currently, the draft of the 2015 – 2040 LRTP is nearing completion. Over the next few months the document is expected to be completed. It will then be presented and approved by the TAC and Policy Board for adoption for 2015.

YEAR

2012

2013

2014

Additional MPO Initiatives

Following is a brief overview of past MPO studies:

Bismarck NW Sub-area Study

- Focused on the undeveloped region of northwest Bismarck -- an area anticipated to have significant urban residential development.
- Anticipated development necessitated a study to identify potential corridor systems and their impact on mobility.

Traffic Demand Model Review

- Evaluated the MPO transportation model and its ability to meet current needs.
- Provided information about future traffic forecasts.

Transit Development Plan (TDP)

- Comprehensive review of area transit services.
- Identified transit needs and resources necessary to develop future services in the growing region.

43rd Avenue Corridor Study

- By 2040, the population and development around 43rd Street will be dramatically increased.
- Focuses on a seven mile section between Butte Drive and 80th Street.
- Assesses future travel needs including emergency management, travel mobility and safety, and sustainable economic growth.

Interligent Transport Systems (ITS) Update

- Communication and coordination of agencies, devices and technological services to improve traffic operations, safety and response times during emergencies.

Downtown Bismarck Sub-Area Study

- Comprehensive review aimed at improving all aspects of Downtown Bismarck.
- Recommendations included: Main Ave. traffic calming, repurposing the Depot as a public plaza, 5th Street improvements and developing a Convention Center / Hotel area.

I-94 Corridor Study

- Identifies and addresses current and future transportation issues along approximately 17 miles of I-94 from ND Highway 25 in Mandan to 80th St NE in Bismarck and its crossing roadways.

To learn more about these and other studies, visit 'MPO Studies and Projects' on the Bismarck-Mandan MPO web page: www.bismarcknd.gov/mpo



Legend

- Arterial
- Collector
- City Limits
- Study Area

