

**To:** Cass County Board of Commissioners  
Robert Wilson, Cass County Administrator  
**From:** Cindy Gray, Executive Director  
**Date:** March 14, 2019  
**Re:** **Metro COG Articles of Association**

Many of you know that Metro COG has experienced some leadership transitions over the past year and a half. Prior to that, the City of Horace became a dues-paying member of Metro COG and, as such, has been participating in our Executive Committee, Policy Board and Transportation Technical Committee, and has benefitted from the use of Federal transportation planning funds for projects such as the Horace Comprehensive and Transportation Plan and the 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue S Corridor Study, which has a multi-jurisdictional participation. Both of these are much needed projects that will benefit the metro area as a whole given that Horace's growth has accelerated and a new middle school and high school is being constructed within the city.

The attached amendments to the Articles of Association were prepared to reflect the addition of the City of Horace as a participating member of Metro COG. They were approved by the Policy Board during the leadership transition, but were not presented to each of the participating jurisdictions for their approval. To bring closure to this matter, I am requesting your approval of the Articles of Association, as amended, with the addition of one further change.

The proposed amendments are shown in Attachment 1, and are summarized as follows:

- Page 2 – Article III. Membership.
  - Amend minimum voting membership from six to seven, to recognize that there are seven full members of Metro COG (Cass County, Clay County, Dilworth, Fargo, Horace, Moorhead, West Fargo).
  - Increase the maximum membership from 15 to 16, to allow for the addition of one voting Policy Board member from Horace.
- Page 6 – Article VI. Executive Committee.
  - Amend paragraph 6.01 so it no longer refers to six Policy Board members, but refers to one member from each of the voting member local jurisdictions.

The full amended document is provided as Attachment 2. Metro COG requests that each jurisdiction approve the amendments to ensure that the Articles of Association reflect the addition of the City of Horace as a member of Metro COG and provide a signed signature page (see final pages of Attachment 2) to Metro COG.

**Requested Action: Approve the recommended amendments to the Metropolitan Council of Governments Articles of Association.**

affirmative vote of sixty-six percent (66%) of the total voting membership of the Council.

- 1.08. **Expansion of the MPAB.** Expansion or contraction of the MPAB will require a vote of sixty-six percent (66%) of the total voting membership of the Council, approval of the North Dakota and Minnesota Departments of Transportation and concurrence of the FHWA and FTA.
- 1.09. **Temporary Expansion of Geographic Limits.** The geographic limits of the Area may be expanded temporarily by a special interlocal cooperation agreement upon an affirmative vote of sixty-six (66%) percent of the total membership of the Council.

## ARTICLE II. DECLARATION OF POLICY

- 2.01. The Council finds and declares that the people within the Area, have a fundamental interest in the orderly development of the Area.
- 2.02. The Council further finds and declares:
  - a) That the members have a positive interest in the preparation and maintenance of a long term comprehensive plan for the development of the Area to serve as a guide to the political subdivisions within the Area;
  - b) The continuing growth of the Area presents problems that are not confined to the boundaries of any single County or City;
  - c) That the Area, by reason of its governmental jurisdictions, presents special problems of development that can be dealt with best by a Metropolitan Council of Governments;
  - d) That the Area is well adapted to unified consideration; and
  - e) That in order to assure, insofar as possible, the orderly and harmonious development of the Area to provide for the needs of further generations, it is necessary for the people of the Area to perform metropolitan planning and for the Council to serve as a coordinating agency to harmonize the activities of federal, state, and local agencies, and to render assistance and create public interest and participation in the development of the Area.

## ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.01. The MPO voting membership, as reflected in these Articles, must consist of no less than ~~six~~seven members with a maximum of ~~15~~16 members apportioned based on action of the Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments Policy Board, the exact number for each jurisdiction to be determined on an equitable geographic basis based on agreement among the affected units of general purpose local governments as required by federal rules and regulations. In determining the composition of the Policy Board:

- 5.06. **Bylaws.** Procedures and responsibilities of the Council shall be established and maintained through the *Metro COG Policy Board Bylaws* (“Bylaws”). The Bylaws shall at a minimum include Council voting representatives, Council appointments, Council terms of office, voting procedures, roles and responsibilities of Council officers, meeting time and day, and accommodations for special Council meetings. In the case of any conflict between these Articles and the Bylaws, these Articles shall control.
- 5.07. **Rules of Order.** Except as otherwise required by these Articles, the Rules of Order shall be in accordance with the latest edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Revised*.

#### **ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 6.01. The executive business of the Council shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of ~~six Policy Board members;~~ one member from each of the voting member local jurisdictions.
- 6.02. The Executive Committee shall have the power to authorize the expenditure of funds, to enter into contracts, and to execute official instruments after being authorized by the Council. Further powers as delegated by the Council include those enumerated in the *Metro COG Operations Manual* or similar approved document.
- 6.03. The Executive Committee will meet as required to perform the duties assigned.
- 6.04. A meeting of the Executive Committee may be called by the Policy Board Chair, Vice Chair, Council Secretary or any member of the Executive Committee.
- 6.05. The Council Secretary will record the proceedings of the meetings and will provide a summary of those proceedings to the Executive Committee members at the next meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VII. POWERS AND DUTIES**

- 7.01. **Comprehensive Metropolitan Plan.** The Council shall prepare, maintain, and regularly review and revise a Plan for the Metropolitan Area. In the preparation of the Plan, the Council shall seek to harmonize the general plans of Cities and Counties within the Area, and the plans and planning activities of federal, state, and other public and private agencies, organizations and instrumentalities within the Area. Before adoption of the Plan or any revision thereto, it shall be referred to each City and County Planning Commission for review, and the Council shall allow a reasonable time for response. The Council shall seek the cooperation and advice of Cities and Counties, state and federal agencies, and organizations and others interested in the functions of the Council.
- 7.02. **Adoption.** After public input meetings and local governing bodies’ approval, the Council shall adopt the Plan or portions thereof by majority vote. Any such portion shall correspond generally to one or more of the functional subdivisions of the subject matter which may be included in the Plan.

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# Articles of Association

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Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area  
Council of Governments

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As amended, January, 2018

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**Amendment History**

- Revised:
- April, 1995
- March, 2000
- July, 2001
- May, 2005
- December, 2006
- September, 2007
- August, 2011
- September, 2014
- December, 2015
- January, 2018

**FARGO-MOORHEAD METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE I. ORGANIZATION**

- 1.01. **Name of Organization.** The name of the organization formed by these Articles of Association, hereinafter referred to as the “Articles”, is the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments, hereinafter referred to as the “Council”.
- 1.02. **Statutory Authority.** The undersigned general and special purpose units of local governments, boards, agencies, commissions and authorities enter into this agreement under and by virtue of the power to do so. The Articles shall regulate and govern the affairs of that unincorporated association organized pursuant to the North Dakota Century Code 54-40, and Minnesota Statutes 471.59.
- 1.03. **Purpose.** The Council shall conduct and coordinate technical assistance activities, planning studies and special projects to address transportation and non-transportation problems and issues which are of metropolitan significance or where member jurisdictions request assistance subject to Council approval and availability of financial resources; shall disseminate information regarding comprehensive transportation planning and proposals for improvement of the Metropolitan Planning Area; and shall promote general public support for such plans and programs as the Council may endorse.
- 1.04. **Designated Metropolitan Planning Organization.** The Council shall perform area-wide transportation planning, as required in Federal Legislation, in the urban study boundary as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (“MPO”) for the greater Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan area. The MPO is responsible for Continuing, Cooperative and Comprehensive (“3C”) transportation planning within the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary (“MPAB”), as approved by the Council and the Governors of North Dakota and Minnesota, with concurrence of the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”) and Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”).
- 1.05. **Legal Entity.** The Council is hereby established as a separate legal entity by the member jurisdictions, with the power to sue or be sued, to enter into contracts, to hold title to real and personal property, and to do all other acts necessary to carry out required regional and transportation planning processes, subject to its approved Unified Planning Work Program (“UPWP”), budget and available funding.
- 1.06. **Geographic Limits.** The geographic limits within which the Council will perform its normal functions under these Articles shall be those geographic areas of Cass County, North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota as approved by the Council that comprise the Metropolitan Planning Area (“Area”).
- 1.07. **Expansion or Contraction of Geographical Limits.** Upon recommendation of the Council, the geographic limits of the Area may be expanded or contracted upon an

affirmative vote of sixty-six percent (66%) of the total voting membership of the Council.

- 1.08. **Expansion of the MPAB.** Expansion or contraction of the MPAB will require a vote of sixty-six percent (66%) of the total voting membership of the Council, approval of the North Dakota and Minnesota Departments of Transportation and concurrence of the FHWA and FTA.
- 1.09. **Temporary Expansion of Geographic Limits.** The geographic limits of the Area may be expanded temporarily by a special interlocal cooperation agreement upon an affirmative vote of sixty-six (66%) percent of the total membership of the Council.

## **ARTICLE II. DECLARATION OF POLICY**

- 2.01. The Council finds and declares that the people within the Area, have a fundamental interest in the orderly development of the Area.
- 2.02. The Council further finds and declares:
  - a) That the members have a positive interest in the preparation and maintenance of a long term comprehensive plan for the development of the Area to serve as a guide to the political subdivisions within the Area;
  - b) The continuing growth of the Area presents problems that are not confined to the boundaries of any single County or City;
  - c) That the Area, by reason of its governmental jurisdictions, presents special problems of development that can be dealt with best by a Metropolitan Council of Governments;
  - d) That the Area is well adapted to unified consideration; and
  - e) That in order to assure, insofar as possible, the orderly and harmonious development of the Area to provide for the needs of further generations, it is necessary for the people of the Area to perform metropolitan planning and for the Council to serve as a coordinating agency to harmonize the activities of federal, state, and local agencies, and to render assistance and create public interest and participation in the development of the Area.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.01. The MPO voting membership, as reflected in these Articles, must consist of no less than ~~six~~seven members with a maximum of ~~15~~16 members apportioned based on action of the Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments Policy Board, the exact number for each jurisdiction to be determined on an equitable geographic basis based on agreement among the affected units of general purpose local governments as required by federal rules and regulations. In determining the composition of the Policy Board:

- a) The maximum number of Policy Board members shall not be extended without due consideration of the affected units of general government as required by federal rules and regulations and approval by the Governors, or their designees, of the States of North Dakota and Minnesota;
  - b) Representatives from each county shall compose not less than one member each for Cass County, North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota.
  - c) Representatives from each charter city, the cities of Dilworth, MN; Fargo, ND, Moorhead, MN and West Fargo, ND shall compose not less than one member each;
  - d) No one jurisdiction may maintain more than 50% of the total Policy Board Votes;
  - e) Any authority or agency created by law to perform transportation functions that is not under the jurisdiction of local government representatives on the Policy Board shall be provided voting membership on the Policy Board;
  - f) The governing body of a governing entity and signatory to Articles of Association, and subsequent amendments of the Articles of Association, as the appointing authority and designated for membership on the Policy Board, shall select a member(s) to represent them and serve on the Policy Board;
  - g) Each unit of local government at a minimum shall be represented by its mayor or elected official(s), be it City Commissioner(s) in North Dakota or City Council Member(s) in Minnesota;
  - h) Members assigned to the Policy Board by the appointing authority who are not elected officials shall be permitted within the maximum number of Policy Board composition as stated, and in numbers agreed to by the units of general government and;
  - i) The membership of the Policy Board shall be constant with the Articles of Association that creates the Metro COG.
- 3.02. The above noted representatives shall be appointed annually by their respective governing bodies.
- 3.03. Each governing body shall annually approve a list of alternate members. Such alternates shall have full voting rights in the absence of designated members.
- 3.04. No jurisdictions' dues will exceed fifty percent (50%) of total annual dues. This provision shall be reviewed in conjunction with the United State Census Bureau ("Census Bureau") decennial census, or upon an affirmative vote of sixty-six percent (66%) of the total voting membership of the Council to accept inter-census population estimates from the Census Bureau, American Communities Survey (ACS) or similarly credible source.
- 3.05. Municipalities that are within the Council's Metropolitan Planning Area with a population of 600 or more shall be eligible for Associate Membership on the Council.



Associate Members will be granted ex-officio non-voting status on the Council and Transportation Technical Committee.

- 3.06. Associate Members will not pay dues to the Council. They shall have access to the Council's Federal planning funds through the development of the Unified Planning Work Program ("UPWP"). Associate Members shall be responsible for the non-Federal share of projects it requests which are included in the UPWP. Associate Members are also required to pay all indirect costs associated with projects it requests which are included in the UPWP.
- 3.07. The Council may from time to time extend full membership to an Associate Member. Full membership for Associate Members would be granted on a case by case basis as determined necessary by the Council. An action to authorize full membership requires a resolution of intent from the municipality and final approval by the Council.
- 3.08. **Term of Office.** Members of the Council serve at the discretion of their respective governing bodies.
- 3.09. **Vacancies.** Any vacancy shall be filled as soon as possible, and approval of such appointment shall be by the affected governing body.
- 3.10. **Certification.** Each member and alternate for the upcoming year shall be certified by means of a letter which shall become part of the records of the Council. This letter should be submitted to the Council prior to its January meeting or first meeting of each calendar year. In the event of unanticipated vacancies or membership changes, the local governing body shall certify its appointments to the Council by letter at an official Council meeting.
- 3.11. **Officers.** The Officers shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Council Secretary.
  - a) *Chair* - The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Council.
  - b) *Vice Chair* - The Vice Chair shall exercise the functions of the Chair in his or her absence or incapacity.
  - c) *Council Secretary* - The Metro COG Executive Director shall function as Council Secretary and exercise the functions of the authorized recording officer of the Council and shall be empowered to execute official instruments of the Council as authorized by the Council or Executive Committee.
- 3.12. **Member Privileges.** All members of the Council, both voting and Associate members, shall have the privilege to attend all meetings of the Council, Executive Committee or advisory committees or boards to which their membership extends as prescribed in these Articles, have access to federal transportation funds attributable to the Council and to avail their respective organizations of the technical and advisory services provided by the Council.

- 3.13. **Members in Good Standing.** Voting members of the Council shall be members in good standing when the respective member jurisdiction has fulfilled their financial obligations to the Council as prescribed in a separate fiscal agreement. Members in good standing are afforded all privileges identified in 3.12 of this document and any additional privileges approved by the Council.

#### **ARTICLE IV. FUNCTIONS**

- 4.01. The Council shall prepare and adopt a plan and recommend policies for the development of the Area. The plan shall be based on existing conditions and probable future growth and shall be made with the general purpose of guiding coordinated and harmonious development that will promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants. The plan shall also seek to promote efficiency and economy in the process of land development and population distribution so as to reduce the waste of resources; and it shall promote an efficient and economic utilization and conservation of the means of production of food and water, of drainage course, of sanitary and other facilities, and of natural resources.
- 4.02. The Council shall be the official review agency as promulgated by OMB Circular A-95 and for all local plans and projects that have area-wide implications.
- 4.03. The Council shall act as the official area-wide planning agency for the Metropolitan Area and shall be designated as a consortium of governments for federal legislation dealing with transportation and land use and as the official Area Planning Organization as required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Transportation.

#### **ARTICLE V. POLICY BOARD MEETINGS**

- 5.01. The Council shall meet at least nine (9) times per year, and shall fix a time and place for the meetings. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Council, Policy Board Chair, Council Secretary or Executive Committee.
- 5.02. All meetings will be governed by procedures established under Chapter 44-04 *Duties, Records and Meetings* of the North Dakota Century Code.
- 5.03. The Council shall keep records of all its meetings. The Council records shall be public records available for inspection by any interested parties at reasonable times during regular office hours.
- 5.04. All Council meetings shall be open to the public and in facilities consistent with the Americans With Disabilities Act (“ADA”).
- 5.05. **Quorum.** A quorum for the transaction of the Council business shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Council, except that In the event that fewer than a majority of voting members is present at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Chair of the Policy Board may declare six members in attendance to be a quorum for the purpose of paying bills only.

- 5.06. **Bylaws.** Procedures and responsibilities of the Council shall be established and maintained through the *Metro COG Policy Board Bylaws* (“Bylaws”). The Bylaws shall at a minimum include Council voting representatives, Council appointments, Council terms of office, voting procedures, roles and responsibilities of Council officers, meeting time and day, and accommodations for special Council meetings. In the case of any conflict between these Articles and the Bylaws, these Articles shall control.
- 5.07. **Rules of Order.** Except as otherwise required by these Articles, the Rules of Order shall be in accordance with the latest edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Revised*.

#### **ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 6.01. The executive business of the Council shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of ~~six Policy Board members;~~ one member from each of the voting member local jurisdictions.
- 6.02. The Executive Committee shall have the power to authorize the expenditure of funds, to enter into contracts, and to execute official instruments after being authorized by the Council. Further powers as delegated by the Council include those enumerated in the *Metro COG Operations Manual* or similar approved document.
- 6.03. The Executive Committee will meet as required to perform the duties assigned.
- 6.04. A meeting of the Executive Committee may be called by the Policy Board Chair, Vice Chair, Council Secretary or any member of the Executive Committee.
- 6.05. The Council Secretary will record the proceedings of the meetings and will provide a summary of those proceedings to the Executive Committee members at the next meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VII. POWERS AND DUTIES**

- 7.01. **Comprehensive Metropolitan Plan.** The Council shall prepare, maintain, and regularly review and revise a Plan for the Metropolitan Area. In the preparation of the Plan, the Council shall seek to harmonize the general plans of Cities and Counties within the Area, and the plans and planning activities of federal, state, and other public and private agencies, organizations and instrumentalities within the Area. Before adoption of the Plan or any revision thereto, it shall be referred to each City and County Planning Commission for review, and the Council shall allow a reasonable time for response. The Council shall seek the cooperation and advice of Cities and Counties, state and federal agencies, and organizations and others interested in the functions of the Council.
- 7.02. **Adoption.** After public input meetings and local governing bodies’ approval, the Council shall adopt the Plan or portions thereof by majority vote. Any such portion shall correspond generally to one or more of the functional subdivisions of the subject matter which may be included in the Plan.

- 7.03. **Certification of Plan.** The Council shall certify copies of the adopted Plan or portions thereof, to the legislative bodies and planning commissions within the Metropolitan Area, to all public utilities affected by the Plan, and to any state or federal department or agency concerned with or affected by the Plan.
- 7.04. **Review of Local Plans, Proposals and Projects.** Whenever a plan, a portion thereof, amendment, or addition to a plan, has been adopted; or a project proposed by the local governing bodies or their respective planning commissions; the Council may provide comments, either at the request of the member governing body or by its own initiative, on any such plan or project which has a bearing on the Council's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, or other shared interests. The Council will provide its comments in a timely fashion. Such comments shall be considered advisory in nature, and will not constitute a formal approval or disapproval of the issue. Additionally, the Council shall review and comment on all matters referred to it in accordance with Federal or state law.
- 7.05. **Establishment of Committees, Subcommittees, Advisory Committees and Working Groups.** The Council shall have the authority to establish and monitor committees, subcommittee and working groups doing business for, or on behalf of, the Council.
- 7.06. **Transportation Technical Committee.** The Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) is hereby established. The Committee shall be composed of technical experts or their representatives as identified in the *Transportation Technical Committee Bylaws*. The purpose of the Committee is to discuss and coordinate technical transportation matters that are under consideration by the Council. Such matters may include highway, transit, auto/rail, bikeway and pedestrian planning activities. The TTC will act in an advisory capacity to the Council and its respective jurisdictions concerning transportation activities. The Council, by official action, may establish temporary subcommittees of the TTC and add appropriate subcommittee membership to analyze special transportation issues of interest to the Council.
- 7.07. **Other Committees.** Other committees shall be formed as deemed necessary by the Council. The Council shall approve all members of technical committees.
- 7.08. **Other Powers and Duties.** Other powers and duties of the Council shall be:
- a) To conduct studies and research pertaining to planning and development and to make recommendations based on these studies.
  - b) To provide, when possible, technical services to the member units of government.
  - c) Establish work programs and budgets for its operation in compliance with Federal, state and local law.
  - d) To receive and dispense grants and funds from federal, state or local governments or from individuals and foundations within the budget established or amended by the Council.

- e) To enter into agreements or contracts for any service necessary or convenient for carrying out the purposes of the Council.
- f) To recruit, hire and maintain staff personnel to assist the Council and official bodies of the Council.
- g) Provide for appropriate insurance, compensation and bonding coverage for protection of personal property, funds and records of the Council or other governmental or non-governmental agencies or organizations entrusted to the Council.
- h) To acquire, hold, improve, maintain, own, manage, or lease personal or real property, equipment or other facilities and receive and expend funds for providing services and to implement plans.
- i) To provide general administration policy as noted in the *Metro COG Personnel Policies* and the *Metro COG Administrative Policies and Procedures*.
- j) Establish and adopt operating Bylaws for the Council and its committees.
- k) Appoint advisory committee and boards to assist the Council and its members.
- l) Establish policies, goals and objectives to guide the operations of the Council and Metro COG staff.
- m) Establish fees, dues and other financial instruments to be paid by jurisdictions to fund its operations.
- n) Hire, supervise and dismiss the position of Executive Director.
- o) Designate both voting and non-voting members to the Transportation Technical Committee and other Council subcommittees as set forth through these Articles, a separate fiscal agreement and the Bylaws.
- p) To designate both voting and non-voting members to the official bodies of the Council.
- q) To solicit and receive funds from governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations.
- r) To provide for a fiscal accounting and record system to provide for an annual audit thereof.
- s) The ability to invest idle funds.
- t) To designate an official depository and official depositaries for the receipt, deposit and disbursement of Council, state, federal and other funds entrusted to the Council.
- u) To review and amend these Articles.

7.09. **Other Authority.** The Council shall exercise other powers consistent with the purposes of Metro COG as prescribed in these Articles, Federal and states rules,

regulations and guidance, or other powers provided that such powers may also be legally and independently exercised by each general purpose unit of government.

- 7.10. **Constraints on Authority.** The Council does not have the authority, except under contract with such jurisdictions, to exercise administrative authority over any member jurisdiction, other than to conduct planning studies for or within any general purpose units of government, boards, agencies, commissions, councils and authorities.
- 7.11. **Tax Levy.** The Council does not have the authority to levy taxes for the support of Metro COG operations or to implement programs or projects recommended by adopted studies, plans or reports.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- 8.01. The Council shall hire an Executive Director, hereinafter referred to as the "Director," who shall serve at the pleasure of the Council.
- 8.02. The Director shall be the chief administrative officer, authorized recording officer and technical advisor of the Council; direct and administer the preparation, maintenance, review, and revision of the Plan; and administer and execute all other functions and duties determined by the Council, including but not limited, to the following:
- a) Appoint, compensate and establish the numbers and duties of the staff. Compensation shall conform to salary schedules of the member units of government. Appointments and removals must be approved by the Council.
  - b) Serve, or designate personnel to serve, as the Secretary of the Council.
  - c) Serve, or designate personnel to serve, as chair to the Transportation Technical Committee by providing reasonable services to the organization preparing and issuing notices of meetings, distributing reports and performing other activities that the Technical Committee and Council may wish to undertake in the furtherance of their function.
  - d) Complete the specific responsibilities as described in COG's Operations Manual or similar approved document.
  - e) Recruit, hire and maintain staff personnel in support of the Council.

#### **ARTICLE IX. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

- 9.01. Prior to January 1 of the following year, the Council shall adopt by majority vote a final UPWP and Budget required for the operation of the Council.
- 9.02. **Fiscal Agreement.** Local funds required for the Council's operations, local match for federal transportation funds and projects specific to one or multiple jurisdictions is provided for by a separate Fiscal Agreement. The Fiscal Agreement will be updated annually with the dues structure and related costs for each jurisdiction. In case of any conflict between the Fiscal Agreement and these Articles, these Articles shall control.

- 9.03. **Default on Fiscal Agreement.** In the event that one or more member jurisdiction defaults in their requested dues for the support of the Metro COG annual budget or requested special assessments, the member jurisdiction or jurisdictions are in default and Council members representing those jurisdictions surrender membership in good standing and surrender all voting and other privileges. Members not in good standing may have their membership reinstated upon satisfactory correction of default in requested dues or special assessments. All defaulted dues and special assessments shall be requested of each member jurisdiction remaining in good standing and shall be based on the ratio of the respective remaining jurisdictions' population to the total population of all remaining member jurisdictions according to the latest official census.
- 9.04. **Official Depository.** The Council will designate an official depository for the receipt, deposit and disbursement of its own funds and state, federal and other money entrusted to the Council; to solicit and receive funds from governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations and to contract with a separate accounting service to provide fiscal accounting and record system to provide for an annual audit thereof, and to invest idle funds.
- 9.05. **Audit and Records.** Books, records, and accounts shall be kept as prescribed by State and Federal law. The Director shall sign all checks and vouchers and have the checks countersigned by the Chair or Vice Chair.

#### **ARTICLE X. CODE OF ETHICS**

- 10.01. A standard of conduct shall govern the performance of the Council's officers, board members, employees or agents engaged in the award and administration of contracts. No officer, board member, employee or agent of the Council may participate in the selection, award or administration of a contract if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when any of the Parties set forth below has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for award:
- a) The officer, board member, employee or agent;
  - b) Any member of his or her immediate family;
  - c) His or her partner; or
  - d) An organization that employs, or is about to employ, any of the above.
- 10.02. Furthermore, officers, board members, employees or agents may neither solicit nor accept personal gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from present or potential contractors or sub-recipients. The only exceptions to the policy include the following unsolicited gifts:
- a) A gift whose value does not exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); or
  - b) The gift or receipt of awards, and memorial plaques or trophies, having nominal intrinsic value; or
  - c) The gift of breakfast, lunch, or dinner; or

- d) A project-related benefit that has been approved by the Executive Committee or Council.

10.03. Violation of these standards renders the sale, lease, or contract voidable by the Council or by a court of competent jurisdiction. Any monies paid as a result of such violation may be recovered by a joint and separate action from the Parties to the sale, lease, or contract and the Council official employee or its agent interested in the same. Any officer, employee, board member or agent of the Council proven to have violated these standards shall be subject to disciplinary action and the proven violations shall constitute just cause for the following actions:

- a) Reprimand;
- b) Suspension; or
- c) Discharge or forfeiture of office.

10.04. Reprimand or suspension shall constitute disciplinary action as authorized by the Executive Director for employees or agents. Discharge or forfeiture of office will be at the discretion of the Council after due and proper hearing for officers and board members. It is expressly understood that members of the Council are representatives of municipal bodies comprising the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments and the disciplinary proceedings set forth herein shall be additional to any proceedings undertaken by the individual municipal appointing authorities with respect to each appointed member(s) of the Council.

#### **ARTICLE XI. FILING REPORTS**

11.01. To facilitate planning and development of the Area, all governing bodies, planning agencies and others within the Area are requested to file with the Council all public plans, maps, reports, regulations and other documents as well as amendments and revisions thereto that are related to the activities of the Council.

#### **ARTICLE XII. WITHDRAWAL OR DISSOLUTION**

12.01. In the event of the withdrawal of any member jurisdictions from the Council such member jurisdiction shall forfeit all claims to property and operating capital as reflected in the Metro COG equity record.

12.02. In the event of the withdrawal of any member jurisdiction from the Council such member jurisdiction shall forfeit its good standing status and shall not be afforded voting membership on the Council, nor will that jurisdiction receive consideration for federal transportation funds attributable to the Council or Metro COG planning services.

12.03. In the event of the complete dissolution of the F-M Metropolitan Council of Governments, except as otherwise required by Federal or state laws, all Metro COG property, which was not acquired with federal funds, will be sold and the proceeds for such sale will be combined with the current Metro COG assets to determine total cash



assets of Metro COG. Any reimbursements due to the federal or state governments as per Federal and State regulations will be subtracted from the available cash assets. All remaining cash assets of Metro COG shall be distributed to those member Jurisdictions paying dues to the Council. The share of total cash assets to be distributed to each Jurisdiction shall be according to the ratio of the current equity record of each respective member jurisdiction to the total equity of all the Jurisdictions. Any Metro COG property on hand acquired with federal funds will be transferred to the successor MPO.

### **ARTICLE XIII. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT**

- 13.01. These Articles shall become effective upon their adoption by the Council and by the governing bodies of the participating units of government.
- 13.02. These Articles may be amended at any regular meeting of the Council by an affirmative vote of sixty-six percent (66%) of the members present, provided that at least one week's notice in writing is given to all members setting forth such amendment.

### **ARTICLE XIV. AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE/COUNTERPARTS**

- 14.01. Each of the Parties to these Articles represents and warrants it has authority to execute these Articles. These Articles may be executed at different times and in any number of counterparts, each of which, when so executed, shall be deemed to be an original, and all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same agreement.
- 14.02. These Articles and all contracts and agreements entered into under the provisions of these Articles shall be binding upon the Jurisdictions of the undersigned signatories.
- 14.03. **Duration.** Upon the effective date, these Articles shall remain in effect as long the Council of Governments remain sustainable and funded in amounts required to maintain the activities as defined in these Articles.
- 14.04. **Continuation.** The Council shall serve as the Council of Governments and designated MPO under these Articles until such time as a new COG is established or the MPO is formally re-designated in accordance with the method described in 23 C.F.R. 450.310 or as otherwise provided by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have reviewed and caused these revised Articles of Association to be signed by their duly authorized officers. As such, the undersigned parties agree, on behalf of his or her respective jurisdiction, the content, original and amended, of these Articles.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Metro COG Policy Board Chair

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have reviewed and caused these revised Articles of Association to be signed by their duly authorized officers. As such, the undersigned parties agree, on behalf of his or her respective jurisdiction, the content, original and amended, of these Articles.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the Board of County Commissioners of Cass County, North Dakota

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cass County Commission Chair

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have reviewed and caused these revised Articles of Association to be signed by their duly authorized officers. As such, the undersigned parties agree, on behalf of his or her respective jurisdiction, the content, original and amended, of these Articles.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Minnesota

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clay County Commission Chair

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have reviewed and caused these revised Articles of Association to be signed by their duly authorized officers. As such, the undersigned parties agree, on behalf of his or her respective jurisdiction, the content, original and amended, of these Articles.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the City Council of the City of Dilworth, Minnesota.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City of Dilworth

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have reviewed and caused these revised Articles of Association to be signed by their duly authorized officers. As such, the undersigned parties agree, on behalf of his or her respective jurisdiction, the content, original and amended, of these Articles.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the City Commission of the City of Fargo, North Dakota.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City of Fargo

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have reviewed and caused these revised Articles of Association to be signed by their duly authorized officers. As such, the undersigned parties agree, on behalf of his or her respective jurisdiction, the content, original and amended, of these Articles.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the City Council of the City of Horace, North Dakota.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City of Horace

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have reviewed and caused these revised Articles of Association to be signed by their duly authorized officers. As such, the undersigned parties agree, on behalf of his or her respective jurisdiction, the content, original and amended, of these Articles.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the City Council of the City of Moorhead, Minnesota.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City of Moorhead



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have reviewed and caused these revised Articles of Association to be signed by their duly authorized officers. As such, the undersigned parties agree, on behalf of his or her respective jurisdiction, the content, original and amended, of these Articles.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the City Commissioners of the City of West Fargo, North Dakota.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City of West Fargo