

CapX 2020

FARGO TO MONTICELLO TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT ROUTING WORK GROUP MEETING 1

**Best Western Doublewood Inn – Fargo, ND
January 28, 2008 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

The meeting was conducted on 28 January, 2008 from 11:00am – 1:00pm at the Best Western Doublewood Inn in the City of Fargo. Of the 56 invitees, nine people had confirmed their attendance in advance for the meeting and 10 actually attended. Table 1 lists the meeting attendees.

Table 1. RWG Meeting Attendees

Organization
City of Hawley
Fargo Broadcasting Co.
Landowner
Landowner
Landowner
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Landowner
Resident
Resident
Landowner
Cass County
Landowner

The following agenda was adhered to for the meeting.

Time	Activity	Presenters
11:00 – 11:05	Welcome and Introductions	Tim Carlsgaard/Darrin Lahr
11:05 – 11:15	Who/What is the Working Group?	
11:15 – 11:25	Purpose of Today's Meeting	
11:25 – 12:00	Interactive Exercise #1	Tim Carlsgaard/Darrin Lahr
12:00 – 12:15	Project Background/Regulatory Process	
12:15 – 12:25	Break	
12:25 – 12:35	Routing Criteria	Tim Carlsgaard/Darrin Lahr
12:35 – 12:45	Interactive Exercise #2	
12:45 – 12:50	Next Steps	
12:50 – 1:00	Questions and Answers	

The meeting opened with group introductions and an explanation of purpose. The attendees were divided into groups of five or six individuals as part of Interactive Exercise #1. Each group, lead by a facilitator, was asked as a group to list general areas that are sensitive to them in the transmission line routing process. These general areas were written down by the facilitator on a 36 by 44 inch poster board, with no order of priority given to the any of the areas listed. The exercise lasted approximately 35 minutes.

A complete list of the results of Interactive Exercise #1 is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Exercise #1: General Areas of Sensitivity in Transmission Line Routing

Sensitivity
Presence of Aquifer
Airports – possible expansion (Fargo, W. Fargo, Moorhead)
Transmission line logistics (Spacing between structures, single pole, H frame, double circuiting vs. single circuiting)
Consideration of keeping landowners informed on process
City Expansion & County Planning (Cass County growth corridors and co. highways).
Townships and Zoning – (Cass Co.) - Oakport Township – annex into Moorhead
Cass County and Clay County Waterways - Greenway/Red River/ Fargo Moorhead, South Fargo flood protection project
Railroads/Light rail/Trail (corridors, adjacent to)
General Location and Placement (roadways, fence lines, property lines, existing corridors, section lines, township roads, irrigation interference)
I-94 Corridor (sensitivity and opportunity) (out of Moorhead, proximity to airport)
Use of Existing Structures (as opportunity)

Following Interactive Exercise #1, the project background and routing criteria were presented. After a short break, the group engaged in Interactive Exercise #2 where the lists of general areas of sensitivity from Interactive Exercise #1 were presented to the entire group as part of an active group discussion. The group was encouraged to ask questions about the sensitivities listed and to add any others that came to mind. The end of the presentation consisted of a discussion of the next steps in the project process, as well as a question and answer session.

Questions and comments addressed during this session, as transcribed by a representative of the project, are listed below.

- Concerns expressed about presence of and preservation of natural trails.
- A more northerly route would ease public concern.
- Some concerns regarding south Fargo growth such as the work already in progress on the flood protection project. A flood protection project is underway in Oakport as well.
- What is the spacing between property lines and transmission lines?
- Concerns regarding structures around I-94 out of Moorhead.
- Mention of the presence of the Buffalo River Watershed district and the local Aquifer which is a source of drinking water. Concerns for structures associated with this or interference with this aquifer.
- What is the potential for buying land from owners for this project? Or possibility of paying for new irrigation systems if necessary?

Following the meeting, comment forms were returned from three Attendees. A summary of the comment forms is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Routing Work Group Meeting 1 Questionnaire and Comment Form

Comment(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been interested in preserving the former Great Northern Railway line for future transportation use. After listening to the presentation today. It appears this corridor will be protected since the transmission towers will be located far enough off from the former railway center line. • I am in favor of the new transmission line between Fargo and Monticello.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems as though you are going through a lot of contortions to keep the public informed on this project. You need more participation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffalo Red River Aquifer • State Highway right of way • District meeting for overview when corridor defined