

FTA REGION 8 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION WORKSHEET

FTA Region 8 provides this Categorical Exclusion (CE) worksheet to help project sponsors (recipients) comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The information collected will help to better define the project scope for environmental analysis, identify potential impacts, and determine if other environmental laws and permits apply. If sufficiently completed, it can enable FTA to determine that the project does not result in significant environmental impacts and meets the criteria for a CE. All activities and projects to be supported with federal funds require a NEPA environmental finding as a prerequisite to award of funds.

This CE Worksheet should be completed for C-List projects involving construction and *all* D-List projects. **If a C-List project does not involve construction, you do not need to complete this worksheet.** All parts below must be completed prior to FTA review. Compliance with other environmental requirements must also be completed before FTA will issue a determination that the project meets the criteria for a CE. Certain project activities may not begin until this process is complete. For guidance on completing this worksheet, please refer to the CE Worksheet Instructions.

Prior to transmitting a grant application, complete and submit this CE Worksheet using the CE Worksheet Instructions allowing sufficient time for FTA review, especially if other environmental laws or permits apply. For assistance, please contact your assigned FTA Region 8 Pre-Award Manager, or you may call the office at 303-362-2400. To “check” a box, double-click on the box and select “checked” under default value.

PART A: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Sponsor <i>NDDOT</i>	FTA Application No/FAIN 1153-2024-4 FY21 5339 Formula
<div>Project Contact (include mailing address, email address and phone number)</div> <div><i>Colleen Rodakowski</i> <i>Executive Director</i> <i>Dickinson Public Transit</i> <i>361 26th Street East</i> <i>Dickinson, ND 58601</i></div> <div>director@eldercareregion8.org</div> <div><i>701.456.1818 (work)</i> <i>701.590.9311 (cell)</i></div>	
<div>Project Title</div> <div><i>Dickinson Public Transit Building Expansion</i></div>	

Project Description

Introduction/Background: The Dickinson Public Transit building was constructed with funding from ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) via the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT)). The project planning started in 2009, with groundbreaking in 2011, and completion in February 2012. This is a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funded facility with local match provided by the City of Dickinson.

While the FTA's interest being 40 years of the lifetime of the building, the City of Dickinson's ownership of local match allows Dickinson Public Transit and the City of Dickinson to hold an agreement between the parties for Dickinson Public Transit's use of the building and property. This agreement states that "...the City of Dickinson desires to facilitate a public transit system for the residents of the City; and ... Dickinson Public Transit is engaged in the business of providing public transit service to the residents of the City of Dickinson..."
(This agreement is available upon request.)

About Dickinson Public Transit: Dickinson Public Transit provides Demand Response/Dial a Ride Service in Dickinson, North Dakota for work, shopping, medical, recreation, worship, and other needs with weekly trips to Bismarck, North Dakota (mostly for medical needs).

Dickinson Public Transit's services benefit the elderly, disabled, and socioeconomically challenged of our community, and the general public by providing transit services they otherwise would not have. Our services provide convenient, low-cost rides for people who need transit services. Dickinson Public Transit is committed to providing transit services to its community. Dickinson Public Transit is open every day of the year, with early closings on some holidays.

Being open daily is very important to serving the community's economic needs as our trips have been increasing this past year, as we recover from the effects of Covid-19.

Why a Building Expansion is Needed: Due to the influx of the oil boom around 2010, we outgrew the building right away. Original plans which included a drive-through garage, more vehicle parking spots in the garage, a training room, drivers lounge, and storage spaces, etc., had to be removed from the original design as inflation hit with the oil boom. We had to redesign the building to keep the project costs within the \$1.1 million federal aid funds and 20% local match from the City of Dickinson. Therefore, we had to downsize our needs at the beginning of the project.

Dickinson Public Transit is growing. In 2022, we provided 34,090 passenger trips. In 2023, we estimate providing approximately 49,494 trips. (December 2023 numbers are not finalized.) This is an estimated 41.78% increase from 2022 to 2023. We are struggling to keep growing and need a building expansion. From January 2023 to November 2023, 43.41% of our trips were for work/employment. This past year, our priority was to get our passenger trips back to or above the levels before the COVID-19 pandemic. We were successful! We attribute this success to the partnership within our state and city, the Elder Care increased publicity in the community, our dedicated management and staff, the ability to replace vehicles in poor condition, and the purchase of replacement/expansion vehicles.

Proposed Building Expansion Improvements: With Dickinson Public Transit's current infrastructure and operational capacity, we are limited in the number of transit rides we can provide to the Dickinson community. To address and meet escalating transit demands, we propose an expansion of the Dickinson Public Transit facility. The planned expansion includes increased vehicle storage, an automotive vehicle wash, additional office space, a dedicated employee training room, a breakroom, and improved storage areas. To accommodate the anticipated growth in ridership, it is imperative to grow our workforce and purchase more vehicles. This requires an expanded garage and office space to ensure safe and efficient operations. Currently, the lack of sufficient office space requires us to conduct employee training sessions in the existing garage, which is not ideal. The proposed addition up to 9,000 sq. ft. on a single level. The location will be attached to the existing building located at 361 26th Street West, Dickinson, ND 58601.

Project Stakeholders:

- FTA
- NDDOT
- City of Dickinson
- Dickinson Public Transit
- Elder Care Management Board of Directors
- Dickinson Public Transit Employee
- Dickinson Public Transit Riders
- Community of Dickinson
- Contractors involved in the project
- Vendors involved in the project

Estimated Budget:

- Entire building expansion estimated budget to be determined.
- \$225,000 for the architect design and construction project manager fees.

Metrics for Measuring Success:

- Monitoring the project and its success will be ongoing and determined by review and evaluation of tasks completed
- Monitoring the project and its success will be ongoing and determined by meeting the timeline dates in place
- Public Hearings will be held as needed
- Successes and concerns will be addressed as they arise

Project Location (Include physical address)

361 26th Street East

Dickinson, ND 58601

Is this project included in the current approved TIP (**Transportation Improvement Plan**) and/or STIP (**Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan**)?

☐ YES – TIP/STIP ID/Page No.:

☒ NO – When will it be added?

Timeframe to add project to the NDDOT STIP will be

determined by NDDOT

Is this a re-evaluation of a project previously evaluated/approved or currently under construction?

☒ NO

☐

PART B: PROPOSED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Select the CE category under 23 CFR 771.118(c) or (d) that best describes the proposed project (select only one). FHWA and FRA CEs may also be used, if applicable. CE descriptions are included in the CE Worksheet Instructions.

CE (e.g., C-9 or D-6): C-9

PART C: ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

For each of the following resources, identify, evaluate, and describe any adverse impacts to the built (including social and economic) and natural environment resulting from the proposed project. Select NO, if a resource is not present on or near the proposed project area, or if there are no adverse impacts. Select YES, if a resource is present and will be impacted; and succinctly describe the impacts, any mitigation necessary to minimize impacts, and any permits required. Please explain your answer. The level of detail you provide should be commensurate with the complexity of the project. For guidance on how to evaluate each resource for impacts, see the CE Worksheet Instructions. If, through your evaluation, you believe the project *will* result in significant environmental impacts or you aren't sure, and/or it is likely to generate substantial controversy on environmental grounds, contact FTA Region 8.

1. Land Use and Zoning

Is the proposed project incompatible or inconsistent with existing or future land use and/or zoning in the project area?

☐ NO

☒ YES

Describe the surrounding land use and zoning: Kilwein 5th Addition, Lots 2, 3, 4 and 5, Block 2 in the City of Dickinson, North Dakota. The lots are located on the north side of 26th Street West between Sims and 4th Avenue East in Stark County, Section 27, T140N, R96W.

Provide a map with project location and surrounding land uses: See attachment

2. Land/Property Acquisition, Relocation, Leases and Easements

Does the proposed project require any land/property acquisition, easement, or permit? Note: for acquisitions over \$1 million, FTA concurrence with the property's valuation is also required (see Circular 5010.E). Explain.

☒ NO

☐ YES

3. Environmental Justice

Is the proposed project located in a neighborhood containing minority or low-income residents or businesses? If yes, will it result in disproportionately high and adverse impacts? Explain.

☒ NO

☐ YES

4. Cultural, Historic and Archaeological Resources

Are there any cultural, historic, or archaeological resources on or near the proposed project site? If yes and the proposed project has the potential to affect such resources, the Section 106 process must be followed, and a Section 4(f) evaluation may be required. Explain, including what steps were taken to make the determination.

☒ NO

☐ YES

The current facility was constructed in 2012 (less than 50 years old) and the area of ground disturbance for the expansion is previously disturbed from existing development.

In the event unidentified historic and/or archaeological resources are discovered during construction, work will stop until the resources are evaluated in terms of the National Register eligibility criteria in consultation with SHPO.

If YES resources are present, does Section 106 apply? Explain.

☐ NO

☐ YES – Provide Section 106 Consultation Documentation

If YES resources are present, does Section 4(f) apply? Explain.

☐ NO

☐ YES – Provide Section 4(f) Evaluation

5. Visual/Aesthetics

Will the proposed project degrade the existing visual/aesthetic character or quality of the site, its surroundings, and/or recognized view sheds? Explain.

There is an existing transit facility at the location of the proposed expansion. The proposed improvements will not introduce any new visual features to the project area that would affect the character of the site.

☒ NO

☐ YES

6. Park and Recreation Resources

Are there any public parks and/or recreation resources on or near the proposed project area that would be impacted? If the proposed project has the potential to impact publicly owned parks or recreation areas, a Section 4(f) evaluation may be required. If a park is funded with LWCF funds, Section 6(f) may apply. Explain.

☒ NO

☐ YES

If YES, does Section 4(f) apply? Explain.

☐ NO

☐ YES – Provide Section 4(f) Evaluation

If YES, does Section 6(f) apply? Explain.

☐ NO

☐ YES – Provide documentation.

7. Noise and Vibration

Are there any noise and/or vibration sensitive receptors located near the proposed project that would be impacted? Explain.

There are no sensitive noise receptors near the project area.

☒ NO

☐ YES

8. Air Quality

Is the proposed project located in an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-designated non-attainment or maintenance area?

☒ NO

☐ YES - indicate the criteria pollutant and contact FTA to determine if a hot spot analysis is necessary.

☐ Carbon Monoxide (CO)

☐ Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

☐ Lead (Pb)

☐ Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

☐ Ozone (O₃)

☐ Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

☐ Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

Does the proposed project require a conformity analysis or regional analysis under 40 CFR Part 93?

☒ NO

☐ YES

If the non-attainment area is also in a metropolitan area, is the proposed project required to be and included in the MPO's air quality conformity analysis for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?

☒ NO

☐ YES - Date of FHWA/FTA conformity finding.

9. Hazardous Materials

Is there any known or potential contamination at the proposed project site that would be impacted? Describe the steps taken to make the determination (Phase I ESA, etc.) and results. Note the mitigation and clean-up measures that will be taken to remove hazardous materials from the project site, if applicable.

The proposed improvements are at the existing transit facility and will require limited ground disturbance.

- ☒ NO
☐ YES

10. Farmland

Are there any prime or unique farmlands located at the proposed project site that would be impacted? Explain.

- ☒ NO
☐ YES

11. Floodplains

Is the proposed project located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-year floodplain or within the floodway? If yes, this project may require further evaluation under EO 11988. Explain.

- ☒ NO
☐ YES

12. Water Resources and Water Quality

Are there any surface or ground water resources present, including an EPA-designated sole source aquifer (SSA), near the proposed project that would be impacted? Explain.

- ☒ NO
☐ YES

Is there an increase in impervious surface (e.g., roofs, driveways, streets, parking lots, etc.) or restored pervious surface greater than one acre? If YES, an NPDES/storm water permit may be needed and must be acquired prior to construction. Explain.

- ☒ NO
☐ YES

13. Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.

Are there any wetlands or waters of the U.S. on or adjacent to the proposed project area that would be temporarily or permanently impacted? Explain.

☒ NO

☐ YES

If YES, is a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers required? Explain.

☐ NO

☐ YES

14. Threatened and/or Endangered Species

Are there any listed threatened and/or endangered species (plant or animal) or critical habitat present on or near the proposed project area that would be impacted? How was this determined? If yes, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act may apply. Explain.

The area of disturbance is existing concrete or landscaped grassland. Threatened and/or endangered species or species habitat are not located within the project area.

☒ NO

☐ YES

15. Natural and Biological Resources

Are there any natural areas, biological resources (fish, birds, wildlife, and habitat) or sensitive areas present on or near the proposed project area that would be impacted? If the proposed project has the potential to impact wildlife or waterfowl refuges, a Section 4(f) evaluation may be required. Explain.

The area of disturbance is existing concrete or landscaped grassland. Natural areas or biological resources are not located within the project area. ☒ NO

☐ YES

If YES, does Section 4(f) apply? Explain.

☐ NO

☐ YES – Provide Section 4(f) Evaluation.

16. Traffic and Parking

Does the proposed project have the potential to permanently impact traffic and/or parking (on and off street) in the project area? Explain.

☒ NO

☐ YES

17. Utilities

Are there any utilities that could be impacted by the proposed project? Explain.

☒ NO

☐ YES

18. Construction Impacts

Will the proposed project result in impacts (e.g., noise, air, water, staging, parking, traffic detours, etc.) during construction? Explain.

☐ NO

☒ YES – Provide mitigation commitments. Construction work will be completed during the City of Dickinson noise ordinance which limits construction activities to the hours of 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. Per the Categorical Exclusion form completed in July 2009, correspondence with the North Dakota Department of Health (in the construction of the Dickinson Public Transit building), the department indicated “that environmental impacts from the proposed construction will be minor and can be controlled by proper construction methods.” All necessary measures will take place to minimize noise, dust, air, water, staging, parking, traffic detours, etc. that may be created during construction. Any complaints that may arise will be handled in an efficient and effective manner.

19. Public Outreach and Agency Coordination

Was any public outreach and/or agency coordination conducted? Explain.

☐ NO

☒ YES

Dickinson Public Transit has an agreement with the City of Dickinson for the use of the Dickinson Public Transit building. With this partnership, Dickinson Public Transit informed City Administrator Dustin Dassinger, as well as NDDOT and the Elder Care Management Board (which oversees Dickinson Public Transit) of its need for a building expansion and its intent to apply for a grant from NDDOT for architect design and construction project manager fees. There were no concerns expressed.

20. Safety and Security

Are any measures required for the safe and secure operation of the proposed project after its construction? Explain.

☒ NO

☐ YES

21. State and Local Permits, Policies and Ordinances

Does the proposed project require compliance with any applicable state and local permits, policies, and ordinances? Explain.

☒ NO

☐ YES


WORKSHEET COMPLETED BY (RECIPIENT NAME AND TITLE):

DATE SUBMITTED:

Colleen Rodakowski

Colleen Rodakowski
Executive Director, Dickinson Public Transit

12-29-23

 <hr/> <i>Colleen Rodakowski</i> <i>Executive Director, Dickinson Public Transit</i>	<i>I submitted additions/corrections to this document on 7-31-24</i>
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Note: CE Worksheet must be signed by the Recipient of Funds

361 26th Street West, Dickinson, ND Zoning & Land Use



361 26th Street West, Dickinson, ND Lots & Easements



Proposed Expansion