

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Circulation"

Policy Letter 304: Balanced Circulation Grid

BACKGROUND:

The circulation backbone for the City of Fargo dates back to the days when the railroad and the Red River moved virtually all goods and materials. As time progressed, the Interstate Highway System enhanced the circulation of goods and materials, plus gave greater mobility to people moving throughout the City, and also entering and exiting Fargo. To accommodate the intercity movement of people, goods, and services, development of section line roads (one mile apart) rapidly became the standard to build around. The City of Fargo relies heavily on this section line grid. Along with this improved mobility for personal travel, barriers existed or were created that had to be bypassed to support provisions of a safe, efficient, and cost effective road system for the future.

Crossing these natural or man-made barriers has been consistent, systematic, and with few deficiencies in Fargo. The Red River has bridges at the City's north and south boundaries or limits, but lacks bridges between 12th Avenue North and County Road 20, and also between Main Avenue and 52nd Avenue South. The Interstate System of I-29 and I-94 within the Fargo City limits has a crossing every mile with only two exceptions; 1) the 7th Avenue North crossing was built over I-29 to support traffic flow to the City Landfill; and 2) 32nd Avenue North and I-29 is adjacent to the Hector International Airport runways.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should continue to develop section line road corridors for a potential capacity of 20,000 plus vehicle trips per day, and with continuity that bypasses natural or man-made barriers when reasonably possible. Barriers should be crossed at a minimum of every two miles and at one-mile intervals where feasible.

CONCLUSION:

To maintain a balanced circulation grid, arterial roads should continue to cross the Red River and the Interstate Highways at one mile intervals. If barriers or interruptions are allowed along these high traffic volume corridors, traffic problems will compound. By ensuring adherence to design standards established through City regulations and City policy, adjacent land uses will experience high levels of compatibility with traffic. Fargo must be encouraged to grow and expand to its fullest potential, and a balanced circulation grid is just one critical element.