Project Timeline

2007

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) begins federal feasibility study.

2008

ND and MN Governors Hoeven and Pawlenty, along with Senators Conrad, Dorgan, and Klobuchar voice support for a two-state led flood control project.

Sharing cost

Leaders in Fargo and Moorhead agree to share the cost of a metro-wide flood plan to be completed in partnership with the Corps.

Project Goals set:
- Permanent flood protection for FM area
- Protection that can be certified & used for flood insurance
- A project that affects surrounding areas as little as possible

FLOOD OF RECORD — Red River crests at 40.84 feet on March 28.

2009

PLAN levees = 100 year protection

PLAN MN side diversion = 100 year protection

Corps develops two options: $909M diversion project or a $625M levee system. Further studies include multiple diversion options in Minnesota and North Dakota. Levees found unable to protect against 100-year floods.

500 year

Leaders in Fargo and Moorhead decide to pursue 500-year flood protection. Local leaders ask Corps to look into a plan that includes North Dakota side diversion to offer greater level of protection.

ND Legislature appropriates $45M for flood control efforts.

Work on in-town levee measures underway in Fargo and Moorhead.

1/2% tax — 91% YES 9% NO

Fargo citizens approve a 1/2% sales tax for 20 years.

2010

PLAN 500 protection = levees + channel to divert water

Upstream storage

Corps looks at possibility of upstream storage to remove downstream impacts.

46.3 feet
42.1 feet

Leaders decide to utilize latest flood data to determine 100-year flood levels. 42.1 feet is considered a 100-year flood and 46.3 feet a 500 year flood event.

1/2% tax — 64% YES 36% NO

Cass County voters approve a 1/2% sales tax for 20 years.

2011

Diversion channel
In-town levees
Upstream storage
51 public meetings
1,600 pages of comments

Final feasibility study completed by Corps . Plan includes storage upstream, in-town levees, and a 30-mile diversion channel to help move water during peak flood stage.

Report signed by Chief of Corps.

FM Diversion Authority — Six entities from ND and MN come together to form the Diversion Authority.

$1.8 billion — Cost of project is estimated at $1.8 Billion.

500 year — Red River Basin Com. study says metro areas should pursue 500-year protection.

2012

FEMA updates and expands flood maps for Moorhead.

1/2% tax — 60% YES 40% NO

Fargo citizens vote to extend sales tax to support flood protection.

In-town levees

Plan to increase flows through town and additional adding of levees to reduce upstream impacts.

Minnesota DNR begins scoping for its EIS.

ROD

Record of Decision signed by Corps.

2013

Business leaders in FM area mobilize to support the project.

ND Legislature appropriates $100M for flood control efforts.

Diversion Authority presents their project to the U.S. Congress in hopes of getting federal authorization and funding.

Oxbow/Hickson/Bakke levee

The project begins buying homes in preparation for ring levee construction to preserve the communities of Oxbow/Bakke/Hickson and protect the Kindred School District taxbase.

2014

The project is 1 of 26 water projects authorized by Congress and President Obama through the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). WRRDA also included provisions that promote alternative project delivery, such as public-private-partnerships (P3s).

A civil lawsuit is filed against the project in federal court.

Oxbow/Hickson/Bakke

Construction on the Oxbow/Hickson/-Bakke levee begins. Construction on in-town levees part of federal project begins.

Minnesota begins EIS work.

2015

Upstream storage

Minnesota's environmental impact study says "distributive storage alternative" doesn't meet the project's purpose and isn't a feasible or practical alternative to the diversion.

FEMA updates and expands flood-plain maps for Fargo. 2,000 homes are now subjected to flood insurance requirements. More updates expected possibly requiring 19,000 homes to purchase flood insurance. Roy Wright, FEMA Deputy Associate Administrator warns FEMA could remap in 5 years.

Oxbow Hickson Bakke levee

Federal judge issues a temporary injunction, stopping construction on the OHB Ring Levee.

Special Assessment

Property owners and public entities vote to approve special assessment to ensure bonds can be purchased for the project.

Diversion Authority publishes notice of intent to utlize a public-private partnership (P3).

Floodwall project on 2nd St. in Fargo begins construction. Over 700 properties have been purchased for flood control.

ND Legislature appropriates $129M for flood control efforts.

2016

Congress chooses six Corps projects to start construction, including the FM Area Diversion Project.

Corps commits to begin construction of the nation's first-ever Corps P3. $5M included in Corps funding plan.

Federal judge dismisses all federal claims in civil lawsuit.

$2.1 billion — New estimates put project cost at $2.1 Billion.

Minnesota Final EIS released. Finds no reasonable alternative to the Corps' Project.

RFQ to be issued to procure P3 contractor.

ND Permit received.

2017

South

Corps-led construction estimated to begin on Diversion Inlet Structure near Horace.

$69M anticipated from the North Dakota legislature.

2018

P3

Proposals to be accepted from P3 firms.

P3 North

P3 developer begins construction on the Diversion Channel in early 2018.

2019 2020 2021 2024

Projected Project Completion

FM AREA DIVERSION PROJECT

Design for the project begins

Applying for project permits begins

Jan. 1, 2010 = City sales tax of 1/2% on sales, use, and gross receipts begins in Fargo. Approved until Dec. 31, 2029.

Apr. 1, 2011 = Cass County tax of 1/2% on sales, use, and gross receipts begins. Allowed until March 31, 2031.

Property acquisition for the project begins

The Corps to begin construction south of Horace

Diversion channel construction to begin northeast of Argusville.