

# **POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES –December 16, 2014

TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION MARCH 24, 2015



**Members Present:** Mayor Hanel, Commissioner Reno, Board of County Commissioners; Paul Gatzemeier, President, City/County Planning Board; Gary Neville, MDT District Office.

**Staff Present:** Scott Walker, Transportation Planner, Planning & Community Services Department; Candi Millar, Director, Planning & Community Services Department; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Vern Heisler, Deputy Public Works Director, City Public Works Department

**Conference Call Participants:**

Kenn Winegar, Statewide and Urban Planning; Katie Potts, Statewide and Urban Planning

**Others Present:** Melissa Widseth, HDR; Patrick Klugman, City/County Planning Board; Commissioner John Ostlund; Commissioner Bill Kennedy; Councilman Dennis Pitman; Councilman Mike Yakawich; Evelyn Pyburn

**1. Call to Order: Mayor Hanel called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., Board of County Commissioners Board Room, Yellowstone County Courthouse**

Mayor Hanel called the meeting to order in the Board of County Commissioners Board Room and welcomed everyone in attendance. He led the attendees with the Pledge to the American flag.

**2. Communication from the Audience**

Mayor Hanel asked for communication from the audience. There was no public comment.

**3. Minutes of November 18, 2014**

Mayor Hanel called for approval of the November 18, 2014 meeting minutes.

**Motion**

**Paul Gatzemeier made a motion and Commissioner Reno seconded the motion to approve the November 18, 2014**

**The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

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## 4. Old Business:

### A. 2015-2019 Transportation Improvement Plan, Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator

A. Scott Walker stated the 2015-2019 TIP which tracks projects and project funding has gone through the approval process and is here for final recommendation from this committee. He provided an overview of Table 3 and explained that the projects listed in this TIP are projects to be started or completed within this time frame, (2015-2019). Recommendations of approval have been forwarded to this committee from TAC, City/County Planning Board, City Council and the Board of County Commissioners.

2015-2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	
Table 3-Revenue	
All Sources	
2015 <small>Includes Carryover</small>	\$59,195,556
2016	\$26,804,152
2017	\$44,082,346
2018	\$56,506,645
2019	\$15,846,969
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$202,435,670</b>

### PROJECTS LISTED IN THE 2015-2019 TIP

•Bench Blvd. All Phases	\$21,000,000
•27 <sup>th</sup> Street	\$13,000,000
•Zimmerman Trail	\$8,000,000
•Zimmerman Trail/Hwy. 3 Inter.	\$1,900,000
•Billings By-pass	\$26,000,000
•I-90 Interstate Bridges	\$45,000,000
•56 <sup>th</sup> & King Roundabout	\$4,000,000
•56 <sup>th</sup> & Central Roundabout	\$3,100,000
•Transit Operating (5 Years)	\$20,000,000
•MET Specialized Transit (5 Years)	\$1,000,000

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## Discussion

Mayor Hanel asked the Committee for questions or discussion. Commissioner Reno asked if the Zimmerman Trail Project will be improved to 3 lanes. Scott Walker replied a third lane will not be built; the available funding will be used for stabilization and improvements towards Rimrock Road. Gary Neville said the intersection improvement will consider a roundabout. Commissioner Reno said there will be additional focus on Skyview Road after this is addressed. He commented the County is having a lot of issues with dust control that they plan to address in the coming year.

## Motion

**Paul Gatzemeier made a motion and Commissioner Reno seconded the motion to approve the 2015-2019 Transportation Improvement Plan as presented by staff.**

## Discussion

Mayor Hanel and Commissioner Reno commended Scott Walker and Planning Staff for their work with this document.

**The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

## **B. Highway 3 Corridor Study, Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator**

Scott Walker said he had hoped to forward a PowerPoint presentation from the consultant but it is not available. The draft report has been received and reviewed by staff. The intent is to discover ways to enhance Highway 3 as an entryway to the City of Billings. The plan is available on the City website.

The projected approval time for this document is January or February 2015. The Plan considers the items below:

- From a Bike-Pedestrian standpoint, several options were considered as to what may make the path work within the current rights-of-ways.
- The consultants considered storm water flows and what can be planned to slow down the water as it moves towards the side of the rims including options for rerouting the water and retention ponds.
- Structuralized parking is considered with planning for oversized vehicles
- A more structured hard surfaced bike path working from the current intersection westward towards Zimmerman Trail.

## Discussion

Mayor Hanel called for questions and discussion. Commissioner Reno asked about bike pedestrian facilities will be included on Zimmerman Trail. Scott Walker said staff is aware of this issue but this not planned for at this time due to a lack of funding for a separated bike path. A planning study will be done to discover ways for bicyclists to connect from the top of the Rims to the bottom. Commissioner Reno voiced concern

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with potentially creating an “attractive nuisance” with the culmination of the bike/pedestrian path at Zimmerman Trail. Mayor Hanel said an additional side trail may be much safer. Gary Neville said MDT and the City have discussed how to accommodate pedestrians and the project is not finally scoped as it depends on funding. Vern Heisler stated the City is aware of the constraints of Zimmerman Trail and reiterated the group is collectively looking at some alternatives.

## **5.New Business**

A. Vern Heisler gave a brief update on the continuation of the Inner Belt Loop project. The section from Alkali Creek to Highway 3 is not in the Capital Improvement Plan.

B. Mayor Hanel thanked Commissioner Reno for his service on this Committee in 2014 and said Commissioner Kennedy will serve in this capacity of 2015.

C. Future Agenda Item: MDT Training Session during the February Meeting to discussed the roll and scope of the Policy Coordinating Committee

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**DRAFT-To be approved by a motion on March 24, 2015**