

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –APRIL 21, 2015

TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION JUNE 23, 2015



Members Present: Councilwoman Janie McCall, City Ward 4, for Mayor Tom Hanel, Commissioner Kennedy, Board of County Commissioners; Richard Clark, President, City/County Planning Board; Stefan Streeter, 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: Kristi Drake, BikeNet; Robbie Carpenter, Dean Clark, City/County Planning Board; Citizen Dale Anderson; Citizen Tom Zurbuchen; Citizen Earl Guss; Citizen Jim Bauer; Citizen John Spencer; D.J. Clark, Sanderson Stewart; Citizen Lyle Gabrian

Election of Officers

Motion

Dick Clark moved and Janie McCall seconded the motion that Commissioner Bill Kennedy will serve as chairman of the Policy Coordinating Committee for the 2015 term.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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

Commissioner Kennedy 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

Commissioner Kennedy asked for communication from the audience.

Kristy Drake, BikeNet, PO Box 2416, Billings, Montana

Ms. Drake read a letter aloud from Ed Guilick, Vice Chairman, BikeNet, addressing BikeNet's concerns with the Billings Bypass record of decision and stated they believe that the widened shoulder does not meet the intent of the 2010 U.S. Department of Transportation Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Recommendations, "Transportation agencies should give the same priority to walking

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –APRIL 21, 2015

TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION JUNE 23, 2015

and bicycling as other modes. Avoid designing walking and bicycling facilities to the minimum standard and integrate pedestrian and bicycle facilities into transportation systems regardless of regional, climate, and population density differences.” She continued and said without proper design few people will walk or bicycle along this route due to real or perceived safety issues.



Tom Zurbuchen, 1747 Wicks Lane, Billings, Montana

Mr. Zurbuchen urged the Committee not to accept the Highway 3 Corridor Sturdy in its present form as it incorporates commuter bike lanes on both shoulders. He said the plan does not present a conclusive, smooth, forward progress. He said it makes no sense to accept a plan that we are going to fight and cost us dollars we do not have.

Robbie Carpenter, 2935 Joan Lane, Billings, Montana

Ms. Carpenter is the Executive Director of “Our Montana”, which focuses parks, rivers, trails, and historic sites. “Our Montana” has sent a letter to the City and the County in regard to the Bypass for Dover Park. Safety needs to be a priority in the plans for the bypass being built between Lockwood and the Billings Heights. This means a separated non-motorized pedestrian access; not just a few feet on either side of the highway. She asked that as long term plans for this bridge and other trails are finalized, options for this access be considered with public input. She stressed the importance of considering the safety needs of children in future generations.

Karen Sanford Gaul, 311 East McDonald, Billings, Montana

Ms. Sanford Gaul represents “Billings Action for Healthy Kids” and stated they support alternate modes of transportation taken into account when building the bypass. She noted a letter written by Bill Cole on his behalf which was submitted to the Committee.

Lyle Gabrian, 3142 Zimmerman Place, Billings, Montana

Mr. Gabrian is the chairman of the Rimrock Task Force and he thanked the Planning Staff and Sanderson Stewart for the opportunity for the task force to participate on the Oversight Committee and give them a voice on this corridor. The task force generally supports the report as it will provide a benefit to the community and the much needed improvements as the corridor develops.

John Spencer, 1001 Sonora Ave., Billings, Montana

Mr. Spencer is attending on behalf of the Yellowstone River Parks Association Board. He said there are 3 segments of concern with the bypass project. 1) The approach on the Lockwood side of the bridge 2) the northern side of the bridge is within their Dover Park project and they will handle the off road trail though this segment. 3) Their primary concern is the bridge itself as a ½ mile of bridge with no adequate bicycle and pedestrian access is a hazard waiting to happen. He pointed out the June 19, 2015 deadline for comments and urged the committee’s consideration.

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –APRIL 21, 2015

TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION JUNE 23, 2015



3. Minutes of December 16, 2014 (Cancelled Meetings: January 20, 2015; February 17, 2015, and March 24, 2015) Commissioner Kennedy called for approval of the December 16, 2014 meeting minutes.

Motion

Dick Clark made a motion and Janie McCall seconded the motion to approve the December 16, 2014 meeting minutes.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business:

A. MOTION. HIGHWAY 3 CORRIDOR STUDY, LORA MATTOX,

TRANSPORTATION PLANNER: The Highway 3 Corridor Study is a planning study that evaluates the challenges of providing safe access for motorized and non-motorized transportation along the Highway 3 corridor in Billings and Yellowstone County. The study area is an approximately 5 mile corridor between the N. 27th Street and Highway 3 intersection and the Apache Trail and Highway 3 intersection.

Discussion

Commissioner asked the Committee for questions or discussion. Janie McCall asked Lora Mattox to respond to Mr. Zurbuchen's public comments regarding the shoulder for bicyclists. Lora Mattox stated there is going to be a roundabout constructed at Highway 3 and Zimmerman Trail which will act as a traffic calming measure. Another roundabout may be considered at Rod and Gun Club Road. They do not anticipate the bike lanes further west of Zimmerman Trail but it does make the connections. They felt it would be good to include an on street designated bike path. Commissioner Kennedy reiterated the plan states there will be a bike path on either side of Highway 3 but if the funds are available in the future a separated path might be done one the side. Lora Mattox said this this may be the preference. Commissioner Kennedy stated he wanted to ensure we are considered separated routes. Stefan Streeter said the roundabout will be built in the next few years. MDT has a preservation plan and does not include improvements. He stressed they currently have no plan to build the highway. Commissioner Kennedy stressed no one wants to lose sight on the Highway 3 Corridor of the opportunity for a separated non-motorized trail. Lora Mattox said any improvements would have to go through the governing bodies' review and approval process.

Motion

Dick Clark made a motion and Janie McCall seconded the motion to approve the Highway 3 Corridor Study as presented by staff.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –APRIL 21, 2015

TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION JUNE 23, 2015



5. New Business

A. Motion. Community Transportation Safety Grant, Lora Mattox Transportation Planner

Lora Mattox stated this is a local effort to apply to MDT for a Community Safety Plan. MDT assist staff with hiring a consultant for the community and it will be a good complement to the 2014 Transportation Plan. The Grant is data driven, and there is no local cash match. Once the emphasis areas are identified, the entities that are involved will continue to meet and address goals of the plan. She said this grant has be reviewed by the governing bodies and she brought an updated letter ready for signature.

Discussion

Commissioner Kennedy called for questions and discussion. Councilwoman Janie McCall asked about the grant timelines. Lora Mattox responded it will probably be about a year. Carol Strizich MDT said Missoula, Helena, Butte, Bozeman, Shelby-Toole County and Hamilton have participated in this grant. She said the idea is to helping communities to understand what is causing crashes in their community and identify strategies to address them.

Motion

Dick Clark moved and Janie McCall seconded to recommend approval of the Community Transportation Safety Grant as presented by Staff.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

6. Other Business

a. Per request of Dick Clark, Stefan Streeter gave background history on the North Bypass project. He said that within the DOWL-HKM contract there is language to have them look at an economical solution to meet the requests of these groups. MDT will return to PCC with the results and options to help find solutions to the project funding and to consider which option will be viable.

ADJOURNMENT MOVED BY DICK CLARK AND SECONDED BY JANIE MCCALL:
The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

DRAFT. To be approved by a motion on June 23, 2015