

# **POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES –JUNE 23, 2015

TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION JUNE 23, 2015



**Members Present:** 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; Wyeth Friday, Planning Division Manager

**Conference Call Participants:** Due to technical difficulties, MDT was unable to participate via conference call.

**Others Present:** Patrick Klugman, Planning Board member; Alicia Pettys, Northern Resource Council

**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.

**2. Communication from the Audience**

Commissioner Kennedy asked for communication from the audience. There was none

**3. Minutes of April 21, 2015** Commissioner Kennedy called for approval of the April 21, 2015 meeting minutes.

**Motion**

**Mayor Hanel made a motion and Dick Clark seconded the motion to approve the April 21, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted.**

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

**4. Old Business:**

**A. MOTION. 2015-2019 TIP Plan Amendment-Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator**

Scott Walker introduced this agenda item and explained the reasoning for this amendment request. He reviewed the project summary below along with the adoption schedule

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## 2015-19 TIP AMENDMENT I

### PROJECTS ADDED/AMENDED - Summary

- Bench Boulevard – Cost Updates
- Signal Upgrades Billings – Various Locations
- Lockwood Signal Upgrades – Various Locations
- Pinehills and Prior Creek Interchanges – Pavement Preservation
- Highway 3 (27<sup>th</sup> to Zimmerman Trail) – Pavement Preservation
- 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (27<sup>th</sup> to 32<sup>nd</sup>) – Pavement Preservation
- Division Street – Pavement Preservation
- Hillcrest – Right Turn Lane
- Billings North – Rumble Strips
- King Avenue Interchange Signals – Reflective Back plating

### 2015-2019 TIP AMENDMENT I - ADOPTION SCHEDULE

- The Technical Advisory Committee met the morning of May 21<sup>st</sup> to review the 2015-19 TIP Amendment I. TAC has recommended approval.
- The Planning Board will initially review the 2015-19 TIP Amendment I at its regular meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup> then make final recommendation of the document June 9<sup>th</sup> and forward its recommendation to the PCC.
- The Board of County Commissioners will review and take action on the 2015-19 TIP Amendment I at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> and forward its recommendation to the PCC.
- The City Council will review and take action on the 2015-19 TIP Amendment I at its regular meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and forward its recommendation to the PCC.
- The PCC is to take final local action on the 2015-19 TIP Amendment I on June 23, 2015.

### Discussion

Commissioner asked the Committee for questions or discussion. The committee members concurred that Staff has thoroughly presented this request to the governing bodies. Mayor Hanel commended Scott Walker for his presentation of the information.

### Motion

**Dick Clark made a motion and Stefan Streeter seconded the motion to approve 2015-2019 TIP Amendment I as presented by staff**

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

## **5. Other Business**

### **A. Project Updates-Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator**

#### **1. West End Traffic Study**

The scope of the West End Traffic Study is from Rimrock Road to the Interstate (north and south); and 48th Street West to 70<sup>th</sup> Street West (east and west). This study will be conducted in response to the substantial growth and the transitioning taking place from

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Rural to Residential uses in the west end of Billings. Scott Walker pointed out the need to use the information in the Transportation Plan to move forward to consider traffic flows, and address safety concerns due to lack of infrastructure, especially in school drop off areas. This study will try to address issues with the walking, riding, and traveling public.

## **Discussion**

Dick Clark commented the timing of this study is a little late considering the recent growth. Scott Walker said he cannot disagree but the Transportation Plan has already identified some of the needs, and this study will take one step further.

Commissioner Kennedy said some of this was addressed earlier with the development of Shiloh Road and the Interchange, which has attracted further growth

Dick Clark said he has heard some concerns with the potential for additional traffic on Grand Avenue with the school project. Mayor Hanel asked if there are concerns and 64th Street West. Stefan Streeter no at this time but as there is growth and more use, higher accident activity will drive additional safety dollars.

Commissioner Kennedy commented County roads are typically narrow and will have to be upgraded as they are annexed into the City. Stefan Streeter agreed and said it will be a real challenge as we move forward. Commissioner Kennedy stressed the importance of having the Highway Bill funding in order to address projects. Stefan Streeter said he would like to bring Director Tooley to a future meeting to bring a "State of Address". Commissioner Kennedy said it is important that everyone hears the state of the available funding and suggested inviting the Planning Board, Commissioners, and City Council members to attend.

## **2. Rims to Valley Bike/Pedestrian Study**

Scott Walker said the only remaining piece of the "Marathon Loop" is determining how to get bicyclists and pedestrians from the top of the rim face to 27th Street in the valley. He said the envisioning of widening Zimmerman Trail project is not coming to fruition for bike-pedestrian lanes, and as an alternative, this is an excellent time for this study to look at what connections can be made. A selection committee has been formed, and an oversight committee and public meetings will follow.

## **3. Transportation Alternative Program, (TAP), project submittals.**

This program replaced the CTEP program. Stefan Streeter said this is a competitive process. Scott Walker explained this program is based on submitted proposals reviewed for approval or denial by a committee of seven members. Last year, this program funded the Broadwater connection project. This year, there is 2.8 million dollars available state wide, and the projects can be just as expensive. Traditionally, CTEP projects were submitted with "one voice" from all of the governing bodies. The Transportation Alternative Program is different from CTEP as anyone can submit a project as long as it

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has government oversight. July 31, 2015 is the deadline for submittals. Scott Walker stressed the need to be attentive to the committee's criteria of connectivity and ADA compliance. TAC deliberated at and will meet again on June 30, 2015 to decide how to put together 2-3 applications that are community based.

The four projects in consideration are:

1. Extending bike pedestrian path in Swords Park to an interpretable overlook sight that would be connected with the bike path (Project cost: \$600,000)
2. Laurel Road-Currently Laurel Road has very little pedestrian amenities and last year's project cost was \$1.4 million. TAC suggested considering scaling this back and making it more pedestrian friendly.
3. 56th Street West and Grand Avenue-Pedestrian Presence, especially around the middle school. Right-of-way has to be available for this project to move forward
4. Lockwood, along Becraft at the location of the most recent fatality. This could be doable if there is enough right of way available.

Commissioner Kennedy asked that this be vetted through each of the governing boards prior to the July 21, 2015 PCC meeting.

### **3. Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District Non-Motorized Plan.**

Scott Walker explained that Lockwood proponents have asked that the Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District Non-Motorized Plan be brought forward to the governing bodies for endorsement. TAC is endorsing this plan and it will be brought forward through Planning Board, City Council, the Board of County Commissioners, and PCC. Scott Walker commended Lockwood residents for taxing themselves and leveraging County dollars to address the issues in their community.

### **Future Agenda Items**

1. Motion. TAP projects for approval
2. Date Confirmation for meeting and presentation by MDT Director Tooley in August. Committee members are to invite their respective Boards and Commissions, (Planning Board, City Council, and the Board of County Commissioners). Stefan Streeter will coordinate this and bring it to the next meeting
3. Per request of Commissioner Kennedy and Representative Clayton Fiscus, Stefan Streeter agreed to invite Sanderson Stewart to bring a presentation at the next meeting on the access from Mary Street to Bench Boulevard.
- 4.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

**DRAFT. To be approved by a motion on July 21, 2015**