

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –JULY 21, 2015

DRAFT-TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION AUGUST 18, 2015



Members Present: Mayor Proteome Dennis Pitman, Commissioner Kennedy, Board of County Commissioners; Don Reed, Vice President, City/County Planning Board (in the absence of Richard Clark, President), City/County Planning Board; Stefan Streeter, MDT District Office.

Staff Present: Candi Millar, Director, Planning & Community Services Department; Scott Walker, Transportation Planner, Planning & Community Services Department; Wyeth Friday, Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Planning Division Manager, Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk; Vern Heisler, Deputy Public Works Director; Tim Miller, Director, Yellowstone County Public Works Department.; Mike Black, Yellowstone County, Public Works Department,

Conference Call Participants: Carol Strizich, MDT Planning

Others Present: Mike Yakawich, Alan Towleron, Tobin Novasis, Lockwood Schools; Nic Talmark, Jolene Rieck, Peaks to Plains; Chuck Strum, Interstate Engineering, Patrick Klugman, BSEDA; Dennis L. Cook; Don Vanica, MDT; Kirk Spalding Sanderson Stewart, Evelyn Pyburn, Yellowstone County News

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, welcomed everyone in attendance, and led the pledge to the American Flag. He thanked Mayor Proteome Pitman and Planning Board member Don Reed for their attendance and offered condolences to Planning Board President Dick Clark due to the recent loss of his wife.

2. Communication from the Audience

Commissioner Kennedy asked for communication from the audience.

Don Reed, 1039 Cedar Canyon Rd, Lockwood, Montana

Don Reed stated he is speaking as a private citizen, and his comments are strictly personal. He referred to the Long Range Transportation Plan and said he does not feel it does not address the myriad of projects needed in Lockwood. He noted a previous request he had made for information from the County and said he feels the report submitted by the Yellowstone County Road and Bridge Department did not address his request. He asked that Staff revisit the 20 year plan to address the need for Lockwood projects. He submitted a letter to the Committee and said he stands by his comments.

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3. Minutes of June 23, 2015 Commissioner Kennedy called for approval of the June 23, 2015 meeting minutes.

Motion

Stefan Streeter made a motion and Dennis Pitman seconded the motion to approve the June 23, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business:

A. MOTION. Transportation Alternative Program, (TAP) Submittals, Transportation Coordinator

Scott Walker introduced this agenda item and gave a brief presentation. The financial statistic provided by the City Public Works Department will be made available to the Committee members. The Transportation Advisory Committee, (TAC), recommended the prioritized list of TAP applications below. Staff is requesting PCC to sign a letter of support for each project. Project submittals are due to MDT July 31st and the Federal Highway Committee will review them.

1. **Ben Steele Middle School Project** currently there is no connectivity to the school. Project Cost estimate \$440,000
2. **Laurel Road Improvement Project-** in large part fills in the sidewalk along the south side of Laurel Road to Parkway Lane and provides for crosswalk locations and ADA improvements. This project has been scaled back from last year's submittal. Cost estimate \$460,000
3. **Rimrock Parkland Scenic Overlook & Trail Project, (Highway 3 Bike Pedestrian Path Project) -** . ADA compliance and connection to 27th Street. This project has been scaled back from last year's submittal. Projected Cost \$314,00
4. **Lockwood Pedestrian Walkway Project along Becraft Lane,** Scott Walker noted the e-mail letter from Yellowstone County Attorney Dan Schwarz regarding the County's property interests on Becraft Lane stating, "The County Attorney believes these areas may have sidewalks constructed within the designated road tracts with little risk to the County." BSEDA is submitting this project. Projected Cost: \$590,000

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Discussion

In response to a question by Commissioner Kennedy, Scott Walker said the total cost of projects is 1.8 million. Commissioner Kennedy commented the reality is there are 4 good projects but there are limited statewide funds. Don Reed pointed out there will also be an elementary school built near the Ben Steele Middle School and asked if there could be coordination between the schools for this project. Scott Walker said this project will make some crucial connections that could be built upon in the future for the elementary school. The hope is to have this in place in time for the opening of the middle school.

MOTION

Dennis Pitman made a motion and it was seconded by Don Reed to sign a letter of support for each of these projects: Ben Steele Middle School Project; Laurel Road Improvement Project; Rimrock Parkland Scenic Overlook & Trail Project, (Highway 3 Bike Pedestrian Path Project), and the Lockwood Pedestrian Walkway Project along Becraft Lane.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5. New Business:

B. MOTION. Lockwood Non-Motorized Plan, Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator

Scott Walker introduced this agenda item. He said Lockwood constituents contacted Staff with a request to fully vet this plan and forward it to the governing bodies; as they would like to have this document recognized by PCC. This plan was brought forward for a motion and recommendation from Planning Board on July 14, 2015, City Council on July 6, 2015 and July 13, 2015; the Board of County Commissioners on July 6, 2015 and July 14, 2015; and presented to PCC today, July 21, 2015 for recommendation.

Scott Walker introduced consultant Jolene Rieck, Peaks to Plains Design. Nick Talmark, Woody Woods, Tobin Navasio, Lockwood Schools; Patrick Klugman, BSEDA.

Jolene Rieck, Peaks to Plains Design, Billings, Montana

Ms. Rieck opened with a PowerPoint presentation and said she along with Chuck Strum, Interstate Engineering, are the consultants for this study. She gave a brief history of the Lockwood Public Safety District. The ultimate spending authority is the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners. The Mission is to effectively eliminate fatalities and serious injuries with walking and bicycling in the Lockwood area. They determined the US Department of Transportation assigns a statistical life value of \$9.2 million dollars. Using this statistic as a basis, Lockwood has lost over 20 million in economic impacts due to loss of life. The study considered Lockwood's demographics including population; income, and health. The study looks at crash and injury data. Ms. Rieck noted that less than 2% of all of the roads in Lockwood have sidewalks. There has been a lot of public involvement and outreach, including LPSD Advisory Board Meetings; and Open House, and postings on the Yellowstone County Web site.

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LPDS Work Plan:

- **Education**-Bicycle Safety Class, Distribution of Reflective arm bands
- **Enforcement**-development of ordinance for sidewalks; update county road standards collaborate with City County Planning; speed study on Highway 87
- **Encouragement**-street lights; recognize businesses that have put in infrastructure, and a helmet give away with leverage of partnerships
- **Engineering**-US Highway 87 sidewalk from Old Hardin Road to Peters Street, school bus stop gathering areas; Evaluate re-opening of the cut through path at East Ridge Estates, Becraft sidewalk
- **Evaluations**-Annual review of non-motorized transportation plan; bicycle pedestrian counts; parent and student surveys, Partnerships & Funding Sources-identify possible grant sources with a 6 month rolling time frame request non-infrastructure funding from Yellowstone County; participate in meeting involving tax entities.

The next step is to complete the sidewalk around Highway 87 prior to school opening in the fall. LPDS Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Lockwood School Building.

Discussion

Commissioner Kennedy called for discussion. Don Reed commented for safety reasons, children do not ride bicycles in this area. He said the citizens of Lockwood initiated and voted on, and paid for this project.

MOTION

Don Reed made a motion and it was seconded by Dennis Pitman to the Lockwood Non-Motorized Plan as presented by Staff.

Discussion

Nic Talmark commented he is proud of the progress that has been made in a short amount of time and he thanked all those involved. He stated they look forward to making Lockwood better and a safer place to live.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

B. Presentation. Mary Street/Bench Boulevard Access. Stefan Streeter, MDT

This agenda item is per request of Commissioner Kennedy and Representative Clayton Fiscus, Stefan Streeter invited Kirk Spalding, Sanderson Stewart to bring a presentation on the access from Mary Street to Bench Boulevard.

Mr. Spalding described the access and provided the Committee with a graphic. He explained that the purpose of the median is to promote safety. He pointed out that southbound 87 traffic can cross at full speed at 35 plus mph. Sanderson Stewart, MDT, and the City of Billings worked closely to take this step and feel that although

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it may cause out of the way travel for citizens on Mary Street; a raised median is the solution and the means to prevent accidents.

Discussion

Dennis Pitman commented on a resident that told him they will "jump" the median and asked how this can be prevented. Kirk Spalding said they try to leave the median traversable. He said a flexible delineator may be a solution. He stressed the fact that conditions truly have changed, and will continue to do so due to growth and the construction of the Billings Bypass. He said this is in interim solution to the problem. He presented a diagram and explained the traffic flows from Mary to Pemberton to Main Street.

In response to a question by Commissioner Kennedy, Mr. Spalding said the citizens on Caroline and other streets off of Bench have higher traffic levels. Suggestions were made for signage for "no through traffic" on these streets. Kirk Spalding said it is generally better to let the traffic migrate through the streets. Commissioner Kennedy commented on the "cut through" traffic. Vern Heisler said he will bring these comments to the Engineering Division. Dennis Pitman said the City will work with the County on paving the sections of dirt road if possible.

Don Reed how will this coordinate with the bypass project. Stefan Streeter said this is an interim measure until the design is complete. He is unsure of what the final configuration will look like. The delivery timeline will depend on funding sources. The initial contract was award to Knife River to complete the section of Bench Boulevard in front of the school.

6. Other Business

A. Discussion. Director Tooley, MDT Roundtable Discussion-Stefan Streeter

Director Tooley can be in Billings for the PCC meeting at 12:00 p.m. on August 18, 2015. Staff will invite the Board of County Commissioners, City Council members, and Planning Board members to attend.

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

DRAFT-To be approved by a motion on August 18, 2015