

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –APRIL 19, 2016

APPROVED BY A MOTION MAY 17, 2016



Members Present: Councilman Larry Brewster, Ward 2; Commissioner Reno, Board of County Commissioners; Darell Tunncliff, 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: Katie Potts, MDT Planning

Others Present: Gary Neville, MDT; Oscar L. Heinrich Jr.; Evelyn Pyburn, Yellowstone County News; Tom Zurbuchen; Spenser Hays, HRDC; Mick Johnson; Doug Enderson, DOWL HKM;

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

Commissioner Reno 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.

2. Communication from the Audience

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

3. Minutes of January 19, 2016- Councilman Brewster made a motion and Stefan Streeter seconded the motion to approve the January 19, 2016 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business:

a. Update/Discussion. West End Multi-Modal Modeling Study. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator Presenting.

Scott Walker explained that the term “multi-modal” involves all times of transportation; and this instance, vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian modes. Two public meetings were held for this study, and the last Oversight Committee meeting is today. This West End Multi-Modal Modeling Study was borne out of the 2014 Transportation Plan which called out an area on the west end of Billings due to growth and subdivision development. This study will address overall transportation safety. He explained street segment levels of

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service, which are measures of traffic flows and said current projections are that the east-west streets in this area may begin to fail in the future. Decisions for needed improvements will be based on cost and safety considerations. This plan is also driven by the subdivision activity in the area. He commented on potential upcoming projects around the new middle school that will address potential bike pedestrian conflicts. This document will be vetted through the governing bodies and return to PCC for final approval on July 19, 2016.

Commissioner Reno asked what is considered a “typical cross section” of roadway. Darryl Tunnicliff asked about industry standards. Scott Walker stated this plan is considers what can be done to make the west end rural roads safer for travel. The plan will include options for street profiles for consideration. Darryl Tunnicliff asked about coordinating infrastructure when planning roadways. Scott Walker said there is fully vetted discussion between the departments during the first phases. Vern Heisler concurred and said water, sewer, and storm water is coordinated with road projects.

b. Update/ Discussion. Rims to Valley Feasibility Study. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, presenting.

Scott Walker said this the Rims to Valley Feasibility Study was borne out of several previous Planning studies. He noted an aerial view of Billings and pointed out the segments not connected within the Marathon Loop. If completed, this piece will help close the gap on the planning or design for the Loop. This study considers connectivity from the top of the Rims to the Valley for bicyclists and pedestrians. Commissioner Reno asked if there will be an underpass to access Zimmerman Park, Scott Walker replied this has been under consideration as it would provide a safe connection under Zimmerman Trail. This plan considers 3 options:

Option 1: Zimmerman Trail (Stagecoach Trail) infrastructure improvements

Option 2-3: Myers and Morledge Trail

Option 4-27th Street Trail.

Scott Walker emphasized this is a feasibility study. As a foundational document, the hope that as time and money allows there could be portions or each and/or each in its entirety will move forward. This document will be vetted through the governing bodies and return to PCC for final approval on July 19, 2016.

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –APRIL 19, 2016

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c. Update/Discussion. 5th Avenue Corridor Feasibility Study. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, presenting.

An initial study for the 5th Avenue Corridor was conducted 20 years ago. Last week, a consultant was selected for the 5th Avenue Corridor Feasibility Study; and a contract should be signed within the next six weeks. Staff will be in contact with property owners and Montana Rail Link, (MRL). Staff plans to have a MRL representative on the Oversight Committee. The outside boundaries are 4th Avenue and 6th Avenue North, and it extends eastward from the YMCA to the METRA Park. The plan hopes to show feasibility and opportunities for safety and create corridors for bikes, pedestrians, light transit, and circulator buses.

Commissioner Reno asked if this can be done before there is an available funding source. Scott Walker spoke about the need for progressive planning. He commented that the current TIGER grant would be a good funding source for these types of projects. Darryl Tunnicliff said this area has a lot of potential and conceptually this is a great idea. Scott Walker replied this study will be a strong foundational document.

d. Update/discussion. Highway 312 Corridor Study. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, presenting.

Scott Walker introduced Doug Enderson, DOWL Engineering. Mr. Enderson gave the background and purpose of this study which is to address the increasing traffic and congestion along the Highway 312 Corridor. Another informational meeting will be held and the final study should be completed in June or July, 2016. Commissioner Reno commended the Highway Department for the intersection improvements on Highway 312.

e. Update/Discussion. Airport Road & Main Street Intersection Study. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, presenting.

This study was undertaken by the Department of Transportation. There are some concepts that come out of the study for the intersection. A public meeting will be held in June, 2016. Staff will bring forward information to this Committee as it becomes available.

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –APRIL 19, 2016

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NEW BUSINESS

f. Staff Presentation/Discussion. 2015-2019 Transportation Improvement Plan, (TIP), Amendment III. Scott Walker, Presenting.

This is the third amendment to the program which fiscally tracks projects. Listed below is an overview of the minor changes. This document will be vetted through the governing bodies and return to PCC for final approval on July 19, 2016.

Highlights of 2015-2019 TIP Amendment III

- 4199 Billings Bypass – Five Mile Road
 - CN costs increased
- 6040: Zimmerman Trail
 - o RW moved from 2016 to 2017
 - o CN moved from 2017 to 2018
- 7972: I-90 Yellowstone River Billings
 - o PE increase
- 8036: Downtown State Signals
 - o RW added in 2016
 - o IC added in 2016
 - o CN decrease
- 8052: Roundabout King & 56th
 - o IC increase
- 8611: SF 129 – Roundabout Central & 56th
 - o PE increase
 - o IC moved from 2016 to 2017
 - o CN increase

New Projects:

- 9082: 1st Ave South – ADA (BLGS)
 - o All phase in 2016 for \$1,830,700
 - o Funded with Statewide CMAQ
 - o ADA Compliance funding bucket was reduced in 2016 since a project was nominated.

b. Update/Discussion. Bike Pedestrian Plan Update. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator.

Scott Walker stated staff has contracted with Alta Planning and Design to update the 2011 Bike Pedestrian Plan. This will be reviewed for the next 8-10 months and staff will provide this Committee with regular updates.

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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6. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Commissioner Reno asked about traffic signalization relative to late night METRA Park events. Stefan Streeter explained that the current controllers have event timing. In the long term, functioning a signal timing study will be done along Main Street once the Bench Boulevard signalization is functioning.
- b. Commissioner Reno asked about the plans for a constant right hand turn at the intersection of 1st Ave North and the METRA. Stefan Streeter said Sanderson Stewart conducted a traffic study which recommended a free moving right hand turn. He noted that MDT has a project programmed to redo the intersection.

Future Agenda Items: May 17, 2016

- 1. Motion/Approval 2015-2019 Transportation Improvement Plan, (TIP), Amendment III. Scott Walker, presenting.
- 2. Stefan Streeter: At grade Rail Study presentation to PCC
- 3. Wade Saylard's Presentation-Main/Airport Road Intersection

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Approved by a motion on May 17, 2016.

