

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –AUGUST 23, 2016

APPROVED BY A MOTION SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

Members Present: Commissioner John Ostlund, Board of County Commissioners; Darell Tunnicliff, President, City/County Planning Board; (PCC Chairman) Councilman Larry Brewster, Billings City Council, Ward 2; Gary Neville, MDT District Office.

Staff Present: Scott Walker, Transportation Planner, Planning & Community Services Department; Wyeth Friday, Planning Division Manager; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Vern Heisler, Deputy Public Works Director

Conference Call Participants: None

Others Present: Becky Bey, KLJ Engineering; Clair Johnson, Billings Gazette; Patrick Klugman, Big Sky EDA; Mick Johnson, HDR; Melissa Widseth-HDR

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

Councilman Brewster called the meeting to order in the Board of County Commissioners Board Room, welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Communication from the Audience

Councilman Brewster asked for communication from the audience. There was none.

3. Minutes of July 19, 2016- The minutes of July 19, 2016 were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business: There is no Old Business.

5. New Business

5a. Motion. 5th Avenue North Corridor Feasibility Study. Scott Walker, Transportation Planning Coordinator Presenting.

INTRODUCTION

Scott Walker updated the PCC members on the 5th Street Corridor Study. This feasibility study was approved as part of the 2015 UPWP. The UPWP was reviewed by TAC, City Council, BOCC, and Planning Board with a recommendation that the PCC adopt the 2015 UPWP. The 2015 UPWP was adopted by the PCC on September 15, 2015. The project was kicked off and a Request for Proposals was advertised in early 2016. KLJ Engineering was the selected consultant. Staff prepared the Consultant Agreement and forwarded to the City Council for the Mayor's signature. At the council meeting, concerns were raised by the Billings Industrial Revitalization District regarding the study. Concerns included the impact to rail service to property owners and that some property owners do not want the study completed. Due to these comments and concerns, the City

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Council denied the approval of the Consulting Agreement. This meeting is to revisit the Feasibility Study as a point of discussion and a motion is needed to move forward.

Discussion

Councilman Brewster explained the Council's decision to deny the approval of the Consulting Agreement was based on the petition from the property owners and input from the EBIRD, who said it is not in their work plan and they did not have enough time to make a decision. The Council did not want to have a study or put the railroad spur at risk. The Council voted 10-1 not to sign the contract and the vote in favor wished to redirect the funds.

Commissioner Ostlund, reported that the Board of County Commissioners voted to amend the Work Plan and support the City Council's decision not to sign the contract.

Planning Board President Tunncliff stated it seems the essence of the Policy Coordinating Committee is collaboration and sharing ideas. He feels Planning Staff has done a good job but the shortcoming was in the Planning Board not asking enough questions. He explained the purpose of the Planning Board structure is representation, and more time and effort should have been spent with the landowners. He stated the intent was good but he respects the decisions of City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Ostlund said one of the Commissioners should have attended a Planning Board meeting.

Stefan Streeter said this review is process driven, and the need for more public involvement and better communication is generally the root of the problem. He said MDT sees this as a community issue.

Councilman Brewster commented the new council members would have benefited with more information and education. He suggested revisiting the Work Plan with the Council earlier in the cycle. Planning Board President Tunncliff asked what the Planning Board can do as a Board to better communicate with the Board of County Commissioners and City Council. Brewster suggested reporting to City Council on a regular basis, possibly quarterly or semi-annually- particularly during an election year. Commissioner Ostlund commented on the Subcommittee for Subdivision Design Standards.

Motion

Commissioner Ostlund made a motion and it was seconded by Darryl Tunncliff to amend the Draft FFY 2017 UPWP and delete the 5th Avenue Corridor Feasibility Study from the project list.

Discussion

Scott Walker thanked Consultant Becky Bey, KLJ for their participation in this process.

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Future Agenda Items for September 13, 2016

1. Motion/Recommendation. Draft FFY 2017 UPWP
2. Revision of Planning MPO Boundary-administrative review

Adjournment: 12:21

Approved by a motion on September 13, 2016

