

## **POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES –DECEMBER 20, 2016

APPROVED BY A MOTION MARCH 28, 2017

**Members Present:** (Chairman) Councilman Dick Clark, Billings City Council, Ward 5; Stefan Streeter, MDT District Office; Commissioner John Ostlund, Board of County Commissioners; Planning Board President Darell Tunncliff, Yellowstone County Planning Board, Ward IV.

**Staff Present:** Scott Walker, Transportation Planner, Planning & Community Services Department; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Wyeth Friday, Director, Planning & Community Services Department; Gary Neville, MDT District Office; Mike Black, Yellowstone County Public Works Department; Elyse Monat, Transportation Planning Intern.

**Conference Call Participants:** Katie Potts, MDT Planning; Kenn Winegar, MDT Planning.

**Others Present:** Tom Zurbuchen; Terry Odegard; Todd Cormier, HKM Engineering; Evelyn Pyburn, Yellowstone County News; Denis Pitman

**1. Call to Order: Councilman Clark called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., Board of County Commissioners Board Room, Yellowstone County Courthouse**  
Councilman Clark called the meeting to order in the Board of County Commissioners Board Room, and welcomed everyone in attendance.

### **2. Communication from the Audience**

**Tom Zurbuchen of 7147 Wicks Lane** urged the PCC to reject the Community Transportation Safety Plan as cited traffic violations have gone way up even though there are more police officers.

**Terry Odegard of 2101 Lake Hills Drive** commented on the Community Transportation Safety Plan. He stated that most of the public comments have to do with enforcement. He urged PCC to listen to the community on this matter.

**3. Minutes of September 13, 2016- The minutes of September 13, 2016 were approved with a unanimous voice vote.**

### **4. Old Business:**

**4a. Motion/Recommendation. Billings Community Transportation Safety Plan, Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner, presenting.**

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## Information

### PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT

The City-County Planning Division is presenting to the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) the Billings Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP) for the PCC to take final action.

### BACKGROUND

The development of the Billings Community Transportation Safety Plan was led by a Transportation Safety Advisory Committee (AC) consisting of the Billings MPO, City of Billings, Yellowstone County, local safety partners, and MDT staff members as technical support. This advisory committee elected to adopt *Vision Zero*, Montana's initiative to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on the state's public roadways. The vision statement for the Billings CTSP was defined as follows.

**The Billings community will achieve zero fatalities and serious injuries through a culture of safety for all travelers.**

The goal for the plan is to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by 20% from 70 in 2014 to 56 by 2020 based on a five-year rolling average calculation.

The group evaluated crash data and considered public survey results and the input of local safety partners to identify the following three emphasis areas with the greatest potential for reducing fatalities and serious injuries: 1) Unrestrained Occupants; 2) Impaired Driving; and 3) Inattentive Driving/Speeding.

After reviewing public comment collected through an online survey tool and conducting a half-day safety summit with community members and safety partners, a set of safety strategies and action steps were developed to assist the Billings MPO in achieving the established goal. Each emphasis area will be championed by a local stakeholder with assistance from local safety partners. The plan vision, goal, emphasis areas, and strategies are summarized as follows:

### RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Board at its meeting on November 9, 2016, heard information regarding the Plan and conducted a public hearing to receive public testimony. No testimony was received. The Planning Board voted to send a recommendation of approval to PCC to approve the study. The Billings City Council and Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners also voted to send a recommendation of approval to the PCC.

Based on the recommendations of the governing bodies and the Planning Board, staff is requesting a vote of approval by the PCC on the Billings Community Transportation Safety Plan.

### Discussion

Commissioner Ostlund asked what the response was to the need for more law enforcement. Transportation Planner Lora Mattox replied that the City knows it is an issue and Chief St. John has taken it to heart by becoming the leader for the inattentive driving/speeding emphasis area. She also stated that we need to educate and remind our citizens to do their part by following traffic laws. Planning Board President Tunncliff asked what follow-up will be provided. Lora Mattox stated that she hopes there will be quarterly follow-up and that she wants to bring updates to PCC. Planning Board President

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Tunncliff asked what the end date is for the Plan. Lora Mattox responded that there is no end date but that she hopes they can update the plan every four years and reach their goal of reducing fatalities and serious injuries by 20% by 2020. Councilman Clark asked if the data was only from the City of Billings. Lora Mattox responded that it is from the Urbanized Area.

### **Motion**

Councilman Clark called for a motion.

**Planning Board President Tunncliff made a motion and Ostlund seconded the motion to approve the Billings Community Transportation Safety Plan, (CTSP), as presented by staff.**

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

### **5. Other Business**

#### **A. Project Updates/Discussion Items:**

#### **1. 2016 Bike Trail Master Plan: Scott Walker, Transportation Planner, presenting.**

City County Planning is in the middle of the Billings Bike and Trail Master Plan Update. The Plan is getting close to final plan approval in the next couple of months. A wiki map was used to collect comments from the public.

Commissioner Ostlund asked about a comment on the wiki map south and east of the river that appeared to be on private property. Scott Walker explained that the point represented a comment from the public about the need for an infrastructure improvement. The final document will only contain suggestions for public property.

Councilman Clark asked about maps that were available at the December 15, 2016 public meeting. Scott Walker said those maps represent the overall vision and will be available to public.

Planning Board President Tunncliff asked about usage on bike trails and requested a map of bike counts. Scott Walker said he would send the information to Planning Board President Tunncliff. Planning Board President Tunncliff asked about usage. The lower end of the scale is 20-40 people per day, and the higher end is 200-400 people per day. Overall, thousands are using the system every day. Councilman Clark asked if counts are still announced. Scott Walker replied that they are not.

Councilman Clark asked if Planning was able to determine if someone commented more than once on the wiki map. Lora Mattox said users could only comment once per computer.

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### **2. Transportation Survey**

City/County Planning is undertaking a statistically valid transportation survey in partnership with Westat as the consultant. It will be a county wide survey with a return of 1,100 surveys and will be used to develop a TransCAD model which will feed into the Long Range Transportation Plan.

### **3. Fiscal Year '16 Project Summary**

Scott Walker handed out a list of Fiscal Year '16 projects as federal regulations require this information to be made available to the public each year. Planning Board President Tunncliff asked about total expenditure. The total is over 27 million dollars.

Commissioner Ostlund asked if any of the projects were new. Scott Walker said that they were not.

Planning Board President Tunncliff commented that the expenditures represent a huge impact to economy. He suggested including the public more. Scott Walker said that all of this information is on the Planning Division's web page.

Commissioner Ostlund asked about bike and pedestrian counts during the winter. Scott Walker replied that they wrapped up counts in October.

Councilman Clark asked if these were all MDT projects. Scott Walker said that they were all federal highway funded or state funded projects.

### **4. North Bypass Highway 312 Option: Todd Cormier, DOWL, presenting.**

The project will be designed in two stages. The first stage is 5 Mile Road, stage two is the rest. About 30% of the design is turned in for 5 Mile Road and it is expected the bid package will be ready in 2018. Kittelson & Associates is helping to create a plan for intersections along the route. There is a second meeting on January 30 and 31.

Commissioner Ostlund asked when intersections at either end of the project would start construction. Scott Cormier responded that the department wants to focus most on spending money where it is needed most first. Commissioner Ostlund asked if bridge work would begin before either intersection. Stefan Streeter replied that it is still up in the air depending on funding and design. Planning Board President Tunncliff asked how much funding was identified. There are lots of different types of funds but funds vary from year to year. Planning Board President Tunncliff asked if funding was based on year basis. Stefan Streeter said yes, although the MDT District office does make a 5 year plan based on anticipated funding.

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### **B. Discussion. 2017 Policy Coordinating Committee Officers**

Commissioner Ostlund said that the chairmanship typically rotates between city and county.

### **Motion**

Councilman Clark called for a motion.

**Planning Board President Tunncliff made a motion and Streeter seconded the motion to make John Ostlund the chairman of the PCC board for next year.**

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

### **6. Future Agenda Items: January 17, 2017**

There were no future agenda items at the time of the meeting.

**Adjournment: 1:02 p.m.**

