

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –JUNE 20, 2017

APPROVED BY A MOTION JUNE 20, 2017

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

Staff Present: Scott Walker, Transportation Planner, Planning & Community Services Department; Wyeth Friday, Director, Planning & Community Services Dept.; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk; Tim Miller, Yellowstone County Public Works; Mike Black, Yellowstone County Public Works Dept.; Vern Heisler, City of Billings, Public Works Dept.

Conference Call Participants: Katie Potts, MDT Planning

Others Present: Darryl Wilson, YRPA ; Earl Guss, YRPA, Commissioner Robyn Driscoll; Commissioner Denis Pitman; Diane Lehm, BSEDA; Patrick Klugman, BSEDA; Woody Woods, Lockwood Steering Committee; Bob Riehl, Lockwood Steering Committee; Steve Arveschroug, BSEDA; Katy Easton, BSEDA; Rod Nelson, MDT

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

2. Communication from the Audience: There was none.

3. Minutes of May 16, 2017

Motion

Stefan streeter made a motion and it was seconded by Councilman Brwster to approve the minutes of May 16 2017. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business: There is no Old Business.

5. New Business

5a. Discussion Northeast Bypass project. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, presenting.

Chairman Ostlund stated he requested this meeting to provide clarification on the funding for the Northeast Bypass project. Scott Walker stated the funding sources were clarified at a recent meeting with MDT. Commissioner Ostlund referred to a memo from Lynn Zanto stating MDT will apply for additional funding subject to Transportation Commission approval. He asked if there is any issue with this document as signed.

Scott Walker explained that the Record of Decision did not indicate a bike or pedestrian facility on the bridge portion of this project and there has been discussion for the need for this type of facility. Subsequently, the funding has become a point of discussion.

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Stefan Streeter commented the Record of Decision describes the project with an 8-foot shoulder for pedestrian use on the bridge but the public has been very vocal for the need of a separated path. He stated he does not feel comfortable expending funds without approval of this body. He suggested spending additional urban funds for a separated path.

Chairman Ostlund said this will have to return to governing bodies for recommendation. Per Planning Board President Tunncliff's request, Stefan Streeter further clarified and stated the bridge was originally designed with 8-foot shoulders for pedestrian use, and the suggestion is for a wider structure with separated pedestrian paths. He stated MDT will reevaluate as they move forward but he doesn't have the authority of expending 3.8+ million dollars for this separated path; and it could potentially create a minor delay.

Planning Board President Tunncliff stated at the June 13, 2017 meeting, the City County Planning Board by motion strongly recommended using an alternative funding package for a separated bicycle pedestrian path. This agenda item will be revisited during the July 18, 2017 PCC meeting.

Stefan Streeter said MDT would like to have the bridge under construction in 2019 after 5-mile road project is completed. The structure itself is in excess of \$40 million without the additional separated path. Stefan Streeter has an agreement to clarify PCCs approval of the use of the additional funds for this purpose. Councilman Brewster stated this discussion will be placed on the City Council agenda.

6. Other Business

6a. Kalispell Bypass Project Analysis Report, Stefan Streeter, MDT

Stefan Streeter gave a brief overview of this report as he feels the economic impacts of the Bypass project will be similar for this community.

Economic impact of the Kalispell Bypass. (Ed Toavs, MDT; Steve Peterson, University of Idaho)

\$135 million: Cost to build the U.S. 93 Alternate Route from 2001-2016

\$120 million: Portion of the cost to build the bypass that was funded by federal government dollars

\$75.6 million: Average annual sales, or gross economic impact, resulting from the bypass, according to an economic analysis of the project that factored private business and residential construction in the bypass corridor

\$1.12 billion: Overall gross economic impact of the construction of the bypass from 2001-2016, including new residential and commercial development and associated wages and sales, according to an economic analysis

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760 jobs: Average annual number of jobs resulting from the construction of the bypass over the last 16 years, including construction crews and employees of new firms and businesses in the bypass corridor

Stefan Streeter stated reiterated that the Bypass project will play a large part to the growth of the community and will be an economic driver. Chairman Ostlund agreed and stated he feels it will be the most important connection in Yellowstone County. He stated this project has been in the works for 20 years and he doesn't wish to see a delay. Councilman Brewster concurred.

Citizen Earl Guss spoke and stated he founded the Yellowstone River Parks Association, YRPA, in 1991. He voiced concern with having a bridge without safe pedestrian passage, and stated the bottom line for YRPA is they wish to be good neighbors and safe passage between JH Dover Park and Lockwood for pedestrians is a must. He said the monies expended for the separated trail will be saved in ambulance fees. Woody Woods requested a copy of the Kalispell analysis. Darryl Wilson, YRPA, thanked the Committee and Staff for working towards this end for this project commitment.

Future Agenda Items July 18, 2017:

→Discussion/ Motion. Separated Pedestrian Walkway on the North East Bypass project/funding.

Adjournment: 12:15 p.m.

DRAFT-To Be Approved by a motion on July 18, 2017