

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –AUGUST 20, 2019

APPROVED BY A MOTION ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

Members Present: Chairman Bill Cole, Mayor, City of Billings; Denis Pitman, Vice Chairman, Board of County Commissioners; Rod Nelson, Director, MDT District Office; Planning Board President Darell Tunnicliff, Yellowstone County Planning Board

Staff Present: Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, Planning & Community Services Department; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk

Others Present: Kirk Spalding, Sanderson Stewart; Alan Woodmansey, FHWA; Mike Taylor, MDT, Rusty Logan, MET Transit

1. Call to Order: Chairman Bill Cole called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., Board of County Commissioners Board Room, 316 N 26 St, Room 310, Stillwater Building, and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Communication from the Audience: There was no communication from the audience regarding agenda items or future agenda items.

3. Minutes of August 20, 2019

A correction was requested for a typographical error on page one and it was noted by the Planning Clerk.

Motion

Commissioner Pitman made a motion and it was seconded by Planning Board President Darell Tunnicliff to approve the minutes of August 20, 2019 as corrected. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business

4a. Motion/Recommendation. FFY 2020 Billings Urban Area Unified Planning Work Program, (UPWP), Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, presenting.

Scott Walker opened this agenda item and stated this document received recommendations of approval from the Transportation Advisory Committee, YC Board of Planning, City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. Following today's motion, the work program will be considered by MDT Helena and the Federal Transportation Authority, (FTA). He explained that the Federal Highway Department gives guidance as this program is coordinated. The Planning Division office works closely with the local MDT office, MDT Helena, and the Federal Highway Department. He commented that over the years, this program has proven to be a benefit to the community. He continued with a presentation of the FFY 2020 UPWP.

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There was no discussion or questions from the Committee.

Motion

Commissioner Pitman made a motion and it was seconded by Planning Board President Tunncliff to forward a recommendation of approval of the FFY 2020 Billings Urban Area Unified Planning Work Program as presented by staff. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5. New Business

5a. Presentation. Discussion. Safety Improvement Project Rimrock Road and 62nd Street West. Kirk Spalding, Sanderson Stewart, presenting.

Mr. Spalding opened the presentation and referred to a map of the intersection of Rimrock Road and 62nd Street West. The Project Team includes MDT, Sanderson Stewart, and several stakeholders. The purpose of the study is evaluation of the viability of this intersection. The proposed scope of work is to improve safety at the intersection by constructing a roundabout. The project will be developed in two phases.

Phase I- “Other”, (OT) Phase is 95% complete. Phase II-Design/Right-of-Way

Project basics include: combining the three intersections into one; abandoning the Rimrock Road/Molt Road curve; incorporation of local planning; improving drainage as the grade will be raised; public involvement; finding the best fit within existing right-of-way; and aesthetic enhancements in the roundabout with the City’s guidance.

Project Specifics: 12-ft lanes, 4-ft. paved shoulders on non-curbed sections; 12-ft. lanes, 2-ft. shoulders on curbed sections; 18-ft. paved and striped median on the north leg; 8-ft. sidewalks. /7-ft. Boulevards to connect ramps; Variable with raised median; LED lighting; elevated roadway; large culverts.

Project Activity:

Completed: Survey-Control, Topographic, Cadastral; Utility designation and verification; Irrigation/Drainage Research; Preliminary Environmental; Preliminary Geotechnical; Traffic Study; Ownership Study; Preliminary roundabout layout; 30% Plans

Upcoming: Open House-September 4, 2019; Wrap up OT Phase, (Fall 2019); Begin Phase II-Design and R/W, (2019-2020); Right of Way Acquisition TBD

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Project Limits Map-access provisions will be made for the new storm water facilities.



Discussion

Mayor Cole called for questions and discussion. Bill Cole commented that this is one of the most important bike routes in north west Billings. He pointed out that the proposal includes installation of sidewalk that runs around the roundabout and then terminates. He asked if the 2-ft shoulders will present issues for bicyclists.

Mr. Spalding responded that typically a 15.5-ft. width is adequate. The sidewalks will act as a multi-use facility with the 8-ft wide width. He commented on the possibility of finding a funding source to connect the land eastward that is generating an orphan gap in the chain. He stated this would be a City project and stressed that the safety component of this study is to mitigate the accident trends. He said putting in a multiple use path may be a City conversation but the Public Works Department has not expressed interest at this time. The Cold Creek Subdivision will create a path but this will be on hold until this project is constructed. Wyeth Friday said the subdivision to the east is set to finance its contributions toward future improvements, including the continuation of the trail fronting the property.

Mike Black, YC Public Works Department, said he lives in this area. The Montana Marathon annual event uses this area but there are concerns with the current levels of traffic. Mr. Black encouraged construction of additional lanes and expanding the right-of-

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way. Kirk Spalding said this is a 20-year design layout. He noted the proposed lane widths and traffic projections obtained through modeling.

Planning Board President Darel Tunnicliff voiced concern with the need for student safety. He said he is unsure the existing traffic counts provide a good model considering the current development in this area. He felt that a bike path on 62nd Street West is a viable consideration. His reservation is that this intersection is changing faster than a typical developmental growth pattern.

Mayor Cole asked for clarification on the 20-year planning horizon and said it would be a shame to realize later that not enough raw land was acquired to expand. Kirk Spalding explained that the right-of-way acquired by the City for this project did encompass a larger design but current projections point that this was over estimated. He said the current projections are to their best estimate.

Mike Black asked if there is enough room for a second lane to go from east to south, and from east to further west. Kirk Spalding stated they are only acquiring the right-of-way needed for this footprint. Discussions will continue with the City and The Yellowstone County Club regarding the potential land swap.

Other Business

Mayor Bill Cole commented on attending the upcoming Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study public meetings and encouraged presentations to the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners

Future Agenda Items

- Presentation/Discussion. Exposition and 1st Intersection Project. (Requested by Commissioner Pitman)
- Presentation/Discussion. Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study (Requested by Mayor Cole).

ADJOURNMENT: 12:55 PM

Approved by a motion September 17, 2019

