

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES –FEBRUARY 18, 2020

APPROVED BY A MOTION APRIL 21, 0202

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 Woody Woods, Yellowstone County Planning Board

Staff Present: Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, Planning & Community Services Department; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner

Others Present: John Ostlund, Yellowstone County Commissioner; Don Jones, Yellowstone County Commissioner. Conference call: Kenn Winegar from MDT Planning

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Bill Cole called the meeting to order at 12:01 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 September 17, 2019** (The October-December 2019 meetings were canceled due to a lack of agenda items. Corrections: p. 4 last line Taylor has an extra “L” and p. 5 should be through, not though.

Motion

Commissioner Pitman made a motion and it was seconded by Planning Board President Woody Woods to approve the minutes of September 17, 2019 as amended. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business

4a. Public Comment: There is no public comment on this agenda item.

4b. Motion. Wayfinding Signage Plan. Alta Planning & Design,. Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner, presenting.

BACKGROUND

Lora provided a brief overview of the Wayfinding Plan including the review by the Technical Advisory Committee, Planning Board, Board of County Commissioners, and City Council.

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RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Policy Coordinating Committee approve the Wayfinding Plan as presented by staff.

Discussion

Chairman Bill Cole called for discussion from the Committee. Chairman Cole said discussion at City Council was positive, but there were questions about cost. Staff/the consultant clarified that this plan did not commit any funding toward wayfinding.

Commissioners added a signature page that said they were not obligated to implement signage; they did not want to commit to having to do it.

The Plan was well received at the Planning Board. Staff also gave a presentation to the Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District and Pedestrian Safety District members appreciated this presentation.

Chairman Cole commented that there is no signage at Swords Rimrock Park east of the airport for the Yellowstone Kelly interpretative sight. Lora will talk with Mark Jarvis to figure out the best way to get that sign put in. Cole offered to help in any way he could.

Motion

Woody moved and Commissioner Pitman seconded the motion to approve the Wayfinding Plan as presented by staff. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5. New Business: There is no New Business

5a. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

6. Other Business

6a. Project Updates: Transportation Planning Coordinator Scott Walker gave the following project updates.

Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study.

This is a visioning study of how we want the road to look and feel. Scott likened it to the Shiloh Road corridor. Next public meeting is March 5 in the library. Will have final draft ready on Thursday for review. Planning Board presentation will be scheduled after the public meeting on March 5. Planning Board is trying to be more proactive about getting involved in these studies. Ward 2 position on the Planning Board will be filled soon by Heidi Jensen.

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The Rimrock Task Force continues to be concerned about traffic down Zimmerman Trail. Cole thinks that it is important this be addressed in very specific terms. Cole said neighborhood deserves a written response to their concerns. Scott said this will be addressed at the meeting.

Tour Map and Mobile Application Map app is forthcoming for bikeways and trails. Mayor Cole asked if this app could be combined with the bus app. Scott pointed out the bus symbol that goes to the bus tracker app. Cole asked who fixes the app. Elyse will be able to make updates to locations, but consultants will have to make updates if there are issues with something not working. Will be able to add in updates to system as they come online.

Complete Streets Updating Complete Streets Progress Report. The document will have the progress of how we are doing as a community with updated data.

Cole asked how the policy has been working out. Before there was concern about higher cost. Scott said it has been perceived positively. Cost has been absorbed through Public Works as just a way that business is now done. Lora pointed out that Complete Streets is not just for biking, it is streetlights, turn lanes, etc., anything that makes the street safer. There is a presentation to Council at 30% design review where PW comes for feedback.

Downtown Traffic Study Under contract with DOWL. Want to make sure that everyone has input and is involved with this. There is some opportunity to change one-ways into two-ways. This process is public involvement heavy to give some guidance on how to move forward. Cole asked about the cost of those conversions. Low estimate was \$9 million, high is close to \$20 million. Some of it crosses MDT routes so it is important to work with MDT. Some mast arms for signals can be reconfigured. Some intersections can be \$250,000 or more to retrofit. There are some intersections that are low-hanging fruit that could be inexpensive to do.

5th Ave. Corridor Study RFP was advertised Friday. Will close March 6 at 5 pm. This is a feasibility study to see if it is possible to do the study. If it is, then will move on to the planning portion. Cole asked if property owners had been reached out to. Scott said property owners who were opposed are already aware and have been offered spots at the oversight committee.

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Future agenda items:

- BUILD grant and First and Expo
- Billings Bypass update and what we can see in the next 6 months or a year. This could go to the governing bodies.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:42 PM

APPROVED

