

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Virtual Video Conference

MINUTES –MAY 19, 2020

DRAFT-TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION AT THE NEXT SCHEUDLED MEETING

NOTICE

Due to COVID-19, the meeting will held through a virtual platform. Public comment will be taken only during the Public Comment periods as indicated on the agenda. Comments may be sent to Board via email before 10:00 AM on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. All emails received prior to this time will be read into the record for the public hearing.

Member Participants: Chairman Bill Cole, Mayor, City of Billings; Denis Pitman, Vice Chairman, Board of County Commissioners; Mike Taylor, MDT District Office; Planning Board President Woody Woods, Yellowstone County Planning Board

Staff Participants: Wyeth Friday, Director, Planning and Community Services; Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, Planning & Community Services Department; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk; Robbin Bartley, Administrative Assistant

Other Participants: Katie Potts, MDT Planning

1. Call to Order: Chairman Bill Cole called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He announced the Citizen call in phone number: (406) 247-8607.

2. Public Comment/Communication from the Audience:

The Public may call in during specific Public Comment periods at (406) 247-8607. All callers will be in a queued system and are asked to remain on hold and be patient. Calls will be taken in the order in which they are received. Callers will be restricted to 3 minutes of testimony as is customary. Live coverage can be viewed:

<https://www.facebook.com/Billings-Planning-Community-Services-Department-1738982159659260/?ref=bookmarks>

A. Comments on items not on the agenda and requests to add items to future agendas.

B. Comments on items on the Non-public and Public Agenda Items

Administrative Assistant Robin Bartley announced no calls were received from the public. There was no communication from the audience regarding agenda items or future agenda items.

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3. Minutes of April 21, 2020

Motion

Commissioner Pitman made a motion and it was seconded by Planning Board President Woody Woods to approve the minutes of April 21, 2020 as submitted. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business

There is no Old Business.

5. New Business

5a. Motion. Amendment of the 2018 Transportation Plan for the addition of the 29th and 30th Streets’ conversion to two-way traffic. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator.

Scott Walker stated this amendment brings the opportunity to begin a street conversion project. FWHA will make a recommendation on June 25, 2020. He highlighted updates on the title page and formatting to the documents.

Background

The Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) is being asked to provide a recommendation to the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) on an amendment to the Billings Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to ensure a road project in downtown may move forward. This project is a conversion of North 29th Street and North 30th Street from one-way to two-way traffic between Montana Avenue and 6th Avenue North.

Since the Montana Department of Transportation identifies North 30th Street as an Urban Route and the project intersects with other State routes, action by the Montana Transportation Commission is required to approve City construction on these roadways. To complete this approval at the State level, the Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization must amend its Billings Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to ensure these roadway projects are properly identified in the Plan.

The Yellowstone County Board of Planning, Billings City Council and Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners have recommended approval of the amendment to the PCC. Approval of the LRTP amendment by the PCC will be the last step in the local approval process that will lead to review and action by the Transportation Commission in June. Approval by the Commission will allow the City to have the option

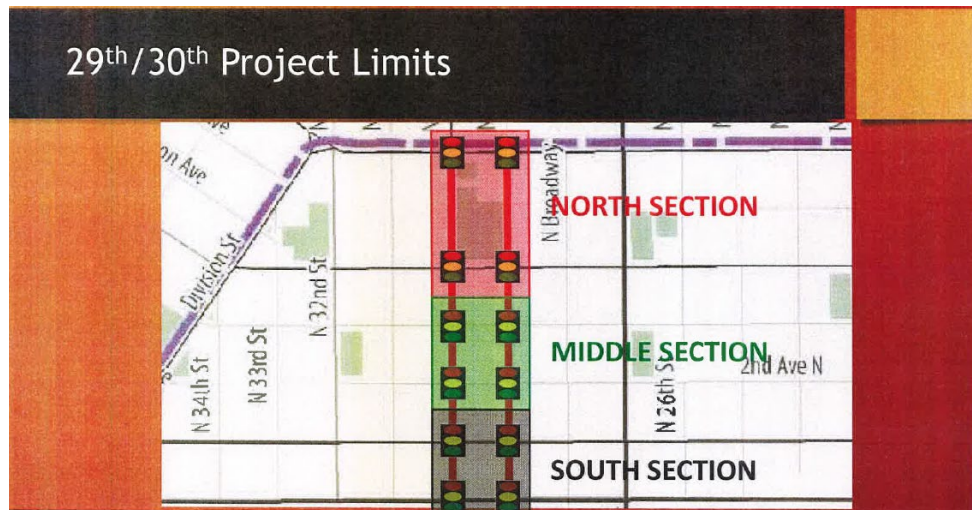
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to bond for approximately \$1.9 million in TIF dollars to complete the one-way to two-way conversion. The process to bond the project will be a separate action the City Council will consider at meetings in May and June.



Recommendation

Staff recommends the PCC forward a recommendation of approval to the Montana Department of Transportation for the amendment of the 2018 Transportation Plan that would include the conversion of 29th and 30th streets in downtown Billings from one way to two-way traffic from 6th Avenue North to Montana Avenue.

Discussion

Mayor Cole called for questions and discussion. He asked about the verbiage of the amendment. Scott Walker explained staff has made the changes to the chapters pertinent to the amendment. The project cost is estimated at a little under 2 million and the funding tables have been updated accordingly. The updates included will provide a thorough long-range plan. This is being process through the system impact process and comments are due on June 25, 2020.

Public Comment

Mayor Cole announced the public comment phone number. No public comments were received.

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Motion

Commissioner Denis Pitman made a motion and Planning Board President Woody Woods seconded the motion to forward a recommendation of approval to the

Montana Department of Transportation for the amendment of the 2018 Transportation Plan that would include the conversion of 29th and 30th streets in downtown Billings from one way to two-way traffic from 6th Avenue North to Montana Avenue.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

.6. Other Business:

Scott Walker suggested scheduling the June meeting to be held in the Commissioners Board Room. Commissioner Denis Pitman said he feels this is a good idea as they have social distancing measures in place. The capability of holding virtual meetings is available and a format with a link published on Facebook would be workable. Woody Woods said there is adequate distancing available and he is in favor of meeting in the Commissioners Board Room. The next PCC meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2020.

7. Future Agenda Items:

- **FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan**

ADJOURNMENT: 12:18 PM

DRAFT. To be approved by a motion June 16, 2020.

Tamara L. Deines, Planning Clerk