

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Virtual Video Conference

MINUTES –JUNE 16, 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, June 16, 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

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) 237-6165.

2. Public Comment/Communication from the Audience:

The Public may call in during specific Public Comment periods at (406) 237-6165. 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

Planning Clerk Tamara Deines 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 May 19, 2020

Motion

Planning Board President Woods made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Pitman to approve the minutes of May 19, 2020 as submitted. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business

There is no Old Business.

5. New Business

5a. Motion. Draft 2020-20204 Transportation Improvement Program. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator.

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT

Federal regulations require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) review and update their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) periodically. This TIP update is required since funding adjustments have been made to several transportation projects listed in the plan, but it is also an opportunity to reformat the document to provide a clearer understanding and flow of the content and align better with other TIPs in Montana per State and Federal requirements.

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a short-range program of highway and transit projects in the Billings MPO area and is prepared by City-County Planning Division staff in cooperation with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and local agencies. The purpose of the TIP is to provide the mechanism for scheduling federal funds for surface transportation projects, indicate regional priorities, and demonstrate a short-range transportation vision for the area. A secondary purpose of the TIP is to provide information about other transportation projects in the urbanized area that are exempt from the TIP approval process, such as projects that do not utilize federal funds.

This TIP is being presented to the Policy Coordinating Committee for review due to cost updates to several projects and transportation planning staff will provide a presentation with a detailed overview of the changes during the meeting. Additionally, a TIP Tracking Sheet with an overview of changes has been attached along with the TIP document. The projects listed in the TIP that have cost updates include The North Bypass, 1st Avenue N., I-90 Yellowstone River Bridges, and MET Bus Operating funds. The format of the entire TIP document also has been revised to make it more accessible to the public and staff, and to provide for a better display of the key funding information included in the document. Staff has attached the TIP document for reference.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

A range of federal funding sources is available to the Billings MPO area for the purposes of funding transportation system improvements. A list of those sources is shown in the TIP. There is no known direct impact to City or County funds in budgeting for these projects given the use of

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Federal funding sources. Projects in the TIP that are not federally funded have already been identified in other programming documents, like the City's Capital Improvement Program.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Policy Coordinating Committee forward a recommendation of approval of the 2020-2024 TIP.

Presentation

Scott Walker opened this agenda item with a brief overview of the TIP.

NH Funding Tab:

UPN 9022 1st Ave North – Billings (NEW)

- Project Split for 1ST AVENUE NORTH - BILLINGS (UPN 9022). The original project (from Division Street to N. 9th Street) has been split into three segments.
 - SOW remains the same for all segments – major reconstruction to address poor pavement conditions and substandard curb, gutter, and sidewalk.
 - Excess lane widths eliminated from the travel lanes will be used to create additional sidewalk width and/or boulevard width
 - Bulb outs are proposed at numerous intersections to provide traffic calming and shorten the distance pedestrians must navigate to cross 1st Ave.
- Project 9022 has been shortened to the intersection of N. 9th St. to the RR Xing located between N. 22nd and N. 20th.
- \$14 million (all phases)

UPN 9880 1st Ave N – RR Xing To Broadway

- Reconstruction Project on 1st Ave. N between the railroad crossing (near N 20th Street) and Broadway.
- \$7.8 million (all phases)

UPN 9881 1st Ave N – Broadway to Division

- Reconstruction Project on 1st Ave N. between Division Street and Broadway.
- \$7.2 million (all phases)

National Highway Freight Program Funding Tab:

Scott Walker mentioned this is a newer line item and noted the total project amount of \$19.8 million

UPN 7972 Yellowstone River Bridges

- A new funding source added to this project
- \$19.8 million

Railroad Crossing Funding Tab:

UPN 9827 Steffes Rd – Billings

- New project added to program

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- Upgrade of existing highway-rail grade crossing signal equipment
- \$225,000

Highway Safety Improvement Program Funding Tab:

UPN 9383 Rimrock & 62nd St W (Roundabout)

- Project transitioned from the OT Study into the PE phase

Bridge Program Funding Tab:

UPN 9720 Shiloh Rd/I-90 Bridge

- New project added to program
- Bridge rehabilitation project for a structure on Shiloh Rd. over Interstate 90. Rehab work is necessary on the deck, superstructure, and substructure
- \$3.0 million

Montana Air Quality Congestion Funding Tab:

UPN 8717 Main Street Billings

- New funding source added to the CN phase of the project
- \$1.1 million

UPN 9198 Mossmain Intch – West Billings Inch (the limits of this project are not all within the MPO Planning Boundary)

- New funding source added to the CN phase of the project
- \$400,000

There was none. Scott Walker reviewed the schedule below and closed the presentation.

Review Body	Date	Notes/Result
Technical Advisory Committee	Thursday, May 14	Recommendation to Governing Bodies
Planning Board with PH Planning Board MTG/Action	Wednesday, May 27 Tuesday, June 9	Presentation, Public Hearing and Action
City Council	Monday, June 8	Recommendation to PCC
Board of Commissioners Discussion	Monday, June 8	Introduction
Board of Commissioners	Tuesday, June 9	Recommendation to PCC
Policy Coordinating Committee	Tuesday, June 16	Final Action

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Discussion

Mayor Cole called for questions and discussion. Mayor Cole called for questions and discussion. Rod Nelson, MDT, answered a question regarding how disruptive construction will be on I-90. He said MDT identifies detours ahead of time. They plan to shift traffic to the opposite side while in construction and it should not be as disruptive as some may think.

Motion

Commissioner Pitman moved and Planning Board President Woods seconded the motion for the Policy Coordinating Committee recommend approval of the 2020-2024 TIP as presented by Staff.

Discussion

Mayor Cole called for questions and discussion. There was none.

Public Comment

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

7. Future Agenda Items:

A, Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study

ADJOURNMENT: 12:18 PM

DRAFT. To be approved by a motion July 21, 2020.

Tamara L. Deines, Planning Clerk