

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Virtual Video Conference

MINUTES –JULY 21, 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, July 21, 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; Rod Nelson, MDT District Office; Planning Board resident Woody Woods, Yellowstone County Planning Board

Staff Participants: Wyeth Friday, Director, Planning and Community Services; Monica Plecker, Planning Division Manager; Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, Planning & Community Services Department; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk

Other Participants: Chris Kukulski, City of Billings Administrator; DJ Clark, Sanderson Stewart

1. Call to Order: Chairman Bill Cole called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Chairman Cole asked Vice Chairman Denis Pitman to chair this meeting as Mayor Cole is participating remotely.

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 received no calls 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 Mayor Bill Cole 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. Presentation. 2020 City of Billings Public Safety Mill Levy, Chris Kukulski, City Administrator, presenting.

Chris Kukulski opened a presentation, “Public Safety2, Repeal & Replace Levy, and Education Presentation”.

Safety is one Key to a Healthy City

A. Strategies to improve Billings

1. Improve Organizational Effectiveness
2. **Improve Safety**
3. Improve our Built Environment (quality, design, & materials)
4. Invest in Infrastructure (utilities, roads, airport etc.)
5. Invest in Amentias (parks, trails, arts, culture, etc.)

B. Define the Problem

1. Billings has too much crime: Violent crime rates>100% increase in 12 years to ~650/100,00; Property crimes are too frequent >5, 100/100,000
2. **Fire department response times are too slow**
3. **Expenditures Exceed Revenues by \$4.7 million**

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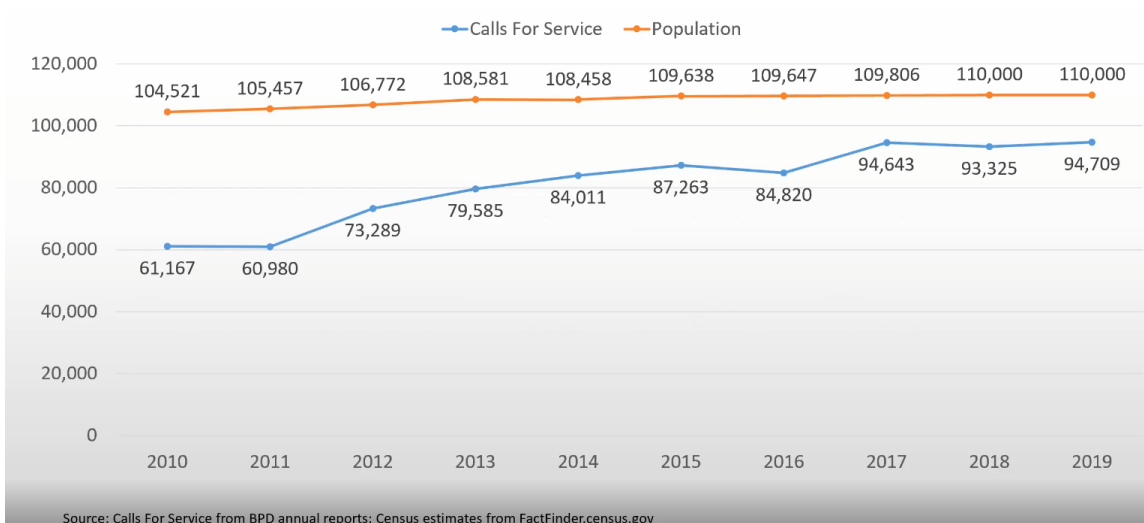
C. Ballots are Due September 15, 2020 (Mail-in) Questions on ballot:

1. Repeal-2004 \$8.2M levy (60 mill Est in 2004)
2. Replace-60 mill levy generation \$12.2M (2020)
3. Prepare for 2021 Public Safety Election

D. 2020 Public Safety Mill Levy

1. Retains Status Quo/Prevents losing ground
2. 2020 Criminal Justice/Emergency Response Analysis
3. Advancements will come with the 2021 levy

Police Dept. Calls for Service



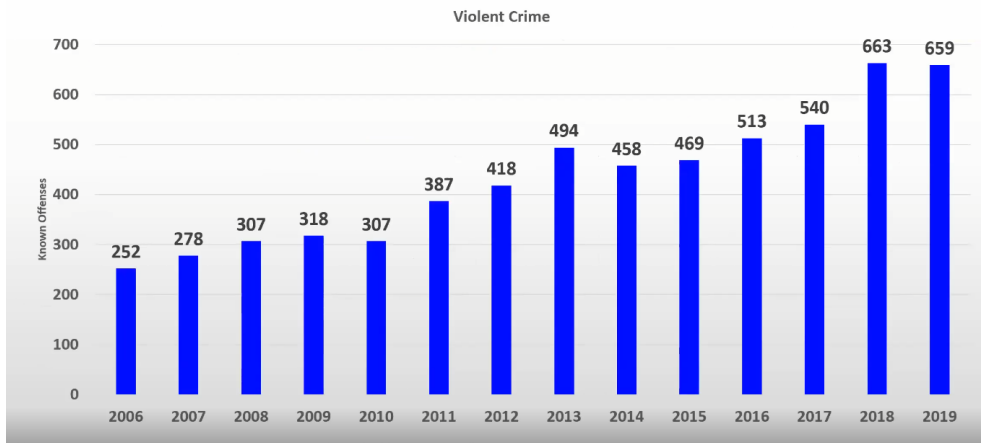
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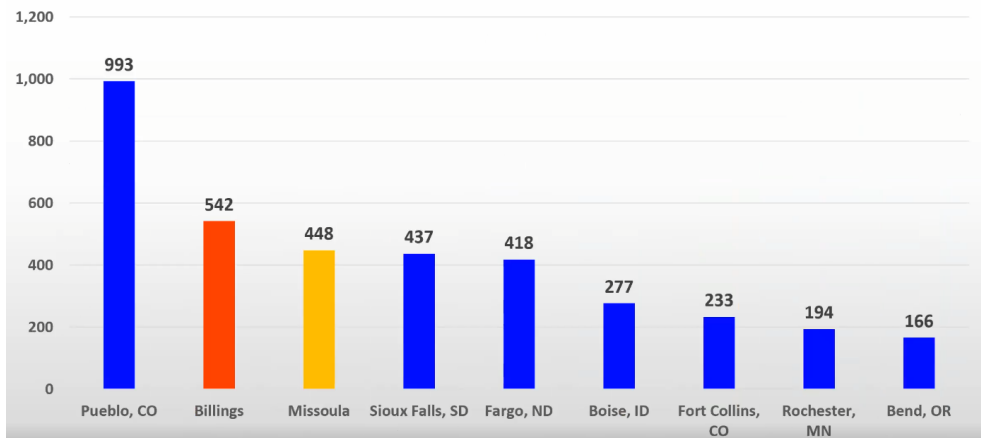
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BPD Historical Data Summarized



2019 Peer City Violent Crime Rate Comparisons per 100K



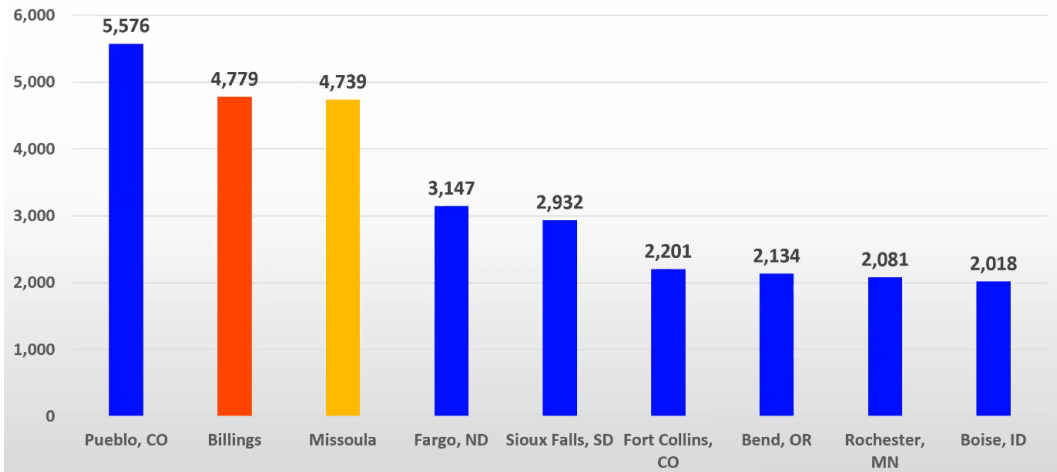
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2019 Peer City Property Crime Rate Comparisons per 100K



Fire Dept Calls for Service



E. General & Public Safety Funds Combined (2016-2021 (Proposed))

2016-2018-Revenues were consistently higher than expenditures. In 2018, the expenditures were higher than the revenue. The 5 million dollar gap experienced in FY 2018 continued until the advent of Covid-19 and the and the allocation of Federal funds from the CARES Act. If voter say no to this request, the \$5 million gap between revenue and expenses will continue.

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F. How did we get here?

1. Revenue Losses

- \$4,000,000-\$8.2 M fixed since 2009-loses value annual (50% since 2004)
\$2,530,000- Eliminated Franchise Fee in 2018

2. Cost Increases

- Added 20 Police, Fire, 911 Dispatch employees (2016-2020)
Focus on remaining fully staffed (limited vacancy savings)
Competitive wages

G. Cost to Typical Resident: If voters say, “yes”, the median home in Billings valued at \$211,000 will pay an additional \$4.75 per month. If voters fail to approve the levy costs per home will not increase and will go down as the cost continues to spread.

H. VOTE: Ballots are due September 14, 2020. The Yellowstone County Election office will mail ballots on August 28, 2020. There is a two-week period for receipt of ballots. Chris Kukulski stressed that staff is unable to advocate for this levy. The goal is to educate the public on the impacts of a “yes” or “no” vote on the question.

Discussion

Woody Woods asked for clarification on the home valued at \$211, 00. Chris Kukulski explained that it is based on the median taxable value of a home in Billings, Montana based on last year’s tax polls. Mayor Cole asked if this is the fair market value or the taxable value. Chris Kukulski stated it is based on the taxable value and not for the value a home would be sold. Mayor Cole suggested inserting an additional line in the graph to designate the CARES Act funds and explain Council’s reasoning for this mill levy request. There were no further questions.

Public Comment: There were no incoming calls for public comment on this agenda item.

5b. Motion/Recommendation. 2020 Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, DJ Clark, Consultant, Sanderson Stewart, presenting. Scott Walker opened this agenda item with a brief introduction and introduced DJ Clark, Sanderson Stewart. DJ Clark thanked the Project Oversight Committee for their work with this study.

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PROJECT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Bill Cole, City of Billings - Mayor

Chris Kukulski, City of Billings – City Administrator

Wyeth Friday, Billings-Yellowstone County MPO

Scott Walker, Billings-Yellowstone County MPO

Lora Mattox, Billings-Yellowstone County MPO

Monica Plecker, Billings-Yellowstone County MPO

Elyse Monat, Billings-Yellowstone County MPO

Debi Meling, City of Billings – Public Works - Engineering

Erin Claunch, City of Billings – Public Works – Engineering

Alan Woodmansey, Federal Highway Administration

Mike Taylor, Montana Department of Transportation

Katie Potts, Montana Department of Transportation

Kurtis Schnieber, Montana Department of Transportation

Mike Black, Yellowstone County – Public Works

Jeff Bollman, Montana DNRC

Rusty Logan, MET Transit

Lyle Gabrian, Rimrock Neighborhood Task Force

Jennifer Owen, Heights Neighborhood Task Force

Pam Ellis, Heights Neighborhood Task Force

Purpose Statement: To develop a comprehensive vision for the Inner Belt Loop corridor that is based on stakeholder input, land use context, thoughtful planning and sound technical analysis.

Goals and Objectives: Maintain consistency with existing plans; Engage all relevant stakeholders; Consider all transportation modes; Establish connection between roadway design and land development standards.

Next Steps: Policy Coordinating Committee-Today; Publication of Final Report

Corridor Study Road Map: Review of previous Plans/Studies; Stakeholder Meetings; Existing Conditions Analysis; Land Development Feasibility; Future Traffic Projection; Future Conditions Analysis; Corridor Vision Alternatives: Recommendations.

Vision Development:

- **Land Use:** Building Location/Orientation; Landscape Design; Variations for residential vs. Commercial.
- **Transportation:** Access Management; Roadway and Intersections; Bicycle and Pedestrians (Multi-Modal facility, Crossing facilities in key locations)

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Primary Study Recommendations

1. Coordination

▪ **Intergovernmental Coordination**

- ✓ *City vs. County design/development standards*
- ✓ *Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)*

RECOMMENDATION

Develop an IGA between the City and County that establishes unified development standards and defines the roles of the two jurisdictions for the development review process.

2. Promote Orderly Land Development

▪ **Development Tools**

- ✓ *Annexation eligibility/process*
- ✓ *Neighborhood plan(s), development standards, and other planning tools*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Proactively evaluate updates to the Limits of Annexation Map for IBL area based anticipated water/sewer availability, EMS coverage, and other critical factors.

Develop a neighborhood plan to help guide landowners with planning and facilitation of development.

3. Design

▪ **Design Considerations**

- ✓ *Future roadway and intersection planning*
- ✓ *Right-of-way needs/acquisition*
- ✓ *Access management*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Evaluate cost/benefit of increased right-of-way width and initiate acquisition process.

Develop an access management policy for the corridor that allows for limited flexibility during parcel development review.

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4. Infrastructure

▪ ***Planning of Infrastructure to Support Development***

- ✓ *Cost and feasibility analysis – water/sewer/EMS*
- ✓ *Funding mechanism alternatives*

RECOMMENDATION

Develop well-defined plans for the provision of public water and sewer infrastructure and additional emergency services coverage along the corridor, as well as for how those improvements will be funded.

5. Construction

▪ ***Construction Phasing***

- ✓ *Option 1 – site work and permitting for full alignment*
- ✓ *Option 2 – full completion of approximately ½ of the roadway*
- ✓ *Option 3 – link funding and schedule of construction with pending development*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop a phasing strategy that considers pending development and potential for economic benefit to the City along with highest-best use for Phase 2 improvements.

Discussion

Vice Chairman Pitman called for questions and discussion. There was none.

Motion

Planning Board President Woody Woods made a motion and Denis Pitman seconded the motion to approve the Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study as presented by staff.

Transportation Coordinator Scott Walker expressed his gratitude to staff and the members of the Oversight Committee for their work on this project. He said this has been a long process but they have been able to work through hurdles and move forward. He thanked Sanderson Stewart for an excellent job as consultants and for keeping the project “on track”.

Commissioner Pitman concurred with Scott Walker’s comments and commended DJ Clark for his work with this project.

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Public Comment: No public calls were received.

7. Future Agenda Items:

- a. FY 2021 Billings Urban Area Unified Work Program, (UPWP)
- b. Update on the Billings Bypass project touching on the 5-mile connection and roundabout. (Requested by Commissioner Pitman)

ADJOURNMENT: 12:43 PM

DRAFT. To be approved by a motion August 18,2020.

Tamara L. Deines, Planning Clerk