

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Virtual Video Conference

MINUTES –AUGUST 18, 2020

APPROVED BY A MOTION NOVEMBER 17, 2020

NOTICE

Due to COVID-19, the meeting will be 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, August 18, 2020. All e-mails 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 President Woody Woods, Yellowstone County Planning Board

Staff Participants: Wyeth Friday, Director, Planning and Community Services; Manager; Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, Planning & Community Services Department; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk, Erica Wiley, Admin, BOCC

Other Participants: Ryan Hammon, FWHA; Katie Potts, MDT Planning; Michael Taylor, MDT; Rusty Logan, MET; Paul Osterhoh

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 Commissioner 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) 237-8694. 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 July 21, 2020

Motion

Planning Board President Woods made a motion and it was seconded by Mayor Bill Cole to approve the minutes of July 21, 2020 with corrections on pages 1 and 6. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business:

4a. Motion/Recommendation DRAFT FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program, (UPWP), Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, presenting.

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT

The City-County Planning Division is presenting the 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for recommendation to the Billings Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC). PCC will take action during this meeting.

The UPWP is primarily for programming the federal dollars that Billings receives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for transportation planning and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for transit (MET) planning. These funds are passed through the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). All transportation-planning activities are included in the UPWP so that it represents a comprehensive document for the urban transportation-planning program.

This UPWP proposes planning activities for Federal Fiscal Year 2021, which runs from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021. This UPWP corresponds directly with the Planning Division's annual work plan. The significant changes in this year's program include an update to the Community Transportation Safety Plan, an update to the Billings Safe Routes to School Plan, and initiation of the North Bypass Corridor Study. The Transit section is Chapter II of the UPWP. The document is consistent with past programs in its content and format.

The breakdown of funding sources for the FY 2021 UPWP is estimated below:

\$250,000 Planning Dept. Fee Revenue (City of Billings)
\$75,000 Planning Dept. Fee Revenue (Yellowstone County)
\$503,000 Yellowstone County Planning Levy
\$1,828,800 Federal Planning (PL) Allocation
\$2,656,800 Total Program Funding (UPWP)

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RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Policy Coordinating Committee approve the 2021 UPWP as presented by staff.

Transportation Coordinator Scott Walker gave a brief overview of the 2021 Priorities:

- Complete Bike/Scooter Share Impact Study
- North Bypass Corridor Study
- Complete 5th Ave. Corridor Feasibility Study
- Community Transportation Safety Plan
- Safe Routes to School Plan Update
- Complete Downtown Traffic Circulation - Public Participation
- County Growth Policy Update

Rusty Logan, MDT, presented the Transit Section, the funding overview and Transit 2021 Highlights.

- The Transit section of the UPWP is also structured into separate elements with specific activities and functions outlined within each element
- As with PL funds, reimbursement of funds occurs quarterly; amounts will differ for each quarter based upon the activities undertaken and eligible hours spent per element.
- Federal funding is provided via FTA Section 5303 for multimodal transportation planning in metropolitan areas. Funds are apportioned via a formula including factors such as urbanized area population. Local match is provided through local transportation mills, transit fares, advertising revenue, and other applicable sources.
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Transit 2021 Highlights

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The Governing Bodies per this review schedule vetted this document:

- TAC July 23rd
- Planning Board August 11th
- County Commission August 4th
- City Council August 10th
- PCC August 18th
- MDT, FHWA, FTA September 30th

Discussion

Planning Board President Woods commented that the infrastructure improvements are needed and the Bypass project is an opportunity to bring growth and service to the Lockwood community.

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

Motion

Motion was made by Planning Board President Woods and seconded by Commissioner Pitman to approve the 2021 UPWP as presented by staff. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5. New Business: There is no new business.

6. Other Business

6a. Update on the Billings Bypass project touching on the 5-mile connection and roundabout. (Requested by Commissioner Pitman)

Michael Taylor, MDT, gave a presentation and update on the Billings Bypass project and the 5-mile connection and roundabout project. Woody Woods asked if this project would continue to be called the Billings Bypass. Rod Nelson said the roadway would be signed as “Trailhead Road.” Mayor Cole asked about a shared vehicular pedestrian passageway through the existing overpass. Scott Walker said there have been discussions with MDT regarding the bridge and potential pedestrian access separate from the roadway.

BPP-Yellowstone River-this project is awarded to the Wadsworth Brothers/Utah. Construction is scheduled to start after Labor Day and being working on the approaches from both ends of the river. This project will have a dedicated webcam and an observation point at the Dover Dog Park.

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BBP-Johnson Lane Interchange-MDT is in the early stages of right-of-way acquisition and scheduled for 2022. The project includes a diverging diamond interchange. MDT held a virtual public meeting to receive comments and heard concerns from Peterbilt and others. This project is open for comments.

BBP-Railroad Overpass project- connects the Yellowstone River and ties to the Frontage Road. Project started 2023.

BBP-ITCH Railroad Overpass-Calendared for 2024

BBP-Five Mile Road to US 87-alignment is north of Mary Street

Mike Taylor pointed out the Billings Bypass project has a dedicated website. There are webpages for active projects for “Back to School Safety”, Interactive Maps, (mdt.mt.gov/publications/maps), and an Interactive Maps Gallery.

Commissioner Pitman thanked Michael Taylor for his presentation.

Public Comment: No public calls were received on this agenda item.

7. Future Agenda Items: Presentation/Discussion. 27th Street Railroad Study. HDR Engineering, presenting.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:43 PM

Approved by a motion November 17, 2020

Tamara L. Deines, Planning Clerk