

**Billings Technical Advisory Committee
 Virtual Video Conference Meeting 10:30 AM
 DRAFT Meeting Minutes—May 14, 2020**

1. Call the meeting to order:

Transportation Coordinator Scott Walker called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 health concerns, the format of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be held in a virtual videoconferencing environment. The normal hearing room on the 1 st Floor at 2825 3rd Ave North (Miller Building) will be closed during the meeting and no one will be attending this hearing in person.

Attendance

Committee Members			
Scott Walker, Transportation Coord., Chairman, T.A.C.	X	Wyeth Friday, Director, Planning and Community Services	X
Tim Miller, Director YC Public Works Dept.	--	Mike Black, Civil Engineer, YC Public Works Dept.	X
Debi Meling, City Engineer City of Billings Engineering	X	Erin Claunch, Traffic Engineer City of Billings Engineering	X
Rusty Logan, Manager, MET Transit	X	Clark Snyder, Environmental Health RiverStone Health	--
Katie Potts Urban Planning Section, MDT	X	Carol Strizich, Supervisor Urban Planning Section, MDT	--
Kenn Winegar, Urban Planning Section, MDT	X	Alan Woodmansey, Federal Highways	X
		Ryan Hammon, FHWA	X

Others Present

Monica Plecker, Planning Division Manager; Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk; Lora Mattox Transportation Planner

2. Public Comment:—

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 1:00 PM on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. All emails received prior to this time will be read into the record. The Public may call in during specific Public Comment periods at **(406) 237-6196**. 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>

Scott Walker opened the public comment portion of the meeting and asked if there was anyone wishing to make a comment at this time. There was no public comment.

3. Minutes of April 30, 2020.

Motion

Mike Black made a motion and it was seconded by Wyeth Friday to approve the minutes of April 30, 2020 as submitted. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business:

There is no Old Business.

5. New Business:

5a. Motion/Recommendation. FY 2020-2024 Billings Urban Area Transportation Improvement Program, (TIP), Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator.

FY2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, (TIP), Review Schedule

Scott Walker reviewed the recommendation and approval table below.

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

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Transportation Advisory Committee approve the FY2020-2024 Billings Urban Area Transportation Improvement Plans presented by staff, and forward a recommendation of approval to the Policy Coordinating Committee.

Presentation

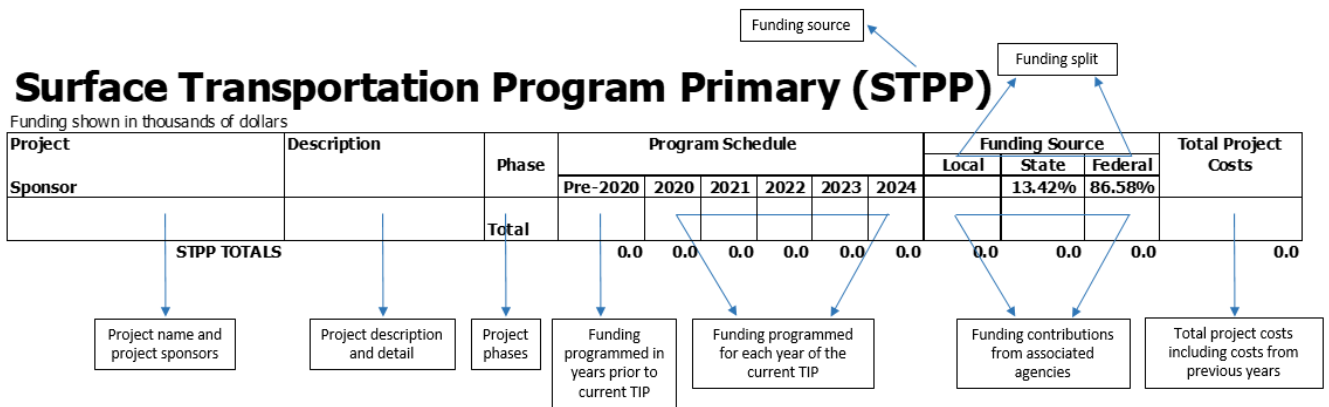
Scott Walker opened this agenda item with the presentation of the TIP document. He noted the new Acronym table and reviewed the TIP introduction. This updated document reflects the Federally Highway Administration’s current recommendations. Rusty Logan said MET’s Public Participation Plan is available on the website and included in this document. Scott Walker stated staff is coordinating with MET to keep up to date.

TIP Format:

The TIP is formatted by funding source to better track the life of a project, particularly when early phases (PE, for example) no longer fall within the period of the TIP. There is an additional tab to track projects with three or more funding sources; this tab shows all phases (PE, RW, IC, CN) and funding sources. The project is listed on each individual funding source tab as well.

Understanding the TIP funding tables

The TIP project funding tables consist of multiple components, and are designed to best display integral information regarding the projects within the TIP. The image below identifies and explains each of the various components of the TIP project funding tables, and can be used as a tool to understand the information being presented within the funding tables.



All construction projects included in the TIP will be completed in multiple phases (i.e. PE, RW, IC, and CN). Funding for each construction project is broken down by the costs of each specific phase. The table below provides a description of construction project phases and additional project phases the reader can expect to see within TIP funding tables.

Discussion

Director Friday stated he appreciates this section and the clarification to help improve Board and Commissions understanding of the TIP.

Scott Walker continued and reviewed the items below from the Billings MPO Project List.

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

Discussion

Wyeth Friday interjected and asked regarding the Yellowstone River Bridge Construction Project and pedestrian facilities to get across the river. Scott Walker said there have been discussions of a separate pedestrian facility but he does not know that this has been determined from a standpoint of extra pedestrian access across the bridge. Katie Potts, MDT, said she is uncertain if that design element has been included in the scope of work. Kurtis Schnieber, MDT, stated that they are not going to include it as it is not currently in the scope of work. They may be open to an additional structure at a later date. He spoke to funding issues and a lack of connection point on the east side. Wyeth Friday expressed his disappointment and concern with a missed opportunity of making a connection at the time of construction to state lands and parkland. Kurtis Schnieber said it may be more cost efficient but to his knowledge, no other entities have offered funding for this type of facility. The structure will be wider, have a wider refuge on the median, and shoulder side but will not have a separate a facility. Scott Walker echoed Wyeth Friday's concerns and said staff would continue to work with MDT to find a funding source.

Railroad Crossing Funding Tab:

UPN 9827 Steffes Rd – Billings

- New project added to program
- 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 Interchange – West Billings Interchange (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

Transit

Rusty Logan, MET Transit Manager, reviewed the changes to FTA Section 5339 and said it includes new funding streams. MET is bringing on a digital fare system for smart cards or cell phones. He said MET may receive funding from the CARES Act for this project but it is not required to be posed in the TIP. FTA Section 5310-Paratransit. This line item handles awarding of vehicles for elderly populations and those with disabilities. They are predicting a small increase in Transade. This line item denotes funding assistance geared toward senior and individuals with disabilities.

Discussion

Scott Walker said Ryan Hammon commented that additional verbiage might be needed to clarify the Billings Bypass project. Katie Potts pointed out the STTP funding line is a placeholder in case there is a qualifying project. She clarified the negative amounts posted in the Pavement Program line item and said this points to the closing of the PE phase for those projects. The BUILD Grant line item will be used if the application is successful and a TIP and STIP amendment will be needed to reflect the awarded funds. Ryan Hammon thanked staff for the effort in redesigning this document as it will improve public understanding and help move it smoother through the governing bodies' reviews. Wyeth Friday concurred. Katie Potts explained MDT is working with the MPOs and upgrading the project management databases. The hope is to auto-populated tables that should decrease the level of administrative work.

Public Comment: No public calls were received.

Motion

Mike Black made a motion and Wyeth Friday seconded the motion to forward a recommendation of approval of 2020-20204 TIP as presented by staff and forward a recommendation of approval to the Policy Coordinating Committee

Member	Y/N		Member	Y/N	
Scott Walker Transportation Coord. Chairman,	x		Wyeth Friday , Director, Planning and Community Services	x	
Tim Miller , Director Yellowstone County Public Works	-		Mike Black , Civil Engineer Yellowstone County Public Works	x	
Debi Meling , City Engineer City of Billings Engineering	x		Erin Claunch, Traffic Engineer City of Billings Engineering	x	
Rusty Logan , MET Transit Manager	x		Clark Snyder , Environmental Health RiverStone Health	-	-
Katie Potts Urban Planning Section, MDT	x		Carol Strizich , Supervisor Urban Planning Section, MDT	-	-
Carol Strizich , Supervisor Urban Planning Section, MDT	-	-	Kenn Winegar Urban Planning Section, MDT	-	-

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT. TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING.

--Tamara L. Deines, Planning Clerk