

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MINUTES -JULY 20, 2021

APPROVED BY A MOTION AUGUST 17, 2021

NOTICE

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 the meeting date. All e-mails received prior to this time will be read into the record for the public hearing.

Member Participants: Commissioner John Ostlund, Board of County Commissioners Bill Cole, Mayor, City of Billings; Rod Nelson, MDT District Office; Planning Board President Woody Woods, Yellowstone County Planning Board

Staff Participants: Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, Planning & Community Services Department; Rusty Logan, MET Transit Manager; Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk, (Virtually)

Other Participants: Virtual: Michael Taylor, MDT; Wade Salyards, MDT, Andy Daleiden, Kittelson and Associates, Katie Potts, MDT Planning; Kenn Winegar, MDT Planning, Parker Osterloh, MDT Planning

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Ostlund called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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 three minutes of testimony as is customary.

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 Tammy Deines received no calls from the public. There was no communication from the audience regarding agenda items or future agenda items.

3. Minutes of June 15, 2021

Motion

A motion was made by Woody Woods and seconded by Mayor Bill Cole to approve the meeting minutes of June 15, 2021. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business: There is no Old Business.

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5. New Business

5a. Motion. Administrative Update. 2021 Billings Urban Area Unified Planning Work Program, (UPWP), Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, Rusty Logan, MET Transit Manager, presenting.

Scott Walker opened this agenda item and introduced Rusty Logan, MET Transit Manager. He explained that the Work Program identifies funds that can be expended from a budgetary standpoint. This amendment is due to Federal funds coming into the system for transit. Staff presentations were given to TAC, Planning Board, City Council and the Board of County Commissioners who forwarded recommendations of approval.

INTRODUCTION

- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) must be established in communities over 50,000 in population to do transportation planning and be eligible for federal transportation planning funds. Both the MPO and the local designated transit provider must submit a work program outlining intended activities annually.
- The Work Program and subsequent amendments are reviewed and recommended for approval by the:
 - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
 - Planning Board
 - Yellowstone County Commission
 - City Council
 - Policy Coordinating Committee
 - Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

AMENDMENT #1

- MET Transit planning funding is typically received in accordance with 49 USC section 5303, a funding source that is intended for urbanized area transit planning
- MDT has opted to transfer a balance of unused section 5304 funds (typically used for rural area transit planning) to the City of Billings
- Transferred funds will be programmed into the 5303 program via the proposed amendment; as with previously programmed funds, these are subject to a 20% local / 80% federal match.
- Using these funds, MET Transit will expand on previously programmed activities surrounding development of a Transit Development Plan and a Marketing Strategy Plan. These changes effect plan elements of “Future Service Enhancements” and “Current Service Enhancements.” MET had originally intended development of these plans in house but will solicit proposals from planning and development firms for assistance after the amendment is finalized.
- The total amount of additional federal funding is \$60,000, requiring \$15,000 in local match for a total program change of \$75,000.

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Discussion

There was no discussion or questions forwarded from the Committee.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Motion

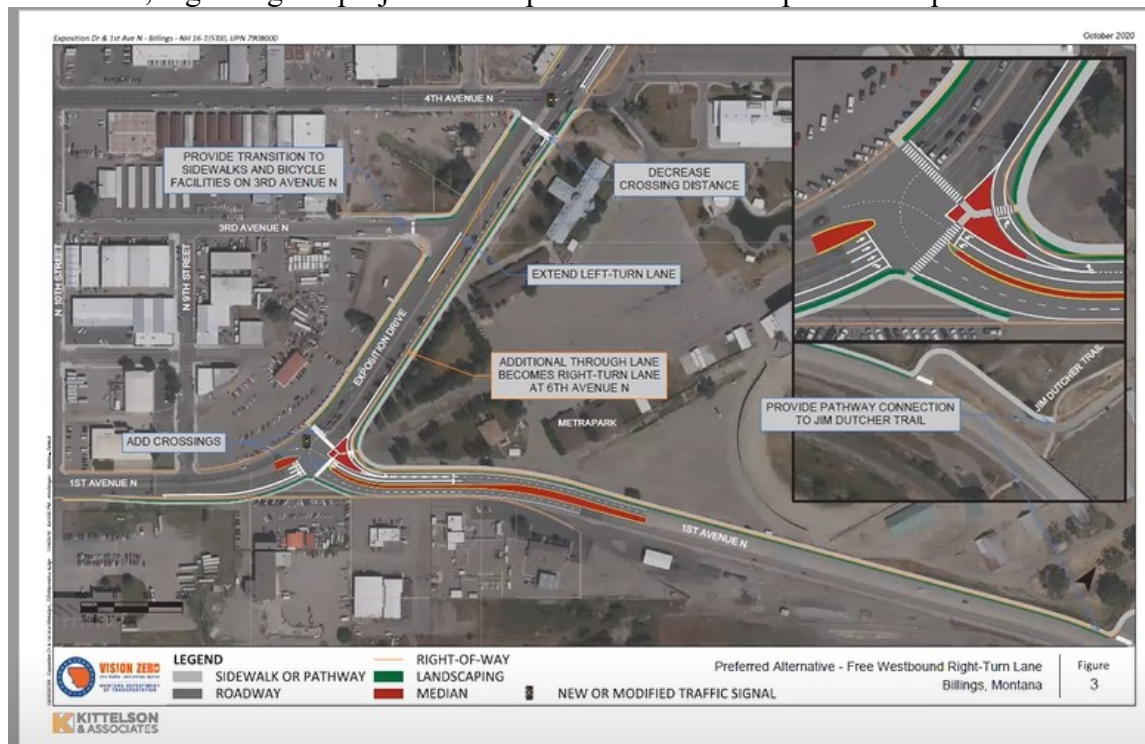
Mayor Cole made a motion and Woody Woods seconded the motion to recommend approval of the Administrative Update to the 2021 Billings Urban Area Unified Planning Program, (UPWP), as presented by staff.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

6. Other Business:

6a. Update. Discussion. 1st Avenue and Exposition project. Wade Salyards, Project Manager, MDT

Wade Salyards, MDT opened this agenda item and introduced Andy Daleiden, Kittelson and Associates, regarding the project area depicted below and explained the preferred alternative.

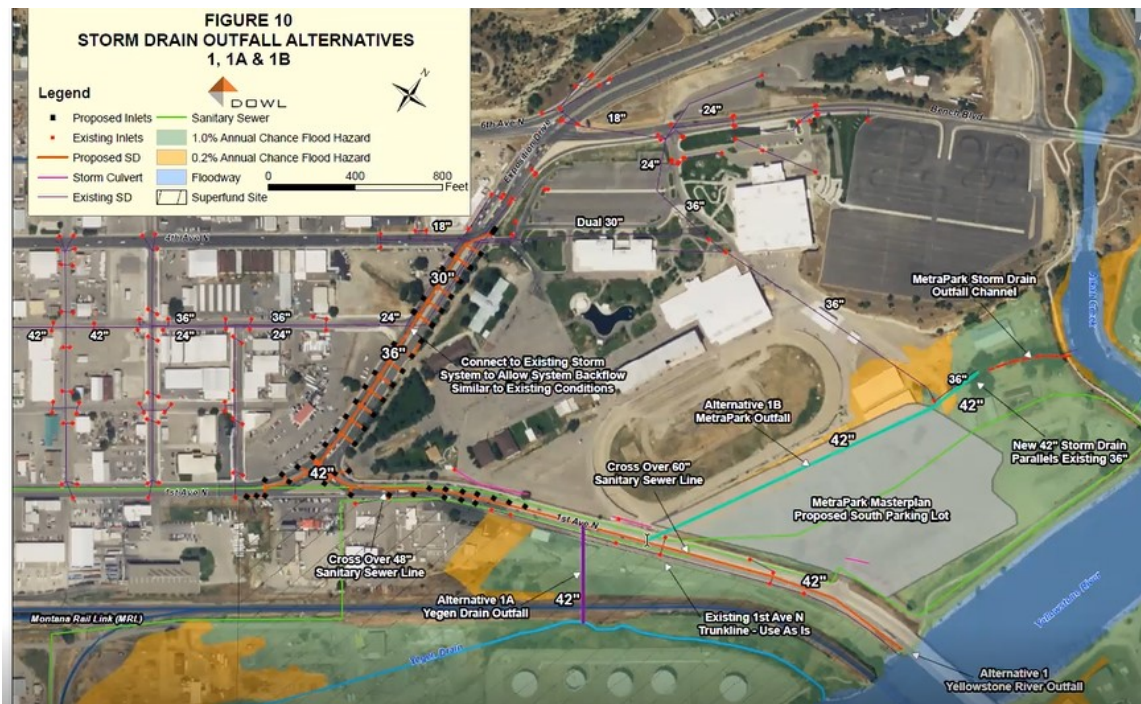


PHASE 1 is the transportation study to identify the proposed project for design and construction.
 PHASE 2 will include the design and construction of the project.

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They are moving forward with DOWL as project consultant, who is working on a preliminary hydraulic report. They have identified a couple of alternatives to address storm water in the area. They have initiated conversations with Tim Goodridge, METRA Park to work towards coordination with the Master Plan effort.



MDT is working with consultant WCEC to conduct a subsurface soil and groundwater investigation. The field work has been completed, and monitoring wells are installed. This study will help to understand the level of contaminates and identify the level of risk for the project and treatments that need to occur during the construction phase. Access options are under consideration for the southern parcels along with the potential for a future signal to connect with METRA Park at Gate 2. This information will lead to the roadway design effort for the overall roadway improvements. They are coordinating with sub consultants on a revised schedule for delivery of the roadway design. They will circle back with PCC to give the updated schedule for this project.

Commissioner Ostlund asked about a tentative date for the signal evaluation to be completed. Andy said discussions will be held next week and he projects a final document to be ready within the next three to four weeks. In response to question by Woody Woods, Andy stated the sidewalk pathway on 1st Avenue North will be on the north side with a segment at the intersection on the south side to facilitate the crossing at Exposition Drive. Mayor Cole asked about the reasoning for not having sidewalks on both sides. Andy explained that the connection was on the north side and the property owners did not desire to provide a connection on the southern side.

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Public Comment

Commissioner Ostlund called for public comment on this agenda item. There was no public comment.

6b. Update. Discussion. Federal funds for road and bridge projects. Michael Taylor, MDT.

This agenda item was opened by Michael Taylor, MDT. He said it is too early in the process to know if there will be a reauthorization for Federal funding. The distribution within the state will be performance based which aligns with existing plans and policies. They hope to know more information in the future.

6c. Other Business

6c1. Mayor Cole commented that the 5th Avenue Corridor Study presentation was very well received by City Council and there is a lot of excitement about the potential for developing certain phases if funding is available.

6c2. Mayor Cole reported that he attended a tour on the rims to walk the easterly half of the Skyline Trail to consider locations for future shade structures, benches, and historical signage. They met with representatives from the Yellowstone County museum for input. He was reminded that the BUILD grant funding covers construction of the transportation element but not the other amenities. His desire is to have the amenities done at the same time that the road is built. The goal is for the Skyline Trail in conjunction with the Inner Belt Loop to go to bid for construction some time this winter. This would be bid as one project with two different elements. Projected construction is early 2022.

6c3. Planning Board President Woody Woods asked Michael Taylor, MDT asked if an advisory committee had been created for the Lockwood Interchange Dick Johnson Bridge Project/Interface with METRA Park. Michael Taylor said this is on MDT's task list for this project, and it should be done in the near future.

7. Future Agenda Items: Tuesday, August 17, 2021

- a. Motion. 5th Ave Corridor Feasibility Study. Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner.
- b. Motion. FFY 2022 Billings Urban Area Unified Work Program, Scott Walker, Transportation Planning Coordinator

ADJOURNMENT: 1:00 PM

DRAFT. Approved by a motion on August 17, 2021

Tamara L. Deines, Planning Clerk