

Date: 08/17/2021
Title: 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
Presented by: Scott Walker
Department: Planning & Community Services
Presentation: Yes

Information

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Policy Coordinating Committee approve the 2022 UPWP and instruct Staff to forward that recommendation to the Montana Department of Transportation, Federal Highways and Federal Transit for concurrence. The City Council, Board of County Commissioners and Planning Board have all made favorable recommendations.

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

The City-County Planning Division is presenting the 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to the PCC for final local approval of this document. The City Council, County Commissioners and Planning Board have had an opportunity to review the document and received presentations from staff. In addition to the City Council and Board of County Commission review at public Work Sessions, Discussion Sessions and regular meetings, the Planning Board held a public hearing in which no testimony was received. All of these bodies have made a positive recommendation to the PCC.

The UPWP is primarily for the purpose of 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 and provides coordination between the Billings MPO, MDT, FHWA and FTA. This UPWP proposes planning activities for Federal Fiscal Year 2022, which runs from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. 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 2018 Long Range Transportation Plan, Phase II of the Safe Routes to School Plan, and completion 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.

STAKEHOLDERS

The City Council, County Commissioners and Planning Board have had an opportunity to review the document and received presentations from staff. In addition to the City Council and Board of County Commission review at public Work Sessions, Discussion Sessions and regular meetings, the Planning Board held a public hearing in which no testimony was received.

ALTERNATIVES

FISCAL EFFECTS

Approval of the 2022 UPWP allows the City to access Federal funds for transportation planning in the community. Federal and local funds are combined to provide most of the planning work done by the Planning Division for the City and the County, as well as support for MET Transit. If the UPWP is not approved, there would be a significant loss of resources for community planning and the community's ability to manage transportation planning projects and programs would be severely limited.

The breakdown of funding sources for the FY 2022 UPWP is estimated below:

- \$280,000 Planning Dept. Fee Revenue (City of Billings)
- \$155,000 Planning Dept. Fee Revenue (Yellowstone County)
- \$523,000 Yellowstone County Planning Levy
- \$1,679,581 Federal Planning (PL) Allocation

\$2,637,581 Total Local and Federal Program Funding (UPWP)

Attachments

Draft 2022 UPWP