

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MINUTES –November 16, 2021

DRAFT TO APPROVED BY A MOTION DECEMBER 21, 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: Mayor Bill Cole; Commissioner Don Jones, Board of County Commissioners; City of Billings; Rod Nelson, MDT District Office, (Virtual); Planning Board President Woody Woods, Yellowstone County Planning Board

Staff Participants: Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, Planning & Community Services Department; Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk
Virtual: Wyeth Friday, Director, PCSD, Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner

Other Participants: Attending, Steve Simonson, Big Sky Development; Councilman Mike Yakawich

Virtual: Katie Potts, MDT Planning; Parker Osterloh, MDT Planning

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

2. Public Comment/Communication from the Audience

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

There was no communication from the audience regarding agenda items or future agenda items.

Councilman Mike Yackawich expressed his appreciation for the members of this committee and the work they perform through City Council, The Board of County Commissioners, and MDT.

3. Minutes of August 17, 2021

Motion

A motion was made by Mayor Cole and seconded by Woody Woods to approve the meeting minutes of August 17, 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. 2020-2024 TIP Amendment 2. Scott Walker, Transportation Planner

Scott Walker opened this agenda item with a staff presentation.

BACKGROUND

Federal regulations require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) review and update their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) periodically. Given timing and funding adjustments with several transportation projects, the current Billings 2020-24 TIP must be amended to maintain compliance with State and Federal requirements. The TIP is a short-range program of highway and transit projects in the Billings MPO area and is prepared by City-County Planning Division staff in cooperation with state and local agencies. The purpose of the TIP is to provide the mechanism for scheduling federal funds for surface transportation projects, indicate regional priorities, and demonstrate a short range transportation vision for the area. A secondary purpose of the TIP is to provide information about other transportation projects in the urbanized area that are exempt from the TIP approval process, such as projects that do not utilize federal funds.

Billings Bypass

- Updated Right of Way Cost
- Five Mile Road - Cost Savings
- Yellowstone River Bridge – Updated Cost
- Johnson Lane Interchange – Updated Cost and Moved to FY 23
- Railroad Overpass – Moved to FY 22

I-90 Yellowstone River Bridges

- Bridge PE Cost Update

Lockwood Interchange

- Project Added – All Phases

Projects Modified due to Change in Funding/Scope

- 27th St, 1st Ave S. to Airport – Updated Cost
- Underpass Ave. - Updated Construction Cost
- Main Street - Cost Savings
- Airport Road & Main Street – Updated Cost
- Montana Ave. Crosswalks – Project Added
- Steffes Road, R.R. Crossing – Updated Cost
- King & 56th, Roundabout – Updated Cost
- Central & 56th, Roundabout – Updated Cost
- Hillcrest, Right Turn Lane – Updated Cost
- Frontage Road/Wise Lane Intersection – Updated Cost

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Projects Modified due to Change in Funding/Scope (Continued)

- I-90/King Avenue, Lighting – Updated Cost
- Rimrock Road/62nd Roundabout – Updated Cost
- Zoo Drive Improvements – Updated Cost
- Grand Avenue, 24th to Zimmerman – Updated Cost
- Scour Mitigation, Various Bridges – Updated Cost
- Bike/Ped Path, Rose Park – Project Added
- MET Transit – Tire Contract & Cares Act Transfer

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Policy Coordinating Committee approve the 2020-2024 TIP Amd 2 as presented by staff.

Discussion

Planning Board President Woody Woods asked regarding the extent of the Montana Ave crosswalks project. Gary Neville said it hasn't been determined but a crosswalk with solar actuated signage is planned in the neighborhood of 24th Street and Montana Avenue. Discussion followed on the high rates of traffic speeds on Montana Avenue.

Mayor Bill Cole said City Council had no concerns with the TIP as presented. Commissioner Jones stated the BOCC voiced no concerns. Planning Board President Woody Woods said Planning Board had no concerns.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Motion

Mayor Cole made a motion and Planning Board President Woody Woods seconded the motion to recommend approval of the 2020-2024 TIP Amendment 2 as presented by staff. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

6. Other Business

6a. Presentation/Discussion. Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Study. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, presenting.

Active Transportation Planner Elyse Monat opened this agenda item to give an update on this study. She said the public input period closes on December 17, 2021. This study focuses on the twenty-two public schools within School District #2.

This study has four major tasks:

- Evaluate current walking and biking conditions for students in the region
- Identify barriers or issues that might discourage students from walking or biking

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- Develop a list of prioritized projects that can be built to improve walking and biking conditions for students
- Create walking route maps for all 22 public elementary schools in Billings

MS Monat directed members to the City of Billings website for the 2021-2022 Safe Routes Plan Update: <https://ci.billings.mt.us/2997/2021-2022-Safe-Routes-Plan-Update> A link is available there for citizens to give input on the web map and survey. MS Monat encourage members to participate. She said email communications were distributed to the schools and the Parent Teachers Associations. Mayor Cole asked about the PTA responses. Elyse Monat said there was good response from the hard copy fliers but minimal response and feedback was received from the email requests. Mayor Cole suggested staff schedule presentations to the Parent Teacher Associations.

6b. City of Billings Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a five-year program that identifies needs for construction of capital projects or improvements to the City’s infrastructure. Each update is created with input from the public and direction from the City Council. Mayor Cole said the City of Billings has begun its CIP process. Projects will include construction and redevelopment efforts. Question was asked regarding the 6th Avenue underpass. Rod Nelson, MDT commented on a 2022 project for reconstruction of the intersection, construction of a pump house and drainage mitigation to minimize flooding of the underpass. This project should not obstruct the painted murals on the underpass. A link to the proposed FY23-FY27-Proposed CIP-V3 is available on the City of Billings website <https://www.ci.billings.mt.us/2662/Capital-Improvement-Plan-CIP>

6c. Lockwood Interchange project Planning Board President Woods asked about the status of the Lockwood Interchange project. Rod Nelson, MDT, said the study phase was completed and design has begun with a consultant. Mayor Cole asked about efforts to involve the public on the bike and pedestrian access over the bridge and the acknowledgement that this will be part of the design process. Rod Nelson concurred with the need for engagement and coordination of the governing bodies for these projects.

6d. PCC 2022 Planning Board representative Planning Board President Woods said Planning Board will forward nominations for the 2022 Planning Board officers during their next meeting and there may be a new representative to PCC for the coming year. Woody commented he has enjoyed his term as president and representative to PCC. Commissioner Jones commended him for his work.

7. Future Agenda Items: The Tuesday, December 21, 2021 PCC meeting will be canceled.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:28 PM

DRAFT. To be approved by a motion during the next scheduled meeting.
Tamara L. Deines, Planning Clerk