

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MINUTES –May 17, 2022

APPROVED BY A MOTION JULY 19, 2022

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 Don Jones, Board of County Commissioners; Bill Cole, Mayor, City of Billings; Michael Taylor, MDT District Office; Planning Board President Dennis Cook, Yellowstone County Planning Board

Staff Participants: Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, Planning & Community Services Department; Elyse Monat, Alternative Modes Coordinator; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner, (Virtual)

Other Participants: Katie Potts, MDT Planning; Kenn Winegar, MDT Planning, Kenn Winnegar, MDT Planning; Tim Miller, Director, Yellowstone County Public Works, Mike Black, Yellowstone County Public Works; Ryan Hammon, FHWA; Wyeth Friday, Planning & Community Services

1. Call to Order: Mayor Cole 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.

3. Minutes of February 15, 2022

Motion

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, Planning Board President Cook seconded to approve the meeting minutes of February 15, 2022. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business:

4a. Project Update. 2021 Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP)

Transportation Planner Lora Mattox provided an update on the status of the CTSP development. The Safety Summit confirmed the emphasis areas of the plan that include unrestrained occupants, speeding, and distracted/impaired driving. From these areas, strategies will be developed to help reduce fatalities and serious injuries, strategies are

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being developed that will be easy for the community to address and have a successfully outcome. Anticipate the plan to be in draft form by this summer.

Discussion None

4b. Project Update. Billings Safe Routes to School Study

Active Transportation Planner Elyse Monat informed PCC that the draft document is complete and that the plan review will begin with a presentation to TAC this afternoon. The final review of the plan will be by the PCC in July. There were twenty-two elementary schools were reviewed by this plan and included the following data driven elements: evaluation of current conditions; identified barriers; recommended policy; prioritized projects, determined feasibility and developed walking route maps for each school.

Discussion

Planning Board President Cook asked if all the schools were on the same level for projects or were some behind or ahead. Elyse answered that this was a data driven process but it appeared that projects were dispersed throughout all schools. Mayor Cole asked how funding for priorities would be accomplished since the only readily funding available is through Engineering. Elyse states that projects will look at feasibility and that some grant programs such as the Transportation Alternatives program could be applied for. The Mayor suggests that a timeline for completion of all projects be identified.

4c. Project Update. School Sidewalk Study Phase 2 Consultant Selection Process

Active Transportation Planner Elyse Monat explains that this project will expand to the SD #2 middle schools, private schools and county schools. These schools will be contacted go gage interest in participating in the project. The RFP is in development and the budget is set at \$110,000. This plan is different from the SRTS update as these schools will be newly looked at.

Discussion

President Cook asked if there were any grant funds associated with this plan. Elyse states that no, the funding package is through the MPO PL funds at a 55% federal and 45% local. Mayor Cole asks about the timeline, Scott states most of these types of planning projects run about 10 months or so.

Elyse also took this opportunity to announce the successful National Endowment of the Arts grant to develop a public arts handbook to use in conjunction with the Neighborhood Bikeways. This grant provides \$50,000 to hire a resident artist.

4d. Project Update. 2023 Transportation Plan Update

Transportation Planning Coordinator Scott Walker informed PCC that this is an update from the 2018 LRTP. Kittelson and Dowl will be working on this project. Kittelson and Dowl worked on the 2018 plan. This project will probably take a minimum of a year to

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the complex elements included. Scott mentions the Steering Committee and states that President Cook is the Planning Board representation and staff will be looking for a BOCC and Council representative. This commitment will include 1 monthly meeting. Weekly updates will be sent to as is done with all the MPO projects.

Discussion

Mayor Cole asked about the 3-4 big elements. Scott responds that the City and County will work to develop a list of project priorities. Consultant and staff will also solicit input from the community. This will help develop a list of 10 to 15 top community priorities. Just a note that these plans look at a 20-year planning horizon. This plan also identifies all funding sources for the next 20 years and fiscally constrains all projects. Mayor Cole asks when the MPO will have funds available that are not committed to the Billings Bypass project. Scott states that we have already accrued some Urban funding. There is \$1.5 in air quality funds to be paid towards the Bypass yet but do have an urban balance. TAC this afternoon will discuss an initial list of projects submitted by the City and County.

Mayor Cole informed the group that the Land Board approved two easements for the Inner Belt Loop project yesterday. He thanked BOCC for their support.

5. New Business

5a. Project Update. Discussion. 2022-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), Amendment III

Transportation Planning Coordinator Scott Walker opened this agenda item. This document acts as the planning and funding document for the MPO and MDT projects. MET Transit and MDT have substantial budget changes for this update. TAC will start the review of this document and staff anticipates that PCC will review in July.

Discussion

None

6. Other Business: Katie Potts, MDT Planning provided a couple comments including the announcement of a NOFA for a multimodal grant opportunity, she will forward to the MPO. She also wanted to thank the City and County for submitting support letters for the Billings Bypass project. MDT is asking for \$70 million to supplement the Bypass project.

Mayor Cole asks Mike Taylor of MDT if he has any updates or comments, he did not.

7. Future Agenda Items: An update on the Inner Belt Loop project.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:39 PM

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Approved by a motion July 19, 2022

*Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner for
Tamara L. Deines, Planning Clerk*