



Billings Technical Advisory Committee
1:30 PM
DRAFT Meeting Minutes—MAY 17, 2022

1. Call the meeting to order:

Transportation Coordinator Scott Walker called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Miller Building 1st Floor Conference Room, 2825 3rd Ave North

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

Others Participating

Dennis Cook, Yellowstone County Planning Board President, Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner, Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, Sara Schooley, Toole Design, Kenn Winnegar, MDT (Virtual)

2. Minutes of July 22, 2021

Motion

Mike Black made a motion and it was seconded by Wyeth Friday to approve the minutes of October 14, 2021 as submitted. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

3. Old Business: There is no Old Business.

4. New Business

4a. Motion/Recommendation. Billings Safe Routes to School Study Update.

Sarah Schooley, Consultant, Toole Design. Elyse Monat said this project has been ongoing this last year or so. This report looks at the 22 elementary schools from the SRTS study done 10 years ago. Sarah acknowledged the team that worked on the project, including RSH, LIFFT, City of Billings and Billings Public Schools.

There are five main goals to the plan: Evaluated existing conditions; identify barriers, recommend policy changes, develop prioritized projects, and create walking maps for each school. Update to plan due to many school boundary changes and update information.

Sarah Schooley reviewed the elements in the plan, from the Introduction or Project Prioritization. The plan can be viewed [here](#).

Elements of the plan include four programmatic recommendations. Each recommendation includes an action element. Includes relevance to the 6 E's of SRTS; Project recommendations. About 100 recommendations throughout the city. Each school will have a map of the projects. This were identified through an interactive map, coordination with all school principals, and on the ground review during arrival and dismissal. They consulted with the previous plan and discussed with City of Billings Engineering Division. They developed an infrastructure toolbox which identifies different treatments and provides information on each type of improvement; Project prioritization. Four elements: Traffic Safety, Feasibility, Demand and Equity. All are measured equally. Then scored all of the projects based on the elements of prioritization; School walking maps. The intent is to provide these at the beginning of the year to students. They have a front and back with information and the map.

There also very informative appendices at the end of the pln. Plan and policy review, school summaries and web map summary.

Discussion:

Elyse Monat added that the school profiles provide a preliminary list of projects. Debi Meling as if there was any thought about Council Ward distribution? Elyse Monat, responded, no, but this could be done during the CIP. Speed limit reductions are due to state law requirements and can only be reduced by a certain percentage. Sarah Schooley explained it is calculated as a "school zone" rather than speed limits. Debi Meling recommended reviewing state law to be accurate for each school. Councilperson Purington mentioned matching projects up in the various documents, and aligning CIP priorities with plan priorities. Scott Walker said this plan is a very good road map for identifying projects and a guide. Mac Fogelsong suggested adding a column to check Ward distribution. Wyeth Friday commented he likes the way the plan is laid out with the sections and maps as it is easily navigated around each school. The walk audits were fascinating and good information. Katie Potts, MDT, said she would like to get the new state Bike/Ped Coordinator involved in the next plan. Debi Meling asked Katie Potts, MDT if the state would have any funding for projects along state routes. Katie Potts, said there are no direct funds but three may be through the Transportation Alternatives Program. Wyeth Friday, asked if funding can be considered if the state is doing a project? Katie Potts stated early identification would be important for the project. Kurtis Schnieber, MDT, asked Sarah Schooley if all scoring elements

are weighted equally. Explanation was given that each plan criteria is different, and the Steering Committee decided not to give weight to one over another.

Motion:

Debi Meling moves to approves with the TAC ability to review of priorities and send comments prior to June 14th , Tim Miller, YC Public Works seconds. Approved.

4b. Motion/Recommendation. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Amendment #3

Transportation Coordinator Scott Walker opened this discussion with an overview of the project budget and handed out a list of MDT changes. Rusty Logan, MET Transit, had updates that included: COVID funding moved to operational funding. 5339 Capital divided out between formula funds and competitive funds and what each will be used for. Primarily more detail on the funding source and use.

Motion: Tim Miller, YC Public Works moves to approve, seconded by Director Wyeth Friday. No further comments. Katie Potts, MDT says the Billings Bypass project is on track and thanked this group for the support letter. Approved.

4c. Discussion. Future Transportation Projects

Transportation Coordinator Scott Walker opened this discussion item. It is up to the TAC to review future projects and bring them to the forefront and make a recommendation to the local officials. We are accruing urban and air quality funds. Katie Potts, MDT stated that the MPO currently has about \$10.5 million and earning \$2.4 million a year. 48th Street West and Grand Avenue intersection is in need to be improved. An air quality project could be Stagecoach Trail. Some projects for discussion include:

- 21st underpass
- Grand – Shiloh to 62nd
- Rimrock – Clearwater to 62nd
- Central Avenue

Kurtis Schnieber, MDT - Roundabouts on King Avenue and 48th Street West and 64th Street West for continuity. MDT doesn't have the funding to complete the entire projects. Maybe some safety funds but not enough. Some urban funding is needed to program a project. Scott Walker was asked if he had total costs. He estimated around \$4 million for each project, not including ROW or engineering. Debi Meling, commented on the council's focus on dedicated funds for trails and Tim Miller, YC Public Works on a project 21st and Grand Ave and Stagecoach Trail would be priorities.

Rusty Logan, MET Transit, asked about air quality support for transit. They are considering Lockwood service and commented any project should look at Transit options. Wyeth Friday stated it makes sense to allocate a portion of air quality to transit and to expand in some capacity in Lockwood. Could possibly re-establish the Lockwood Transportation District. Tim Miller, YC

Public Works, stated costs for a fixed route would be approximately \$400,000/year. Paratransit cost is unknown and can be costlier than the fixed route.

Mac Fogelsong, City PW Engineering, agreed with a 48th Street West project and possible even 44th improvements along King.

Katie Potts, MDT, said in order for projects to be eligible for urban funds, they need to be on-system. Would have to look at the different projects for programming. The King Avenue roundabout on 64th couldn't be put on the urban system because it is outside the urban boundary. MDT is waiting for boundaries from US Census Bureau.

Scott Walker, said this is a good first discussion. Staff will put together a preliminary list to review and start to develop for any processes that need to occur.

Commissioner Pitman asked how this works with the Growth Policy. Once infrastructure is put in, it spurs development. Should look at effect on services and cost of services. Tim Miller, YC Public Works noted that on Grand Avenue, we are already behind due to all the development that has already occurred.

Kurtis Schnieber, MDT, said he looks forward to the Long Range Transportation Plan for unprogrammed projects and identify those that meet criteria and priorities.

5. Other Business

5a. Update. 2023 Long Range Transportation Plan

Scott Walker said staff will be beginning the plan update immediately. Consultant Kittelson and Dowl contracts are signed. A Steering Committee will conduct business for approximately a year. Committee members include Dennis Cook, Planning Board, Dakota Martonen and Mike Black from County Public Works as well as others. The committee will meet monthly with weekly updates from the consultant. MET will also be heavily involved.

5b. Update. Discussion. MET Transit, Rusty Logan, MET Transit, Logan, MET Transit Manager

Rusty Logan, MET Transit, commented on the Update to the Transit Asset Management Plan. Assuring planning for capital projects, performance targets and measures. The Transit Safety Plan is setting targets to 0. The Transit Development Plan is ongoing, with the first public meeting held a couple weeks ago. They are looking at peer communities. The next public meeting will be on June 28, 2022 to review concepts.

ADJOURNMENT: 3:20 PM

DRAFT-TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION DURING THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING—Transportation Planner Lora Mattox for Tamara L. Deines, Planning Clerk