

Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Planning Board



What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

- Created by Federal law - 1964
- >50,000 population (defined by census)
- Forum for transportation planning/decision-making
- MPO Planning Area boundary beyond municipal boundary
- Staffed by Transportation Planning Staff

Agreements

- PL Agreement
 - Governor appoints Planning Board as the MPO.
 - Provides for the distribution of PL funds to the participating agencies to conduct the Transportation Planning Process described in the UPWP
- Memorandum of Agreement
 - Cooperative agreement between the Planning Board, City of Billings, Yellowstone County Commission & MDT
 - Establishes the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- Regular Members:
 - Planning Director
 - Transportation Planning Coordinator
 - City Public Works Director (Or Designee)
 - City Engineer
 - City Traffic Engineer
 - County Public Works Director
 - County Public Works Engineer
 - MET Manager
 - MET Transit Planner
 - MDT Billings District Engineer
 - MDT Planning Manager-Helena

Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC)

❖ Officials include:

- President – Planning Board
- Mayor – City of Billings
- Chairman – County Commission
- District Administrator – MDT Billings
- Regional Manager – Federal Transit Administration (non-voting)
- Division Administrator – Federal Highway Administration (non-voting)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

Billings and Yellowstone County
Programming Federal Aid Projects



Planning Process

Process Goals – 3C's

- CONTINUING
- COOPERATIVE
- COMPREHENSIVE

Decision – Making

- Consultation
- Cooperation
- Coordination
- Decisions on
 - Plans
 - Programs
 - Projects (non-construction items)

Key MPO Processes

*Reviewed and approved by PCC

- **Transportation Plan*** – 5-year cycle, 20 year planning horizon
- **Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP)** – 5 year Construction/Planning document
- **Unified Planning Work Program* (UPWP)** – Staffing budget document
- **Public participation throughout**

Federal & State Funds – PCC Approves

- Annual Allocations Total: **\$10,2 Million***
 - Billings Urban \$2,500,000
 - Billings CMAQ \$1,700,000
 - Transportation Alternatives \$ 700,000
 - Billings PL (UPWP) \$1,200,000
 - Billings Transit \$1,800,000
 - Billings Transit Planning \$ 200,000
 - Billings State Fuel Tax \$1,800,000
 - Yellowstone Co State Fuel Tax \$ 300,000
 - * + Interstate, NH, Primary, Bridge, Secondary, Safety

Current Projects

- Transportation Plan Update
- Bike/Ped Plan Update
- Safe Routes To School Study
- Transportation Alternatives Program
- TIP Amendment 4
- 5th Avenue Corridor Implementation
- Establishment Of The Transportation Safety Oversight Committee
- Grant Writing

Future Projects (that we are discussing)

Questions?

