

# CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

"Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County"

**Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00pm**

**1 Board Attendance Roster:** Please note: "E" stands for excused absence, "A" stands for un-excused absence, "1" stands for present, "Z" stands for Zoom participation. **BYLAWS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF PLANNING, (Amended. May 25, 2004) Section 4. Absences and Removal** A. Each member shall inform the Planning Director at least one day before the meeting of his/her inability to attend a Board or Committee meeting. Such an absence shall be considered an excused absence. If any Board member accrues three (3) or more consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings, notice of which has been given at his/her usual place of work or residence, or by announcement at a meeting attended by him/her, the President may call such absences to the attention of the Board which may then recommend to the appointing authority that such member be asked to resign and that another person be appointed to serve out the unexpired term. Schedule: (\*\* denotes a Wednesday meeting)

	Position	01/09/2024	01/23/2024	02/13/2024	02/27/2024	03/12/2024	03/26/2024	04/09/2024	04/23/2024	05/14/2024	05/28/2024	06/11/2024	06/25/2024	07/09/2024	07/23/2024	08/13/2024	08/27/2024	09/10/2024	09/24/2024	10/08/2024	10/22/2024	11/12/2024	11/26/2024	12/10/2024
<b>Jim Ronquillo</b>	Mayor/Billings Ward I	A	1																					
<b>Roger Gravgaard</b>	Mayor/Billings Ward II	1	V																					
<b>Dennie Stephenson</b>	Mayor/Billings Ward III	1	1																					
<b>John Staley</b>	Mayor/Billings Ward IV	1	1																					
<b>David Nordel</b>	Mayor/Billings Ward V	A	1																					
<b>Troy Boucher</b>	YC District 1	V	V																					
<b>Dennis Cook</b>	YC District 2	A	1																					
<b>Vacant</b>	YC District 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Vacant</b>	YC District 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Woody Woods</b>	YC District 5	1	1																					
<b>Alexis Bonogofsky</b>	YC District 6	1	V																					
<b>Morgan Tuss</b>	YC District 7	1	A																					

**CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

*"Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County"*

**Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00pm**

<b>Vacant</b>	Y County Cons. District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Scott Reiter</b>	<b>Ex-Officio SD2</b>	A	V																		

**Call the Meeting to Order:** President Woods called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

**Introduction of Planning Board Members and Planning Department Staff**

President Woods called for introductions of the members of the Planning Board and staff.

**Participating Planning staff members:** Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator; Brenda Berns, Planning Clerk.

**Virtual Participation:** Board member Troy Boucher; Board member Alexis Bonogofsky; Board member Roger Gravgaard

**Others in Attendance:** There were none

**2. Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Board member Staley, seconded by Board member Stephenson to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

**3. Approval of Minutes:** January 9, 2024

Motion by Board member Stephenson seconded by Board member Cook to approve the January 9, 2024 minutes as submitted. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

**4. Public Comment:** As required (3 minute maximum per person). Any member of the public might be heard on any subject that is not on the agenda. The Planning Board will not take any action on these items at this time but could choose to add an item to the next meeting agenda for discussion. There were no comments from the public.

**5- 6. Disclosure of Outside (Ex-Parte) Communication or Conflicts of Interest - Board Members and Planning Staff.** There were no disclosures of outside communication or conflicts of interest.

**7. Old Business:** There is No Old Business

**Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00pm**

## **8. New Business**

### **8a. Presentation. Board Discussion. North Bypass Corridor Study and North Bypass Construction Project Update. Presented by Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator.**

Lora Mattox gave a presentation on the future of growth and development for the corridor. She covered the Billings Bypass Project and the Johnson Lane interchange, among others.

Lora stated, Billings residents are interested in affordable housing, mixed use development, quality of life amenities, and a Billings Heights town center. The Trailhead Road improvements will continue with additional housing developments for multi-family affordable apartments. Development on the Five Mile Road will continue moving north, and as areas are annexed, cable and fiber optics will run concurrently. As utilities are installed, discussions will continue regarding City and Heights water. Future Annexations will depend on proposed uses, however the City has ongoing parcels designated for annexation that are mapped and updated yearly. Lora stated that Dover Park will be a tremendous asset with 5x more water than Lake Elmo and should draw activities for families. The North Bypass bridge was built to accommodate both directions of traffic, emergency lanes, and the separate pedestrian walkway.

#### **Discussion**

Board President Woods stated that originally the Lockwood interchange was to have the heavy trucks and semis redirected out of the flow of traffic and tie into I90 & I94. However, it appeared it could not accommodate the volume of trucks. Lora stated that the interchange is planned for construction in 2025, with the I90 bridge mostly completed.

Board member Cook stated that TDS is working their way up Bitterroot Dr. and believes it should be easy to create access for all utilities necessary. Lora stated there were traffic studies done with the anticipation of growth and expansion, which included the implementation of public services prior to road infrastructure being finalized.

There was discussion regarding Lockwood projects, road improvements, and sidewalks. The Lockwood Industrial park Development is looking forward to utility improvements. as there is significant interest from retailers. There was additional discussion regarding adding sidewalks to provide safe routes to schools.

Lora said the Montana Department of Transportation website lists current projects and is updated regularly.

---

## CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

*"Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County"*

**Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00pm**

### **8b. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 101.**

**Presented by Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator.**

Lora Mattox gave a presentation on the Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) Responsibilities.

Lora stated the MPO was created by Federal Law in 1964 for a population base in excess of 50,000 as defined by the census. The MPO boundary is reviewed, based on where we can spend our urban dollars for construction. The Governor appoints the Planning Board as the MPO, which provides for the distribution of PL funds to the participating agencies to conduct the Transportation Planning Process described in the UPWP. There is a cooperative agreement between the Planning Board, City of Billings, Yellowstone County Commission, and MDT.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) includes members from the City, County, and MDT. The Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) includes members from the City, County, MDT, and Federal Transit & Highways Administration. The PCC makes the final decision to recommend a project forward to the Montana Department of Transportation. The PCC approves Federal & State Funds, for past and current projects.

Key MPO documents include:

Transportation Plan - reviewed every 5 years, with a 20-year planning horizon.

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) - a 5-year construction/planning document.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - a staffing budget document.

Bikeway & Trail Master Plan

### **Discussion**

There was discussion regarding the current City projects and their anticipated completion dates and costs.

Lora said MDT will be making some improvements for the Shiloh Rd and Zoo Dr towards Costco to alleviate the traffic, which is set to start this year (2024).

Board President Woods thanked Lora Mattox for her presentation and looks forward to similar presentations in the future.

---

**CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

*"Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County"*

***Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00pm***

**9. Other Business**

**9a. (Standing Item) Long Range Strategic Issues and an overview of future City and County issues and projects.**

**ADJOURNMENT 7:08pm**

**10. Future Agenda Items**

**The next Planning Board meeting will be held Tuesday, February 13, 2024 in the Miller Building 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 2825 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N at 6:00pm**

**DRAFT—TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

*-Brenda J Berns, Planning Clerk*