



**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA  
CITY OF BILLINGS AND  
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY  
JULY 18, 2024  
MEETING TIME: 10:30 AM**



**Miller Building 1ST Floor Conference Room 2825 3rd Ave N. Billings, Montana 59101**

<b>Committee Members</b>			
Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator, T.A.C.	1	Wyeth Friday, Director, Planning and Community Services	V
Tim Miller, Director YC Public Works Dept.	1	Monica Plecker, Deputy PW Director YC Public Works Dept.	V
Debi Meling, Public Works Director, City of Billings Engineering	A	Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer, City PW Engineering,	1
Rusty Logan, MET Transit Manger	1	Sarah Graham, MET Transit Planner	1
Samantha Woods, Urban Planning Section, MDT	V	Clark Snyder, Environmental Health RiverStone Health	A
Kenn Winegar, Urban Planning Section, MDT	V	Carol Strizich, Supervisor Urban Planning Section, MDT	A
Kurtis Schnieber, MDT	A	Carolyn Miller, FWHA	A
Zach Kirkemo, MDT	V	Ryan Hammon, FHWA	A
		Katie Potts, FHWA	V

**Participating Virtually:** Wyeth Friday, Planning & Community Services Division; Mitch Buthold, MDT; Samantha Woods, MDT; Katie Potts, FHWA; Kenn Winegar, Fiscal Planner MDT; Zach Kirkemo, MDT; Callion Maddox, FTA; Monica Plecker, YCPW Deputy Director

**In Attendance:** Anna Vickers, Planning Division Manager; Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Brenda Berns, Planning Clerk

**Call to Order:** Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator

2. **Approval of the minutes:** February 29, 2024

**Motion:** Rusty Logan made a Motion, seconded by Tim Miller to approve the meeting minutes of February 29, 2024 as submitted. The Motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

3. **Old Business:** There is no Old Business.

4. **New Business**

4.a. Review/Recommendation of the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program.

Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner, gave a presentation on the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program.

Lora informed the committee that 2024 priorities include updating the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan and finalizing transportation elements of the West End and Heights neighborhood plans. 2025 priorities include the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) project list and boundary. Additionally, there will be updates to the Mobile Trail Application and revisions to the City of Billings Complete Street Progress Report. Additionally, the 21st Street Underpass feasibility study has been moved from 2024 to 2025. Other key initiatives include issuing an RFP for a bike share program and fulfilling the FHWA's requirement for a 2.5% set-aside to develop Safe and Accessible Transportation Planning Options

Lora mentioned that other updates impacting the city include a decrease in federal funding and an increase in local funding.

Rusty Logan, MET Transit Manager, informed the committee that the 2024 transit priorities include updating required plans such as the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP), the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, and the Transit Asset Management (TAM) plan. There will be a complete overhaul of fixed-route services, establishing over 450 designated bus stops. Additionally, a new Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) System will be implemented that will integrate Google Maps and achieve FTA certification for passenger counting data. Finally, a third-party CDL testing program in collaboration with the State of Montana will be developed and implemented.

As for 2025 transit priorities, Rusty included completing the Transit Sustainability and Governance Study, which has been moved from FY24. Assessing the feasibility of a rapid transit line connecting the Heights, Downtown, and West End to reduce passenger travel time and consider additional transfer locations. As well as evaluating, and upgrading bus stops as necessary to meet ADA requirements and align with the Bus Stop Master Plan. Additionally, adjust routes in response to the conversion of one-way streets to two-way streets downtown.

**Important upcoming dates:**

- TAC July 18<sup>th</sup>
- Planning Board August 13<sup>th</sup>
- County Commission August 6<sup>th</sup>
- City Council August 12<sup>th</sup>
- PCC August 20<sup>th</sup>
- MDT, FHWA, FTA September 30<sup>th</sup>

- Mac Fogelsong, the City Engineer, inquired about the status of the Inner Belt Loop. Lora explained that the Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study, completed in 2016, did strictly address transportation planning along the new roadway. The upcoming land use plan for the area will be funded through contributions from the City Council and Board of County Commissioners.

Lora also mentioned that she would make the necessary corrections and updates to the UPWP for MDT and federal highways and will send out a revised copy.

**Motion:**

Tim Miller made a Motion, seconded by Rusty Logan to approve forwarding a recommendation of the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program once edits are made. The Motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

5. **Other Business:** There was no other business.

5.a Update. Discussion. Lora Mattox, MDT traffic counters in urbanized areas in Billings.

Lora Mattox informed the committee that MDT's traffic count division proposed collaborating with the city and other MPOs to install uninterrupted permanent real-time traffic counters in the community. They aim to place these counters in strategic locations like an arterial and a collector in urbanized areas, and they are looking for location recommendations. Another meeting is scheduled, and Lora will reach out to engineering for their input. Wyeth Friday, Director of Planning and Community Services Division asked whether the counters would be above or below ground and if they would only count vehicles. Lora mentioned that the counters seem to be above ground and would only count vehicles on the roadway.

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

Rusty Logan reported that they ended the fiscal year with a 16% increase in ridership, showing significant growth throughout the year. It took until February and March for noticeable adoption by passengers, but overall, the public seems to be responding well.

6. **Future Agenda Items:**

6.a Update. Discussion. Lorra Mattox, NPO - Review of its Highways

The MPO recently completed a review of their highways with MDT. They received a draft report, provided feedback, and sent comments back to Katie. Once Katie returns the finalized report, Lora plans to share it with the TAC to discuss various items, including performance measures. Currently, the MPO follows state measures, but as the city grows, it can begin developing its own performance measures.

7. **Adjournment 11:03AM**

*Brenda J Berns, Planning Clerk – Planning & Community Services Division*