

CITY OF BILLINGS
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION SUMMARY

April 20, 2026 – 5:30 PM

Council Chambers – City Hall, 316 N. 26th St., Billings, Montana

Council Present:

Councilmember Shaw
Councilmember Nicholson
Councilmember Neese
Councilmember Pitman
Councilmember Aguirre
Councilmember Kennedy
Councilmember Aspenlieder
Councilmember Lindley
Councilmember Boyett
Councilmember O'Donnell
Mayor Nelson

Staff Present:

Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
Gina Dahl, City Attorney
Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer
Wyeth Friday, Planning and Community Services Director
Anna Vickers, Planning Manager
Jeff Sprock, IT Director
Mack Fogelsong, City Engineer
Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator (Via Zoom)
Rusty Logan, Assistant Transit Director

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda and Non-Agenda Items)

- James Cameron, Billings, MT, raised concerns regarding a reduction of a private access easement in Challis Acres, citing lack of notification and impacts to ingress/egress.

Councilmember Kennedy announced an event on Thursday, April 23rd from 5-7 PM called Pinwheels for Prevention. He indicated they would be giving awards for prevention of child abuse and neglect.

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Rimrock Road (W.O. 25-36 and 26-07)

Presenter: Mack Fogelsong, City Engineer

Overview:

Presentation of a 30% design update for reconstruction of approximately 1.7 miles of Rimrock Road (Clearview Drive to 62nd Street West).

Key Points:

- Reconstruction of deteriorating roadway
- Addition of center turn lane and intersection improvements
- Multi-modal features including sidewalks and ~1.5 miles of trail
- Potential street lighting and Safe Routes to School crossing
- Estimated cost: ~\$13 million

Council Discussion:

- Support for safety and multi-modal improvements
- Concerns regarding future capacity and potential need for expansion
- Discussion on speed limits and pedestrian crossings
- Consideration of Complete Streets policy

Public Comment:

None

Council Direction:

- Proceed with design refinement and public outreach

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Amendment 3

Presenter: Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator; Rusty Logan, Assistant Transit Director

Overview:

Amendment to FY2024–2028 TIP to reflect updated projects, funding, and transit programming.

Key Points:

- Addition of MDT pavement preservation projects
- Inclusion of local projects such as Safe Routes to School
- Updated federal transit funding allocations
- Transit vehicle procurement updates
- Very little discussion regarding rail transportation

Council Discussion:

- Electric bus performance and costs
- Transit infrastructure improvements

Public Comment:

None

Council Direction:

- Forward amendment for consideration

AGENDA ITEM #3 – Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee (TPCC) Membership

Presenter: Anna Vickers, Planning Manager

Overview:

Discussion on restructuring MPO governance due to state law changes.

Key Points:

- Transition from City-County Planning Board model
- Proposed voting members include Mayor, County Commission Chair, and MDT
- Consideration of Aviation and Transit roles

Council Discussion:

- Preference for elected officials as voting members
- Staff roles to remain advisory/non-voting

Public Comment:

None

Council Direction:

- Support structure without adding staff as voting members

AGENDA ITEM #4 – Montana Land Use Planning Act / Billings 2045

Presenter: Wyeth Friday, Planning and Community Services Director and Anna Vickers, Planning Manager

Overview:

Update on future land use map and planning process.

Key Points:

- Development of new single-family category
- Ongoing map refinements based on Council feedback
- Upcoming meetings and deadlines

Council Discussion:

- Positive feedback on mapping process
- Continued refinement needed

Public Comment:

None

Council Direction:

- Continue refinement and proceed with schedule

AGENDA ITEM #5 – City Administrator Recruitment Process

Presenter: Mayor Nelson

Overview:

Update on interim and permanent recruitment process.

Key Points:

- One internal applicant for interim role
- Search firm proposals received
- Goal to hire permanent administrator by Fall 2026

Council Discussion:

- Residency concerns
- Desire for full Council involvement
- Need to review job description

Public Comment:

None

Council Direction:

- Continue recruitment process with Council input

HIGHLIGHT UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS OF COUNCIL INTEREST

- Annexations and land use items
- Budget work sessions

PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURN: 7:00 P.M.