

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2026

Members: Chair John Staley, President City County Planning Board; Commissioner Mark Morse, Board of County Commissioners; Mayor Mike Nelson, Kurtis Schnieber, MDT

Staff Participants: Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator; Elyse Monat, Transportation Planner; Mike Hayes, Multi-modal Planner; Brenda Berns, Planning Clerk, Rusty Logan, MET

Virtual Attendees: Kenn Winegar, MDT; Samantha Wood, MDT

Call to Order: 12:00 PM

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Welcome and Introduction of New Board Member

Mayor Nelson was introduced and welcomed as a new member of the Board.

Public Comment Period

- a. Comments on items not on the agenda and requests to add items to future agendas: There were no comments received.
- b. Comments on items on the Non-public and Public Agenda Items: There were no comments received.

Motion. Approval of the Minutes of March 2026

Motion by Commissioner Morse to approve the March 17, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted, second by Mike Nelson. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- a. **2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 3. Board Discussion and Action -**
Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator

Ms. Mattox shared that the TIP is a strategic plan outlining prioritized transportation projects within the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for 2024-2028. It facilitates the scheduling of federal funds for surface transportation projects, highlights regional priorities, and presents a short-term transportation vision.

Periodic amendments are necessary to update project lists, funding allocations, and schedules. This amendment incorporates:

- Project additions;

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- Financial adjustments;
- Timing revisions based on funding availability and regional priorities.

Projects added or modified were primarily transportation projects managed through MDT.
 Project modifications included:

Projects Added/Modified:

- MDT Project – Laurel Road/Montana Avenue: Sidewalk improvements to meet ADA compliance.
- MDT Project – 1st Avenue South: Pavement preservation on 1st Avenue South.
- MDT Project – Junction Highway 312 to Mile Post 7.29: Striping and durable pavement markings.
- MDT Project – Mallowney Lane to Wise Lane – Roadway striping.
- MDT Project – Montana Avenue Bridges – Bridge rehabilitation.
- MDT project – King Avenue to Rimrock Road: Pavement preservation.
- MDT Project – State Avenue: Pavement preservation.
- MDT Project – King Avenue Signals: Intersection upgrades/signals.
- MPO – Johnson Lane Sidewalks (County): Transportation Alternatives sidewalk project.
- MPO – Safe Routes to School (City): Transportation Alternatives project that will improve safe routes to schools.
- MET Transit – Updated allocations and projects.

Previous Action:

Technical Advisory Committee - recommended approval	April 9 th
Planning Board with Public Hearing – recommended approval	April 28 th
City Council – recommended approval	April 27 th
County Commissioners – recommended approval	May 12 th
Policy Coordinating Committee (final action)	May 19 th

Board Questions

Ms. Mattox was asked how the PCC will be affected by the Montana Land Use Policy Act. Lora explained that under the MLUPA changes, the current City-County Planning Board will be split into a County Planning Board and a City Planning Commission. She stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will be moved from the current Planning Board to the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC), which will serve as the MPO going forward. This change requires updated intergovernmental agreements, legal review, and a formal request to the Governor for MPO redesignation. Lora noted that once the agreements are finalized, the PCC will function as the main working board for MPO-related planning. The Board of County Commissioners and City Council will continue to receive updates and participate in discussions, but the PCC will lead the review and development of planning work, with ongoing public outreach and input.

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She added that the approval process will be more streamlined, with fewer individual approvals required from each governing body, but with continued coordination and communication with both. Implementation is expected to occur this summer, pending finalization of agreements and bylaws, which are currently under review by City and County legal counsel.

Motion

Motion made by Kurtis Schnieber to approve the TIP Amendment as presented. Second by Commissioner Mark Morse. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Staff provided an update on several ongoing studies, including the 21st Street Underpass Study and the Complete Streets Economic Analysis. It was noted that the Complete Streets study is informational in nature and is intended to provide data on potential benefits such as property values, commercial growth, and other economic impacts to assist governing bodies in their decision-making.

Rusty Logan reported that the MET Transit Governance Funding Study is being finalized and will be brought back to the Board in July for action. He stated that the study is evaluating funding, governance options, and transit's return on investment and overall effectiveness. In response to a question regarding coordination with the airport authority, Rusty explained that related efforts are being conducted concurrently; however, no viable model has been identified to fully integrate the efforts, and they will continue as separate studies. Rusty confirmed that the current path forward is to maintain separate authorities rather than combining governance structures.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:15 PM

Brenda J Berns, Planning Clerk