

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Thomas Micuda called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at approximately 9:31 A.M. in the Planning and Community Development Conference Room at the Civic Center, #2 Park Drive South and via Zoom.

ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Andrew Finch	Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Ken Jorgensen	Supervisor, City of Great Falls Street Division – via ZOOM
Jay Manuel	Operations Engineer, Great Falls District – MDT – via ZOOM
Tom Micuda	Deputy Director, Planning & Community Development, City of GF
Jesse Patton	Engineer, City of GF Engineering Division – via ZOOM
Katie Potts	MDT Statewide & Urban Planning – via ZOOM
Rick Schutz	Superintendent, Cascade County Road & Bridge Division – via ZOOM
Chris Ward	District Projects Engineer, Great Falls District – MDT – via ZOOM
Charity Yonker	Director, Cascade County Planning Department – via ZOOM

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented

Kevin Angland	Cascade County Planning
Russell Brewer	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls
John Faulkner	Director, Great Falls International Airport Authority
John Hale	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Les Payne	Director, Cascade County Public Works Department
Rick Schutz	Superintendent, Cascade County Road & Bridge Division
Chris Gaub	Director, City of GF PW Department

Recognition of Others Present

Zach Craven	Cascade County Health Department – via ZOOM
Shyla Patera	Public Participant – via ZOOM
Geoff Streeter	MDT Statewide & Urban Planning – via ZOOM
Chastity Tarrow	Permit Technician, Planning and Community Development
Kenn Winegar	MDT Statewide & Urban Planning – via ZOOM

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided with the October 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Patton moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Yonker. All in favor, the minutes were approved as submitted.

BUSINESS ITEMS

5.A. – Transportation Alternatives Program

Mr. Finch presented to the committee. He stated that there is \$2.2 million in projects to allocate. There is no project cap or project minimum. There is no project minimum for MDT, but there is a project cap; pavement preservation of \$200,000 for capital construction of \$1 million to spread out the award across the state. The list of eligible applicants in the Great Falls area that are for consideration are local governments, tribal governments, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, school districts, local education agencies or schools which are Federally Mandated and are listed on the draft Mr. Finch provided.

Mr. Finch said locally there would be an emphasis on projects that construct or improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are recommended in the Great Falls Long Range Transportation Plan; projects that rectify deficient ADA facilities; or, pavement preservation projects for existing bicycle/pedestrian facilities. If a project application is submitted by an entity for a project that they do not own, the owner MUST be a co-applicant. There is a location requirement that the project must be wholly within the Great Falls Metropolitan Planning boundary. For projects that are not in the right-of-way of a Federal Aid route, there must be a matching commitment for 13.42% of the total projected cost. If the project is in the right-of-way, MDT will match for pavement preservation or ADA ramps if it is a facility that was constructed with Federal funds. There will be an application to follow. There will be an open solicitation process, but Mr. Finch expects the City or the County to be the main applicants for projects.

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr. Micuda asked if TAC approved of the proposed program outline, and asked Mr. Finch if there was a time horizon for selecting projects. Mr. Finch stated that there is a time line and the selection process would start in January.

Ms. Potts asked if there would be more information on a cost proposal in the application. Mr. Finch stated that there would be some information provided.

Mr. Ward asked if the Airport Authority would be excluded for proposing. Ms. Potts stated she would double check regulations on the TA program but she does not believe they would be an eligible entity.

Mr. Ward asked if this had to be bicycle or pedestrian related, Mr. Finch stated projects could not be just transit related.

Ms. Potts wanted to touch one more time on the state match, for the state to match an on system project it has to be a pavement preservation or an ADA upgrade project. The state will not match on ALL system projects.

Mr. Ward would be interested in hearing the background of setting the criteria for providing state match. Mr. Finch stated he would reach out to the State's TA Program Manager, Dave Holien, for more information. Ms. Potts said its management of state funds; it means that there are never enough state funds to match the federal program so it is a way to minimize the risk of state funds, which is an internal policy.

Ms. Potts talked about discussions about MDT's expectations.

Mr. Finch stated there was a possibility of amending the Long Range Transportation Plan to add projects. However, the intention is to identify projects that are already identified as priorities.

Ms. Potts stated she heard back from Dave Holien and clarified that sidewalk infill is considered new infrastructure and requires local match; however, the repair of existing sidewalks, (heaving, cracked, panel replacement, or broken) is considered an ADA upgrade and eligible for state match. New sidewalks do not qualify for state match.

MOTION: That TAC approve the Transportation Alternatives Program process, as presented by staff, with one wording change to change evaluation criteria #1 from “..projects must be listed” to “...projects are listed.”

Made by: Mr. Patton
Second: Ms. Yonker

VOTE: All in favor, the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Finch stated there was one proposal received for the Long Range Transportation Plan, from Robert Peccia and associates. If the review committee concurs, we will proceed with discussions with Robert Peccia.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Patera extended her thanks for the informative discussion on transportation alternatives and many of her questions were answered.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Mr. Finch seconded by Mr. Ward. All in favor the meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.