

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Rearden, Chairman, called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. in the Rainbow Room of the Great Falls Civic Center.

ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Susan Conell	Cascade County Planning Department
Dave Dobbs	City Engineer, City of Great Falls
Andrew Finch	Sr. Trans. Planner, City of Great Falls
Jason Handl	Transportation/SID Engineer, City of Great Falls
Galen Amy (for Mike Haynes)	Director, Planning & Community Development, City of Great Falls
Jim Helgeson	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Jerry McKinley	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls
Jim Rearden	Director, Great Falls Public Works Department
Jim Turnbow	Street Supervisor, Great Falls Street Division
Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, GF District – MDT
Llyod H. Rue	Federal Highway Administration
Tom Kahle (for Zia Kazimi)	Project Manager, Helena MDT

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

Brian Clifton	Public Works Director, Cascade County
John Hale	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom AFB
Rina Fontana-Moore	County Surveyor, Cascade County
Dave Sutton	Superintendent, Cascade County Road Department
John Faulkner	Director Great Falls International Airport Authority
Bruce Treis	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Dept
Christie McOmber	District Project Engineer, GF District MDT

Recognition of Others Present:

Marcee Allen	Federal Highway Administration
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MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the July 12, 2012 TAC meeting minutes.

MOTION: That the minutes of July 12, 2012 be approved.

Made by: Mr. Finch
Second: Mr. Dobbs

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Prior to the meeting, TAC members were provided with copies of the TAC meeting agenda. Copies of the agenda and handout materials are attached and incorporated by reference.

5A. FFY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Finch reviewed projects on the agenda for the upcoming year, including the Downtown Access, Circulation and Streetscape Study; a Medical District Circulation Study; a Great Falls High Circulation Study, which will probably include a parking element; the Growth Policy Update; and Transportation Plan update. He said that there are some new staff members in the Planning Division and some shifting of work responsibilities for the FFY 2013 UPWP.

Mr. Finch also stated that at their August 14, 2012 meeting, the Planning Advisory Board approved the FFY 2013 UPWP. Mr. Rearden asked if consultants would be used to complete the studies, and Mr. Finch responded in the affirmative.

MOTION: To approve the FFY 2013 UPWP, and recommend approval by PCC.

Made by: Mr. Helgeson

Second: Mr. Handl

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

5B. Proposed Urban Pavement Preservation Projects

Mr. Turnbow proposed a couple of projects estimated at \$115,000, but that he would need to update the numbers in his spreadsheet. Ms. Weibel said MDT can help with the conversion for cost estimates if needed. Mr. Rearden asked if these projects meet the set-aside requirements and how that process works. Mr. Finch stated that TAC should have some sort of action to include these projects in the TIP update.

5C. Veteran's Transportation & Community Living Initiative Grant (Great Falls Transit District)

Mr. Helgeson reported that the Great Falls Transit District received one of the FTA's Veteran's Transportation & Community Living Initiative Grants. The grant is for \$380,500 and will be used to set up a statewide web program so veterans and the general public can schedule a ride anywhere within the state. Before the grant can be registered with the feds it must be included in TIP & STIP. Mr. Helgeson is having discussions with the FTA to see if it is possible to waive that requirement or not.

5D. 2nd Avenue North bike lanes – 38th St. to 57th St.

Mr. Rearden asked if there was funding for bike lanes in this area. Ms. Weibel stated that Mick had suggested a partnership where they provide the paint to volunteers and have the volunteers paint the bike lanes. Mr. McKinley asked about signage and Ms. Weibel said she will ask what Mick's preferences are. Mr. Reardon said this would also be discussed at the MDT meeting.

Mr. Reardon asked if there is MACI money available to do a more comprehensive project. Mr. Turnbow asked about the bike path that is going in off of Smelter Avenue. Mr. Finch stated that the Smelter Avenue project was CTEP and Safe Routes to School funded, and that it is a separate facility as opposed to the one on 2nd Ave. N. Mr. Turnbow suggested that in the future those monies can also get

applied to for bike path projects. Mr. Rearden stated that if there is a good funding source then it makes sense to do these facilities by area so there is connectivity.

Mr. Finch advocated continuity, but also stated that if piecemeal is the only way that things can get done then maybe we do need to look at that. He said that the safety of the users is of concern because their expectations are heightened, and it is worrisome to encourage heavier use of a corridor when we have an incomplete system. Mr. Handl stated projects need to be done based on what the funding source is going to be. Mr. Helgeson asked how much emphasis on bike routes is in the Transportation Plan. Mr. Finch stated that there is quite a bit, there's a separate chapter that looks at specific projects and improvements.

Mr. Helgeson stated that the Bicycle Club needs to be involved because they are users and are eligible for grants that TAC is not. He also asked if it would make sense to have a Master Plan. Mr. Rearden said all of it needs to conform to a plan, but it would probably be in phases. Mr. Finch stated that there is a plan that needs to be updated, but when it comes to the practical implementation engineering needs to be involved. The public process and design layout also would need to be conducted. The practical applications of implementing a bike plan with this level of design needs to be figured out from a funding standpoint.

Mr. Rearden asked about the new Highway Bill having any specific funding for bike/ped facilities. Mr. Rue stated that the new bill is much different. The big theme is to consolidate highway programs. Specific to bike/ped facilities, the Programs formerly known as Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, and Recreational Trails have been collapsed into one category called Transportation Alternatives. So now you have the same three programs competing for less money. The flip side is that all of the individual facilities' eligibilities are all also folded into the bigger category of eligibility. The state has to figure out how to fund that and how much money to allocate to the programs. Regardless there will probably be match money required.

OTHER BUSINESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

6 Other Business

Susan Conell stated Dave Sutton is retiring and Rick Shutz will be the interim director serving on TAC.

7 Public Comment

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Dobbs made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.