

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Rearden, Chairman, called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. in the Rainbow Room of the Great Falls Civic Center.

ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Brian Clifton	Public Works Director, Cascade County
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
Wendy Thomas (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
Bruce Treis	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Dept
Christie McOmber	District Project Engineer, GF District MDT
Tom Kahle (for Zia Kazimi)	Project Manager, Helena MDT (via phone)
Rick Schutz	Cascade County Public Works

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, GF District – MDT
John Hale	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom AFB
Rina Fontana-Moore	County Surveyor, Cascade County
John Faulkner	Director Great Falls International Airport Authority
Lloyd H. Rue	Federal Highway Administration

Recognition of Others Present:

Tristan Riddell	Cascade County Planning Department
Chris Ward	TD&H Engineering
John Pavsek	Morrison-Maierle, Inc.
Diane Burbank	Montana Department of Transportation (via phone)
Galen Amy	Planner I, City of Great Falls
Shyla Patera	North Central Independent Living Services

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the August 15, 2012 TAC meeting minutes.

MOTION: That the minutes of August 15, 2012 be approved.

Made by: Mr. Helgeson

Second: Mr. Handl

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.

Mr. Rearden stated that since the consultant was here Item 5B would be discussed first.

5B. Project Scope and Funding - South Central Arterials

Mr. Finch reminded TAC that the South Central Arterials project is mainly a federally funded project that TAC and PCC selected as a viable replacement to a full southern arterial. John Pavsek is the project consultant on board and presented preliminary designs with different funding options. Mr. Pavsek stated that when they first scoped the project, one of the main items that was desired was a non-motorized pathway along 24th Avenue South, recognizing that 24th Avenue South would not have curb and gutter. MDT, the City and the County are working together to get this project together, and Mr. Pavsek identified the jurisdiction of each segment and brainstormed three options focusing on 24th Avenue South:

- A. Shared Use Path: 12' travel lanes, 5' shoulder each side, 10' separate shared use bike-ped path
- B. Widened Shoulders: 12' travel lanes, 5' bike lane
- C. Basic Project: 12' travel lane, 2' shoulder

A copy of Mr. Pavsek's PowerPoint presentation including preliminary project costs and the cost share breakdown presented are attached. The cost of doing the project in phases with different segments was also explored in order to choose how to scale the project back.

Mr. Pavsek stated there are a couple of challenges. One being at the east end there's a dogleg curve in the road at the cemetery that will need to be fixed. The other is the cemetery approach, and even though it is a secondary approach it is not desirable to have more than one approach to the intersection, so that will need to be cleaned up. This will involve realignment of the right-of-way and relocation of 3-4 power poles and purchase of right of way.

Mr. Finch stated that the City might want to see a redesign of 13th Street South to incorporate a boulevard so the sidewalk is not right next to the road, which would not require moving power poles. There was discussion of how the separate path on 24th Street South would connect to the sidewalk system on 13th and 26th Street South. The project is on a ridgeline, so drainage isn't terrible, but there needs to be retainage for runoff.

Mr. Turnbow asked if MACI funds would be available for this project. Mr. Finch stated that if we make this project attractive for vehicles so some traffic could be pulled from 10th Avenue South for an air

quality benefit that it is an option to use MACI funds for the whole of 24th Avenue South. Mr. Finch also stated that this is a good option because there are other uses for Urban Funds and that we need to commit MACI funds before they are lost, but reminded TAC that there is still a match requirement for MACI funds. Mr. Finch clarified that the state will only match MACI money if it is on a federal aid route, and that we have about 2.5 to 3 million in uncommitted MACI funds, which doesn't include match.

Mr. Pavsek stated that they are not even at 10% design, but by March 22nd, 2013 he'd have a 40% complete set of plans, and right now they need direction for which design to pursue or what to cut out. He also reminded TAC that this has a 2015 bid letting and that TAC will have time to look at the design closely again. Mr. Helgeson stated that this is quite the opportunity and maybe we should give the County Commissioners a chance to run it up the flagpole and see if they can find additional funds for match. Mr. Clifton stated that he's had the preliminary discussion with the Commissioners and that the County's match for options A and B are concerning, and he asked when the check for match would actually need to be delivered. Mr. Turnbow explained that it is while the project is going on with every invoice. Ms. McOmber stated that it gets calculated and invoices go out with monthly billing as construction is happening. Mr. Pavsek stated that they would have better numbers in March 2013.

Mr. Helgeson asked if we could do a Rural Improvement District for just the match. Mr. Finch stated that you would need to have people sign onto it and that in this neighborhood that is a slim possibility. Mr. Clifton stated that the traffic count is nowhere near what the population that live on the road are putting onto it, and that it is a bypass for Benefis. Mr. Finch stated that the two properties to the north have not annexed because of the cost for improvements to the roadway, and that since we're doing this project that maybe they would donate 20 feet of right-of-way. Mr. Pavsek stated that MDT has used donated right-of-way for match, but that Jerilee will have to give it a value.

Mr. Clifton asked what we would need to do to put 24th on the Urban Route or if we could do a swap. Mr. Kahle stated that customarily you would take a corresponding amount off the urban system, but there is no hard and fast rule. Ms. Burbank stated that a letter would need to be sent Lynn Zanto to request a review for a possible system revision for that route, and that it would probably not be until January because it has to go to the Transportation Commission. Mr. Kahle also stated that you could just ask to add it without the swap. Mr. Finch explained that that process comes from TAC and PCC, and also stated we aren't going to touch this road for at least 50 years and we should do it right this time.

Mr. Pavsek stated that he is comfortable proceeding with option A and that he will work closely with the City, County and MDT.

MOTION: To explore maximize utilization of MACI funds to pay for this project.

Made by: Ms. Thomas
Second: Mr. Helgeson

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To write a letter to Lynn Zanto inquiring if 24th Avenue South can be considered to become part of the Urban Route without removing anything else.

Made by: Mr. Helgeson
Second: Mr. Clifton

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

5A. Project Funding - Bootlegger Trail Project

Mr. Finch stated that Bootlegger is in desperate need for improvements. Ms. McOmber stated that the plans are almost complete and that 1.25 miles of Bootlegger will be added to the urban limits due to the urban boundary change. There is a \$460,000 project balance that is now within the new urban area, with the option of Urban Funds, MACI funds, or secondary funds to pay for that balance. The secondary funds are held by MDT. Mr. Finch stated that he had a phone conference with Lynn Zanto, and she confirmed that it is possible to use non-urban funds and that their review has shown that there are other options other than urban funds. There will be a turn lane that will improve traffic flow and most of that money for those turn lanes is coming from the developer.

Mr. Clifton asked what is available for urban funding. Mr. Finch stated that we're basically down to zero. Ms. Burbank stated that we get about 1.7 million per year not including match or the new census numbers, but that it will probably be a little less. Mr. Rearden stated that Fox Farm Road is the priority for upcoming Urban Funds. Mr. Finch also stated that there is a sidewalk project being considered for MACI funds. Mr. Turnbow stated that there are also handicap accessibility projects underway. Mr. Helgeson asked if there are MACI funds in MAP-21. Mr. Finch said there are, but is not sure of the amounts. Ms. Burbank also confirmed that we will receive MACI with MAP-21.

MOTION: TAC recommend to PCC that the indicated amount of MACI funds be provided to this project after review of the South Central Arterials project.

Made by: Mr. Finch
Second: Mr. Clifton

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

6 Other Business

Mr. Helgeson stated that the Veteran's Transportation & Community Living Initiative Grant that the Great Falls Transit District received does need to be in the TIP and the STIP. Mr. Finch stated that we can include this in the TIP amendment that is coming up in December.

7 Public Comment

Mr. Dobbs stated that this is Mr. Handl's last meeting as he is retiring and that he will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Dobbs made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.