

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Rearden, Chairman, called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. in the Rainbow Room of the Great Falls Civic Center.

ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Dave Dobbs	City Engineering, City of Great Falls
Andrew Finch	Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Jim Helgeson	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Courtney Lyerly	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls
Jerry McKinley	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls
Steve Prinzing (for Christie McOmber)	District Project Engineer, Great Falls District MDT
Craig Raymond	Interim Director, Planning & Com. Dev., City of Great Falls
Jim Rearden	Director, Great Falls Public Works Department
Tristan Riddell	Cascade County Planning Department
Rick Schutz	Cascade County Public Works
Moses Leavens (for Bruce Treis)	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department
Jim Turnbow	Street Supervisor, Great Falls Street Division

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

Brian Clifton	Public Works Director, Cascade County
Susan Conell	Director, Cascade County Planning Department
John Faulkner	Director Great Falls International Airport Authority
John Hale	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Tom Kahle	Project Manager, Helena MDT
Lloyd H. Rue	Federal Highway Administration
Carol Strizich	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT
Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, Great Falls District – MDT

Recognition of Others Present:

Jeff Key	Robert Peccia & Associates, Inc.
Scott Randall	Robert Peccia & Associates, Inc.
Galen Amy	Planner I, City of Great Falls
Shyla Patera	North Central Independent Living Services
Chris Ward	TD&H Engineering

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the April 11, 2013 TAC meeting minutes.

MOTION: That the minutes of April 11, 2013 be approved.

Made by: Mr. Helgeson

Second: Mr. Lyerly

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. Removal of Route from Urban System

Mr. Finch reported that TAC's recommendation to remove a portion of Giant Springs Road and Sun River Road from the Urban System, in order to have 24th Avenue South become an on-system roadway, was not accepted by MDT. Mr. Finch stated that MDT's objection was that the recommendation would cause those routes to not end at a logical terminus, and that per MDT a logical terminus is the junction with another major roadway, is where a route is cut off due to the urban limits ending, or ends at a major generator or destination. MDT suggested that removing Giant Springs Road to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center is amenable to MDT even though it is less mileage. Mr. Finch explained that TAC's recommendation would still need to go to the Transportation Commission. If the Transportation Commission does not accept the recommendation it will come back to TAC.

Mr. Rearden asked if there was other funding sources for that section of Giant Springs Road if it came off the Urban System. Mr. Finch explained that the only Federal funds that may be available would be MACI funds if an eligible use was found and if the County provided the match. Mr. Helgeson asked what the condition of that section of road is. Mr. Finch stated that it is in mixed condition, and that beyond the FWP headquarters the road is okay, but beyond the Urban Limits the road rapidly deteriorates. Mr. Helgeson asked who is responsible for the upkeep of that road, and Mr. Rearden stated that to City limits it is the City and beyond that it is the County's responsibility.

MOTION: To remove from the Urban System a segment of Giant Springs Road, from the entrance of the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center to the current end of the route - and recommend PCC take the same action.

Made by: Mr. Dobbs

Second: Mr. Prinzing

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

5B. Long Range Transportation Plan Discussion

Mr. Finch stated that the City Commission approved the contract with Robert Peccia & Associates (RPA) of Helena, for the Long Range Transportation Plan. With the tight time frame they requested meeting with TAC to discuss some issues they need feedback on. There were three discussion items: the Plan study area, the public involvement portion of the Plan, and intersection priority study areas.

Mr. Key explained that the Urban Boundary has expanded due to the 2010 Census, and they wanted the study area to include the changes to include the new Urban Boundary. Mr. Finch explained that

there are two major guidelines that you use when setting a boundary: capturing the area in which an increase in Urban Density in the 20 year time period is expected and capturing the routes that those growth areas will be using.

There are three formal public outreach activities planned. Mr. Key explained that the first meeting would help kick start process, identify transportation goals and objectives, and help people feel involved. By the second meeting they would be presenting some of their findings, and the final meeting would be presenting a draft of the Plan. In addition to the formal meetings, there would be many informal stakeholder meetings and Mr. Key provided a list of stakeholders.

Mr. Riddell suggested that County Planning be included on the list. Mr. Finch stated the Community Development Council could be taken off the list, and that separate meetings with City Public Works and County Public Works should be done. Mr. Helgeson stated the Black Eagle Civic Club could be included. Mr. Key stated that RPA will be hosting a website and a Facebook page, which would include postings about public meetings. Mr. Finch stated that a lot of the Neighborhood Councils meet in areas that would be important to document outreach to underserved populations.

Mr. Key explained that he breaks up transportation plans into thirds: 1) data collection, visioning, goals and objectives, and initiating public outreach; 2) analysis, and starting to look at future conditions; 3) developing recommendations, cost estimates and the report. One of the items looked at in the data collection is intersection turning moving counts. In the last transportation study had 92 intersection counts, both signalized and non-signalized. All of the intersections downtown were taken off this study due to the recent completion of the Downtown Access and Circulation Study. There was extensive discussion about which intersections to add and which to take off the study list, and Mr. Key stated that he would follow up with MDT to find out how many intersections had camera data, and that he would finalize the list of 40-45 intersections that would be studied based on the information TAC members had provided.

Mr. Finch stated that while the Long Range Transportation Plan update was under way that TAC members can plan on meeting monthly.

OTHER BUSINESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Rearden asked how to get the Fox Farm Road design kicked off and if it would be a consultant design or not. Mr. Prinzing stated he was not sure yet and he'd look into it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Finch made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.