

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2013

**CALL TO ORDER**

Jim Rearden, Chairman, called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in the Gibson 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	Director, Cascade County Planning Department
Andrew Finch	Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Mike Haynes	Director, Planning & Community Development, City of Great Falls
Jim Helgeson	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Aaron Jewett (For John Hale)	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Mike Kynett (for Dave Dobbs)	City Engineering, City of Great Falls
Courtney Lyerly	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls
Jerry McKinley	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls
Christie McOmber	District Project Engineer, Great Falls District MDT
Jim Rearden	Director, Great Falls Public Works Department
Tristan Riddell	Cascade County Planning Department
Rick Schutz	Cascade County Public Works
Bruce Treis	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department
Jim Turnbow	Street Supervisor, Great Falls Street Division
Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, Great Falls District – MDT

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

John Faulkner	Director Great Falls International Airport Authority
Lloyd H. Rue	Federal Highway Administration
Carol Strizich	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT

Recognition of Others Present:

Galen Amy	Planner I, City of Great Falls
Candace Ellsworth	Malmstrom Air Force Base
Shyla Patera	North Central Independent Living Services

## MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the December 13, 2012 TAC meeting minutes. Ms. McOmber provided follow-up information about the signal controller upgrades on 10th Avenue South and 3rd Street Northwest, stating that both projects will be occurring next spring. Ms. Connell noted that she was also not in attendance at the last meeting.

MOTION: That the minutes of December 13, 2012 be approved with changes.

Made by: Mr. Clifton

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. Use of MACI funds for South Central Arterials Project

Mr. Finch explained that 5A and 5B relate to each other. The project consultant, Morrison Maierle, has provided preliminary cost estimates, and if the project is to move forward, even with the most basic design, additional monies will need to be designated. Mr. Finch stated that there is about \$4.5M of MACI funds that are not programmed for any project, but there are priority projects that have been approved by TAC and PCC for expenditure of MACI funds. However, there were ample funds to contribute to this project, if TAC chooses. Mr. Finch referenced his staff report and the handouts that were provided to TAC prior to the meeting.

The consultant provided three options: 1, 1A and 2. All options require minimal additional right-of-way purchase. Option 1A is the only option that includes a shared path, curb and gutter on the north side of the road for the full length of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Option 1 includes curb and gutter only from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Streets on 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, and Option 2 has no curb, gutter, or path. Mr. Rearden stated City support for Option 1A, as the most forward thinking option to accommodate future growth, and due to concerns about transitioning from a ditch to a curbed drainage method. Mr. Turnbow stated that the City Street Division concurred.

MOTION: To approve use of MACI funds for the project estimate difference and use design Option 1A.

Made by: Mr. Clifton

Second: Mr. Lyerly

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

### 5B. Removal of Route from Urban System

Mr. Finch reported that MDT has stated that if 24th Avenue South becomes an on-system Urban roadway, they will commit to the match dollars, to the appropriate design level. The MDT Transportation Commission has approved the addition of 24th Avenue South to the Urban System if we remove a like amount of mileage, which is approximately 5,200 linear feet. TAC members present discussed the different roadways staff proposed as possible stretches that could be removed from the Urban System, provided in meeting handouts. Mr. Finch explained that the routes on the handout could be removed without affecting the system because we have a very large Urban System, and there isn't enough

dollars available to fully support what we have. He also noted that once a roadway is off-system, MACI funds can be expended upon it for eligible projects, but there would need to be a local match.

MOTION: To remove approximately 1,900 feet of Giant Springs Road, assuming that measurement ends at the Fish Wildlife and Parks Region 4 Headquarters entrance, and remove approximately 3,300 feet of Sun River Road from the Urban System in order to have 24th Avenue South become an on-system roadway.

Made by: Mr. Finch  
Second: Mr. Clifton

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Finch said he would confirm the roadway lengths with MDT, and if there are changes the difference would come off of Sun River Road.

#### 5C. Selection of RPA for Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Finch stated that the selection committee met and unanimously recommends Robert Peccia & Associates (RPA) of Helena, for the Long Range Transportation Plan. The cost proposal is \$285,000, with subcontracted work by Alta Planning & Design for the bike/pedestrian plan, and Cambridge Systematics for analysis and calibration of traffic model alternatives. Mr. Finch stated that the scope of work is being finalized, and any TAC members are welcome to review the scope and provide input. Mr. Turnbow and Mr. Finch will discuss the possibility of coordinating the street index portion of the Plan. Mr. Finch also stated that the consultant will look at where projected new roadways should go.

MOTION: To confirm the selection of RPA for the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Made by: Mr. Helgeson  
Second: Mr. Haynes

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Helgeson thanked TAC and PCC for the purchase of four buses with MACI funds, and said they are on the road now. TAC also wished Mike Haynes success on his new position in Missoula.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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