

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Rearden, Chairman, called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:29 a.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
Jim Ekberg (for Susan Conell)	Director, Cascade County Planning Department
Dave Dobbs	City Engineering, City of Great Falls
Andrew Finch	Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Stephanie Groux and Bill McLaughlin (for John Hale)	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Jim Helgeson	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Courtney Lyerly	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls
Galen Amy (for Craig Raymond)	Director, Planning & Com. Dev., City of Great Falls
Jim Rearden	Director, Great Falls Public Works Department
Don Sims (for Tristan Riddell)	Cascade County Planning Department
Rick Schutz	Cascade County Public Works
Steve Prinzing	District Project Engineer, Great Falls District MDT
Tom Kahle (for Carol Strizich)	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT
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:

John Faulkner	Director Great Falls International Airport Authority
Jerry McKinley	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls
Christie McOmber	District Project Engineer, GF District MDT
Lloyd Rue	Federal Highway Administration
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.
Mike Tierney	MDT Planning
Shyla Patera	North Central Independent Living Services

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the June 13, 2013 TAC meeting minutes.

MOTION: That the minutes of June 13, 2013 be approved.

Made by: Mr. Finch

Second: Mr. Clifton

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. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Socio-economic Projections & Model Calibration

Mr. Key stated RPA is done with all data collection, is reviewing the initial level of service analysis, and has provided Mr. Finch with a draft Growth Trend and Land Use Memo. This memo is the first attempt at identifying where new houses and jobs are projected to go. Mr. Finch stated it would be a good idea to have TAC give their thoughts about where they think growth will go, and then have a staff level follow-up review. Mr. Key also stated that the calibration for the travel demand model was reviewed and it is ready to go, and that Alta Planning is working on the Non-motorized Memo.

Mr. Key briefly reviewed what RPA presented at the last TAC meeting about some of the findings and demographic numbers before focusing on the travel demand model. The travel demand model needs three variables: housing units, retail jobs, and non-retail jobs. Those variables come from the projections for population growth. Incidentally, about 85% of all Cascade County's population falls within the LRTP study area boundary. Population gets transferred into housing units, which is done by a simple math equation using Census data.

There are a few different ways to work with and map the variables, and the Planner at RPA came up with the handouts that were provided based on the resources that were reviewed. Discussion about the allocation of jobs and housing units shown on the handouts followed. Mr. Key stated that no jobs or housing has been assigned to Malmstrom Air Force Base, and that TAC needs to decide if that is correct. Mr. Clifton asked Mr. McLaughlin if Malmstrom had any projections for growth. Mr. McLaughlin stated they didn't, as there's been a steady decline in both variables for the past 15 years.

Mr. Key stated he has met with the North Industrial Task Force and will meet with Great Falls Development Authority and the Airport Authority to confirm some of the projections. Mr. Clifton stated growth in the area around Gibson Flats is limited because of a floodplain. It was decided that there would be a follow-up meeting with RPA and both City and County Planning to fine tune the growth numbers presented. Mr. Finch also asked TAC members to get any other comments they think of to him. Mr. Rearden asked how many times RPA would be presenting to the City Commission. Mr. Key stated that he plans on presenting these growth numbers and the progress of the LRTP update at a City Commission work session in September 2013 with a final presentation in December 2013 or January 2014.

Mr. Key transitioned to the calibrations of the travel demand model. The model was looked at by the sub-consultant, Cambridge Systematics. They issued a memo stating they felt the model was statistically valid and they also tested the model's sensitivity. Mr. Key explained the graphics and findings that Cambridge Systematics provided. Ultimately, Cambridge Systematics determined that this

model was adequately calibrated, accurate, and ready to go. Mr. Key further stated that this is very important because funding decisions will be made based on the model.

5B. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Information

Mr. Finch explained that the Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) is no longer providing additional funds for projects, but there is still some money locally which the City and County will use for projects that are being developed. With the new Transportation Act, there has been a shift in eligibility and how the funds are managed. The money is available through the State on a competitive basis. The State will be allocating 2 years of funding in the first grant round, which has a deadline of September 6, 2013. There is a strong emphasis on safety projects. Projects that are on-system don't have a match requirement, whereas off-system projects have the same match requirement as CTEP (13.42%). Mr. Finch stated that the City will host an opportunity for public comment for projects that representatives from the Trails Working Group seek to submit applications for.

OTHER BUSINESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no other business nor public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Clifton made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.