

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Rearden, Chairman, called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Engineering Conference Room, City Public Works Complex.

ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Brian Clifton	Public Works Director, Cascade County
Susan Conell	Director, Cascade County Planning Department
Dave Dobbs	City of Great Falls Engineer
Jim Ekberg	Cascade County Planning Department
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
Bill McLaughlin (for John Hale)	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Jim Rearden	Director, Great Falls Public Works Department
Carol Strizich	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT (via phone)
Alex Dachs (for Bruce Treis)	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department
Jim Turnbow	Street Supervisor, Great Falls Street Division
Steve Prinzing (for Jerilee Weibel)	Right-of-Way Supervisor, Great Falls District – MDT

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
Craig Raymond	Director, Planning & Community Development, City of GF
Rick Schutz	Cascade County Public Works

Recognition of Others Present:

Jeff Key	Robert Peccia & Associates, Inc.
Shyla Patera	North Central Independent Living Services
Aaron Jewett	Malmstrom AFB Civil Engineering
Chris Ward	TD&H
Phyllis Tryon	Planning & Community Development, City of Great Falls

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the December 12, 2013 TAC meeting minutes.

MOTION: That the minutes of December 12, 2013 be approved.

Made by: Mr. Dobbs
Second: Mr. Turnbow

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) Consultant Update

Jeff Key of Robert Peccia and Associates provided a brief overview of the process involved with the Long Range Transportation Plan Update and a review of the final draft by chapter. He said there were three formal public meetings with about 30 people present at each meeting, and 26 public outreach events throughout the update. Chapter three contains the goals and objectives as well as a summary of all the different County, City and Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) planning documents. Mr. Key said they also compare the goals of the LRTP with eight planning factors of MAP 21 legislation as well as six livability goals.

Mr. Key said that a large part of work on the plan for the first three or four months was an existing transportation system analysis. He provided an overview of details of that analysis, including areas of concern, such as intersections that don't meet level of service operation guidelines. Part of the analysis includes information on non-motorized facilities, the Great Falls Transit system, and pavement condition.

Another aspect of the LRTP Update is an aggressive land use projecting exercise to the year 2035. A travel demand model projected three items: future housing, non-retail jobs, and retail jobs. This in turn is used to project changes in traffic volumes at intersections and in corridor capacities. Mr. Key said that Safety, Security and Freight are important components of MAP-21 and have been given separate chapters in the Update. He reviewed the three recommendation categories of projects: committed, recommended for funding, and unfunded projects. He said a requirement for fiscal constraint is that the committed and recommended for funding projects fall within the confines of funding projections.

Mr. Key said the charge for the non-motorized portion of the Update was to provide a vision. Numerous options for non-motorized development are included in the update. A conceptual Sun River Levee Trail was removed due to comments from the West Great Falls Flood Control District. Mr. Key reviewed the public comments section of the Update and concluded his presentation.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Chair Rearden asked for discussion and/or a motion.

MOTION: That TAC approve the 2014 Update to the Great Falls Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan, and recommend approval by the Policy Coordinating Committee.

Made by: Mr. Lyerly

There was a question by Mr. Prinzing about the high price tag on the expansion of Vaughn Road. Mr. Key said all the estimates are high, but this road is a principal arterial and they are factoring utility and right-of-way. He said they have done a poor job of estimating costs and inflation in the past and have factored in inflation with these estimates. Mr. Finch said this may have been an urban cost estimate,

and changing it to a rural estimate may greatly reduce the cost. He suggested a recommendation to change that designation could be entertained.

Mr. Clifton seconded the motion on the table. Mr. Lyerly moved to include revising the Vaughn Road project to a rural project. Mr. Clifton seconded the revision.

VOTE: All being in favor, the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS & PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Finch said that both City and County Commissions were meeting on Monday, March 24, in a joint informational meeting to receive Mr. Key's presentation at 1:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dobbs made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Clifton seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.