

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Rearden, Chairman, called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in the Rainbow Room of the Civic Center, #2 Park Drive South.

ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Charlie Stanfield (for 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
Aaron Jewett (for Bill McLaughlin)	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Courtney Lyerly	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls
Lee Nellis (for Craig Raymond)	Director, City of Great Falls Planning & Community Development
Jim Rearden	Director, City of Great Falls Public Works Department
Rick Schutz	Cascade County Public Works
Carol Strizich (via phone)	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT
Bruce Treis	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department
Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, Great Falls District – MDT

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

Brian Clifton	Public Works Director, Cascade County
John Faulkner	Director Great Falls International Airport Authority
Jerry McKinley	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls
Christie McOmber	District Project Engineer, GF District MDT
Jim Turnbow	Street Supervisor, City of Great Falls Street Division

Recognition of Others Present:

Galen Amy	Planner II, City of Great Falls Planning & Community Development
Shyla Patera	North Central Independent Living Services

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the June 12, 2014 TAC meeting minutes. Mr. Finch said a correction was noted.

MOTION: That the minutes of June 12, 2014 be approved with corrections.

Made by: Mr. Finch
Second: Mr. Dobbs

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. Draft 2014-18 TIP

Mr. Finch said there were still some blanks in Table 5 of the 2014-18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which have been filled in since the draft was sent to the TAC members. He said that the TIP is now adequate to move forward. Changes to the last TIP amendment include the addition of some adoption procedures and update amendment and administrative modification procedures, which the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration wanted to be added. Also added are the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) funded projects, as well as projects that are nominated. He said there are no new local projects, and that the Fox Farm Road project is the current Urban funded project. He said the right-of-way acquisition is a big question on this project. MDT thinks there will be impact on the developed properties. MDT also wants to take down the vertical curves, especially at 45th Avenue South and Dick Road, which would require more right-of-way and increase the cost of the project.

Mr. Finch said the 2014-18 TIP shows a negative balance for urban funding for future years, but he said that is okay because the TIP can be amended in the future, and we can also request to borrow from the state-wide pot for urban funding. There are, however, other jurisdictions also in line to borrow funding. The TIP is fiscally constrained right now. Mr. Finch said he removed some short-term projects which have been in the TIP for a number of years but for which there is no funding. He said that, as a group, there can be discussion about what pot of monies would fund those projects if they are to be added back in. These were intersection improvement and channelization projects, which may be eligible for MACI funds.

Mr. Finch offered to answer questions about the TIP. He said he is requesting TAC to recommend approval by the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) and also to authorize staff to begin the 30-day public comment period. The final TIP will go to the PCC for final consideration and also go to the Planning Advisory Board.

MOTION: That the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approve the Draft 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and recommend the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) approve it also, and authorize City Planning staff to begin the 30-day public comment period.

Made by: Jim Helgeson
Second: Dave Dobbs

VOTE: All being in favor, the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Finch said the development of the Unified Planning Work Program is moving forward for the next Federal Fiscal Year. MDT would like this at the latest by September 1, and the Federal partners want a full 30-day review. He said there will probably be a special TAC meeting later in August. Carol Strizich said if the September 1 date was not reasonable, they would work with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to establish an alternate timeline. Mr. Finch said he would work with her to set a timeline.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lyerly made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Dobbs. All being in favor, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.