

**GREAT FALLS METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

The Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) meeting was called to order at 3:58 pm in the Rainbow Room of the City Civic Center by Acting Chair Bill Salina.

ROLL CALL & ATTENDANCE

PCC Members present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Representing</u>
Bill Salina (for Jane Weber)	Cascade County Commissioner (Acting Chair)
Dave Hand	District Administrator, MDT Great Falls
Nate Weisenburger	Chairman, Great Falls Planning Advisory Board
Fred Burow	Great Falls City Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Representing</u>
Andrew Finch	Sr. Transportation Planner, Great Falls MPO
Galen Amy	Planner II, City of Great Falls
Carol Strizich (by telephone)	MDT Statewide and Urban Planning Supervisor

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) members were provided a copy of the minutes of the last PCC meeting held April 9, 2014.

MOTION: That the Policy Coordinating Committee minutes of April 9, 2014 be approved.

Made by: Mr. Weisenburger

Second: Mr. Hand

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Provided for each item listed under this agenda heading was a written report for PCC consideration. A copy of each is attached and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 5A. FFY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Finch said the UPWP outlines work activities that staff for the Great Falls MPO anticipates undertaking during the next fiscal year. Work activities include non-transportation related items

of the planning division, such as historic preservation, subdivision review, and long range land use planning. Staff time is balanced with revenue sources to the planning division over the fiscal year.

In addition, Mr. Finch said there are pass-through funds for the Great Falls Transit District, which are included in Work Elements in the 400 range. The Transit District receives approximately \$120,000 annually.

Mr. Finch said there is one new work element item for the federal fiscal year, and that is to prepare a manual of road standards by road classification to help in the redevelopment and development of existing or new roadways. He said they are checking to see if the County will participate, and they will work with the Federal Highway Administration to make sure the scope of the project falls within the legitimate uses of federal planning funds. If so, a consultant will be hired for the project.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Great Falls Planning Advisory Board have approved the FYY 2015 UPWP and recommended approval by the PCC. Mr. Finch concluded his presentation and offered to answer any questions. There was a question about County participation, and Mr. Finch clarified that they are conferring with the County.

MOTION: That the Policy Coordinating Committee approve the FFY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program.

Made by: Mr. Burow
Second: Mr. Hand

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Item 5B. FFY 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Finch said the TIP works hand in hand with the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the State is required to consider the TIP when preparing the STIP. The TIP is a capital improvement program, and it takes into consideration the monies that will be available over the next five years for transportation projects. The TIP prioritizes each project and outlines how each project will move forward.

Mr. Finch reviewed some items of interest in the TIP. The Sun River Trail project is scheduled for 2015 construction. Improvements to Fox Farm Road, a project which has been in the TIP for some time, is currently in the initial design phase with construction tentatively scheduled for 2017.

The South Central Arterials project consists of reconstruction of 24th Avenue South and 13th and 26th Streets South, which is scheduled for 2016. There have been issues with storm water runoff for this project, and there will be a walking path along one side of the roadway.

Another project will be the realignment of 32nd Street South and 10th Avenue South. Right now, the north and south signals must have separate phases due to the roadway offset. The realignment will allow those signal legs to be on the same phase.

Mr. Burow inquired about the baseline scenario on page 4 of the TIP. Mr. Finch explained that there was an exceedance of air quality standards in 1990, and subsequent improvements had to show they would not exceed the standards. Since then, air quality has improved in the past 20 years and spikes have been due to particulate matter from forest fires.

MOTION: That the Policy Coordinating Committee approve the 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.

Made by: Mr. Weisenburger

Second: Mr. Hand

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Finch said there is an I-15 Corridor Study taking place, and there will be a public informational meeting on October 29 in the Gibson Room of the Civic Center at 6:00 p.m. There was some discussion about details of the study.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Burow made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm.