

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER**

Andrew Finch, Acting Chair, called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m. in the Rainbow Room of the Civic Center, #2 Park Drive South.

**ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE**

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Jesse Patton (for Dave Dobbs)	City of Great Falls Engineer
Jim Ekberg	Deputy Director, Cascade County Planning Department
Andrew Finch	Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Jim Helgeson	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Mark Doney (for Courtney Lyerly)	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls
Jerry McKinley	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls
Christie McOmber	District Project Engineer, GF District MDT
Galen Amy (for Craig Raymond)	Director, City of Great Falls Planning & Community Development
Rick Schutz	Cascade County Public Works
Carol Strizich (via phone)	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT
Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, Great Falls District – MDT

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

Brian Clifton	Public Works Director, Cascade County
Susan Conell	Director, Cascade County Planning Department
John Faulkner	Director Great Falls International Airport Authority
Bill McLaughlin	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Jim Rearden	Director, City of Great Falls Public Works Department
Bruce Treis	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department
Jim Turnbow	Street Supervisor, City of Great Falls Street Division

Recognition of Others Present:

Kenn Winegar	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT (via phone)
Chris Ward	
Shyla Patera	North Central Independent Living Services

**MINUTES**

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the September 11, 2014 TAC meeting minutes.

MOTION: That the minutes of September 11, 2014 be approved.

Made by: Mr. Helgeson  
Second: Mr. Patton

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. FFY 2014-2018 TIP Amendment #1**

Mr. Finch presented information on the Federal Fiscal Years 2014-18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1. This amendment is a result of projects being added to the TIP. The amendment process includes formal comment from our MPO, which is the Planning Advisory Board (PAB), and will be on their next meeting agenda. The amendment has been posted publicly on the City's website, and to date there has been no comment received.

Mr. Finch said that the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has changed their preference in the way CTEP projects are listed in the TIP. This amendment therefore includes a list of CTEP or TA projects, as listed in the staff report. A safety improvement project is also being added by MDT, which is a turn lane modification at 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW and the Northwest Bypass.

In addition, project phases have been reviewed and estimates updated with this amendment. One of these is a reduction in the Fox Farm Road reconstruction project cost estimates by about \$500,000. All changes are noted in the TIP Amendment #1 in red for this draft.

**MOTION:** That the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approve the Amendment #1 to the FFY 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program, and recommend the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) do so also.

Made by: Mr. Helgeson  
Second: Mr. Patton

VOTE: All being in favor, the motion passed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Finch said it is time to move another MACI project forward and to start considering viable uses for other MACI funds. The Transportation Plan says that sidewalk projects on major routes should be moved forward, and Mr. Finch said they will be looking to fill gaps on the major routes. A roundabout has been suggested for the Park Drive, 6<sup>th</sup> Street North and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North intersection, and that project should move forward through cooperation of MDT and the City.

Mr. Helgeson asked about the possibility of new buses for the Great Falls Transit. Mr. Finch said that item could be placed on the next TAC agenda for discussion.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Patera said she will be submitting written comment to the Planning Advisory Board. Mr. Finch said the April meeting will address some MACI projects and will be in a different location (to be announced).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Finch adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.