

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jim Rearden called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. in the Rainbow Room of the Civic Center, #2 Park Drive South.

ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Brian Clifton	Director, Cascade County Public Works Department
Dave Dobbs	City of Great Falls Engineer
Maria Curling (for John Faulkner)	Director, Great Falls International Airport Authority
Andrew Finch	MPO, Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Candice Elsworth (for Bill McLaughlin)	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Craig Raymond	Director, City of Great Falls Planning & Community Development
Jim Helgeson	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Ken Jorgensen	Street Supervisor, City of Great Falls Street Division
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
Jim Rearden	Director, City of Great Falls Public Works Department
Rick Schutz	Superintendent, Cascade County Road & Bridge Division
Bruce Treis	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department
Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, Great Falls District – MDT

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

Susan Conell	Director, Cascade County Planning Division
Jim Ekberg	Deputy Director, Cascade County Public Works Department
Carol Strizich	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT

Recognition of Others Present:

Galen Steffens	Planner II, City of Great Falls
Chris Ward	TD&H Engineering
Kenn Winnegar (via telephone)	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT
Shyla Patera	North Central Independent Living Services

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the November 12, 2015 TAC meeting minutes. Mr. Finch said Mr. Clifton noted a correction. Mr. Clifton moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Finch. All being in favor, the minutes were approved as corrected.

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. TIP Amendment #2

Mr. Finch said the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) goes through a yearly red book process in which the districts determine what projects are ready to move forward, and what funding sources are available so that the State of Montana can use all federal funds available, as well as the State funds that match those federal monies. Due to this process, new projects can arise that were not previously in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and because of this, a yearly amendment or full update is done. Mr. Finch said in reviewing the shift in monies and new projects for this fiscal year, a minor amendment was appropriate.

Mr. Finch said there is a proposal request from the City of Great Falls to supplement a CTEP project with \$95,000 of local CMAQ funds, which are funds that are used for projects to improve air quality. He said there is a balance of five million dollars in CMAQ funds, so the respectively small amount of \$95,000 could be easily allocated to this project. The project, which is for the 25th Street North Pedestrian Bridge, went to bid and was over budget. During the bid analysis, it was determined a re-bid would not result in a smaller bid amount. The City considered adding additional CTEP monies; however, now at the end of the program, all CTEP monies have been committed elsewhere. Mr. Finch noted this type of funding amendment has been done before, and this is an eligible activity.

Mr. Rearden asked if there were any questions or discussion. Mr. Finch said a full update of the TIP will be done as soon as there is a better understanding of what will be happening with federally allocated funds and the new Federal Transportation Act.

MOTION: That the Technical Advisory Committee approve Amendment #2 to the FFY 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program, including the addition of \$95,000 in CMAQ funds for the 25th St N Pedestrian Bridge project, and recommend approval by the Policy Coordinating Committee.

Made by: Mr. Clifton
Second: Mr. Dobbs

VOTE: All being in favor, the motion passed.

5B. River Drive North Corridor Study

Mr. Finch provided the staff update for the River Drive North Corridor Study, and said MDT is progressing with the study. There will be a public meeting held on January 21, 2016 to provide information on what the study entails, as well as solicit input. Mr. Finch encouraged those interested to attend, and noted the project limits are between 15th Street North and 38th Street North.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shyla Patera, North Central Independent Living, said she appreciates the adoption of TIP Amendment #2. She also noted her appreciation for the ADA improvements in the TIP. She asked Mr. Helgeson if the request for \$39,000 for TransAid operating would be brought back to TAC for a vote. Mr. Helgeson said no; that is a determination by the State.

Mr. Finch said there are some MDT projects that will include curb ramp work that are not specifically outlined in the TIP.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Clifton moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dobbs. All being in favor, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.