

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
July 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:

Susan Conell	Director, Cascade County Planning Division
Jim Ekberg	Deputy Director, Cascade County Public Works Department
John Faulkner	Director, Great Falls International Airport Authority
Andrew Finch	MPO, Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Bill McLaughlin	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Tom Micuda (for Craig Raymond)	Director, City of Great Falls Planning & Community Development
Jim Helgeson	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Courtney Lyerly	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls
Jim Rearden	Director, City of Great Falls Public Works Department
Sheila Ludlow (for Carol Strizich)	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT
Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, Great Falls District – MDT

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

Brian Clifton	Director, Cascade County Public Works Department
Dave Dobbs	City of Great Falls Engineer
Ken Jorgensen	Street Supervisor, City of Great Falls Street Division
Jerry McKinley	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls
Christie McOmber	District Project Engineer, GF District MDT
Rick Schutz	Superintendent, Cascade County Road & Bridge Division
Bruce Treis	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department

Recognition of Others Present:

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

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the January 14, 2016 TAC meeting minutes. Mr. Helgeson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ekberg. All being in favor, the minutes were approved as submitted.

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. UPWP Schedule

Mr. Finch said it is time to begin the process of adopting the yearly Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He said a draft will be prepared and finalized in the next few weeks, first being sent to the Department of Transportation for review, followed by a quick review by Federal Highways, then to the Planning Board, Technical Advisory Committee, and then finally the Policy Coordinating Committee.

He said it will also be time to update the Long Range Transportation Plan, as it is on a four year cycle, but it will be a minor update. Part of this update will include reassessment for compliance with Federal transportation planning requirements. A new act was recently passed by Congress, and Mr. Finch said he will be going to Helena, along with fellow MPOs across the state, to collectively discuss approaching the Federal requirements that are geared towards larger, fast paced Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

5B. River Drive North Corridor Study

Mr. Finch said this is a good study, as it is focusing on efforts to making that corridor safer. He discussed the recognition that the intersection at River Drive and 15th Street is a poorly functioning intersection, but fully addressing the operational deficiencies would be extremely expensive. A draft of the study that contains the major conclusions and recommendations will be available to the public at a meeting on August 3.

Mr. Rearden asked if there were any schedule considerations past August 3, and Mr. Finch said it was scheduled for adoption by the end of the year. Ms. Weibel said the materials and timeline are available on the website.

5C. TranPlan MT Update Schedule/Survey

Mr. Finch passed out a handout on the schedule, and said the State's Long Range Plan is a set of policies, goals and objectives. Mr. Finch emphasized the importance that urban transportation advocates be heard, as the State tends to focus on rural transportation needs, and he encouraged Committee members to take the survey.

Mr. Rearden asked who the consultant was. Ms. Ludlow said DOWL was the consultant, and the survey is open to the public May through August, with a draft being available towards the end of the year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Finch pointed out there was still outstanding identification for use of MACI funds, and discussed the possibility of applying for a State funded project using those funds. The Transit District has also requested MACI funds for new buses.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Helgeson moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Finch. All being in favor, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.