

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2019

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:

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| Russell Brewer | Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls |
| Dave Dobbs | City of Great Falls Engineering |
| Andrew Finch | Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls |
| Jim Helgeson | Manager, Great Falls Transit District |
| Ken Jorgensen | Street Supervisor, City of Great Falls Street Division |
| Sheila Ludlow for Carol Strizich (via phone) | Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT |
| Jerry McKinley | Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls |
| Tom Micuda (for Craig Raymond) | Deputy Director, Planning & Community Development |
| Ian Payton | Deputy Director, Cascade County Public Works Department |
| Jim Rearden | Director, City of Great Falls Public Works Department |
| Floyd Wanke (for John Hale) | Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base |
| Jim Wingerter | Construction Engineer, Great Falls District – MDT |

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

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| Brian Clifton | Director, Cascade County Public Works Department |
| John Faulkner | Director, Great Falls International Airport Authority |
| Christie McOmber | District Project Engineer, GF District MDT |
| Les Payne | Deputy Director, Cascade County Public Works Department |
| Rick Schutz | Superintendent, Cascade County Road & Bridge Division |
| Bruce Treis | Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department |

Recognition of Others Present:

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| Jamie Nygard | Great Falls Planning & Community Development |
| Shyla Patera | North Central Independent Living Services |
| Kenn Winnegar | (via phone) Statewide & Urban Planning Section Helena MDT |

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided with a copy of the January 10, 2019, meeting minutes. Mr. Micuda moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Dobbs. All being in favor, the minutes were approved as submitted.

BUSINESS ITEMS

5.A. – 2019 STP-Urban Project Selection

Mr. Finch introduced the agenda item by stating that in the last TAC meeting, it was recommended that TAC move forward with the 9th St NW project, which is from Central to the NW Bypass. In consultation with MDT, he learned that traditionally only one Urban Project moved forward at a time. There isn't an opportunity to move two projects forward. The City of Great Falls identified a nearby project to 9th St NW, that is similar in that it is a reconstruction project to collector standards, and it was thought that the two projects could be combined to save money and time, and increase efficiency and take advantage of funds before they get

rescinded or given to another urban area. He then turned it over to the City Public Works TAC members, to expand on the proposed project.

Mr. Brewer stated the proposed project would be reconstruction of Watson Coulee Rd. from Vaughn Rd. to NW Bypass. He stated that it is proposed as a 45 foot wide typical with boulevard sidewalk. There are some residential on the east side of the street and some commercial properties on the west side. There is a truck wash expanding on the west, so there will be driveways, sidewalks, alleys and some storm drains, 4" a/c pavement with 16" base course and 1' subgrade. He said the cost will be about \$2,046,000 over five years.

Mr. Dobbs stated that this project has been on the radar for years and in need of reconstruction. This project will also bring it up to ADA compliance.

Mr. Finch stated that he did visit with the MDT Planning Department and asked whether we can move a project from the Illustrative list.

Ms. Ludlow, from MDT, explained the process would require an update of the LRTP, and what Missoula did with a similar project. She made some suggestions with how we can move forward with the project. She is going to do some more research on the process.

Mr. Micuda stated his preference would be to do a TIP Update instead of an LRTP Update, to save time. Ms. Ludlow stated the two could be done at the same time. Mr. Finch responded that the LRTP Update is a formal process and it would be about a four month process to do the LRTP Update, as it had to go through both the City and County Commissions.

MOTION: That the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee support the Watson Coulee Rd. Project to be incorporated into the Transportation Improvement Program with Urban funding, subject to continued procedural discussions with MDT.

Made by: Mr. Micuda
Second: Mr. Helgeson

VOTE All in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Finch explained more about what might happen with the project and that MDT may reconfigure the road during the design process. He stated there are sufficient urban funds to cover any cost increases.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Technical Advisory Committee acknowledged Jerry McKinley and thanked him for his many years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

Mr. Helgeson thanked the City for its excellent job with snow removal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Patera expressed her support for ADA improvements in the area and thanked the TAC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:53 a.m.