

FFY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Minor Amendment

Background

On December 8, 2011, TAC approved a motion to concur in the need for the *Downtown Access, Circulation and Streetscape Study*, and support preparation of the Study by the Great Falls Planning & Community Development Department. In January 2012, the Policy Coordinating Committee approved a similar motion. At that meeting, staff reported "...if PCC concurs, staff will also pursue the use of "PL", or Federal Transportation Planning funds, for plan preparation."

A Downtown Plan was adopted by the City of Great Falls in October 2011. In the Plan, the design, function and aesthetic quality of downtown's built environment, including the area's streets and roadways, have been identified as critical elements in achieving the community's vision for downtown. The *Downtown Access, Circulation and Streetscape Study* will study this environment and make recommendations, outline process and provide cost estimates for implementing key objectives of the Downtown Master Plan, including the following:

- Improve pedestrian connectivity and safety downtown.
- Reduce or eliminate downtown one-ways.
- Develop a comprehensive downtown bicycle network to connect into a city-wide system.
- Optimize downtown parking for all stakeholders.
- Develop a comprehensive downtown wayfinding system.
- Expand and enhance the existing downtown streetscape.

The objectives are intended to create a safe, attractive, efficient and welcoming downtown street environment.

Because both TAC and PCC have approved the preparation of the Study, and because the Montana Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have determined it eligible for use of Federal Transportation Planning (or, "PL"), TAC, PCC and the Great Falls Planning Advisory Board are being asked to amend the UPWP to authorize the expenditure.

Recommended Motion:

I move the Technical Advisory Committee approve Amendment 1 to the FFY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program, and recommend approval by PCC.

Attachments:

- 1) FFY2012 UPWP Amendment 1

41.13.01 - LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING - SYSTEM LEVEL

WORK ELEMENT:

302 Transportation Reviews, Analysis, Assessments & Consistency Determinations

Objectives:

- 1) To conduct periodic reviews of the Transportation Plan, including analysis of projected traffic volumes, land use, accidents and funding data.
- 2) To maintain accurate estimates of socioeconomic indicators.
- 3) To maintain accurate and updated records of accident data.
- 4) To address transportation-related energy planning requirements in the Transportation Study Area, as appropriate.
- 5) To assure that the Transportation Plan is consistent with social, economic and environmental objectives established for the Transportation Study Area and the State of Montana, as well as Federal Transportation Planning guidelines.
- 6) To support MDT use of TransCAD software and analyses in the transportation planning process.

Previous Work: In cooperation with the MDT, staff has conducted periodic reviews of the Transportation Plan. Additionally, socioeconomic estimates were monitored for population, dwelling units, school enrollment, auto ownership and employment for the Transportation Study Area. Population for the City of Great Falls, Transportation Study Area, Planning Board Jurisdictional Area, Malmstrom Air Force Base, and Cascade County were estimated. Graphic displays of the estimates were updated. Prepared and adopted a 2009 Transportation Plan.

Methodology: Transportation-related energy planning needs in the Great Falls area will be addressed to the extent appropriate.

The coordination of air quality and transportation plans and programs will continue to the extent appropriate and in accordance with applicable requirements. Other environmental factors such as noise, water quality, aesthetics, etc., will be considered to the extent appropriate during major transportation planning decisions in accordance with applicable requirements.

When a new transportation authorizing act is passed, review of the Transportation Plan for compliance with new regulations and guidance will be performed under this element.

Livability, smart growth and land use/transportation planning opportunities in the Great Falls area will be investigated to the extent appropriate.

302 Transportation Reviews, Analysis, Assessments & Consistency Determinations (cont.)

Socioeconomic indicators will be reviewed and updated in conjunction with a Growth Policy Update. Upon passage of a new Federal transportation act, the Plan will be reviewed for compliance. Amendments to the Transportation Plan will be considered, as appropriate.

A consultant will be hired to perform a “neighborhood” or “sub-area” Transportation Study for the Medical District. Product will look at traffic demand and future growth, bicycle and pedestrian flow, and transit demand. Areas of improvement for all three modes will be a component. Various improvement scenarios will be modeled.

Anticipated Study Cost/Participation:	PL/State	\$25,000
(final negotiated cost may be higher or lower)	Local	\$10,000

Note: anticipated costs are included in funding summary below

A consultant will be hired to perform a “sub-area” Transportation Study for downtown Great Falls to review access, circulation, and streetscape design, and make recommendations for same. Specific components will include parking demand, traffic flow and lane configuration, street amenities, wayfinding options and pedestrian and bikeway improvements.

Anticipated Study Cost/Participation:	PL/State	\$100,000
(final negotiated cost may be higher or lower)		

Note: anticipated costs are included in funding summary below

<u>Staffing:</u>	<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Technical</u>	<u>Clerical</u>
(Weeks)	2	24	2

<u>Funding:</u>	<u>PL</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>FTA</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Total</u>
GFPB (FY11)	34,632	5,368	0	0	40,000
GFPB (FY12)	58,009 144,589	8,991 22,411	0	10,000	177,000

Functional Agency Responsibilities: GFPB will be responsible for all work.

Products:

- 1) Cooperation among transportation and environmental quality planning agencies regarding the consistency of the transportation plan with air quality plans, as well as noise and water quality.
- 2) A compliant long range Transportation Plan.
- 3) A Medical District Transportation Study.
- 4) A Downtown Access, Circulation and Streetscape Study.**