

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD ZONING COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 12, 2013

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN—2013 UPDATE

Source

Great Falls Transportation
Planning Process

Overview

The Great Falls Urban Area Transportation Plan (also referred to as the “Long Range Transportation Plan”), was last updated in 2009.

The Plan is a valuable tool for identifying community transportation priorities and guiding local decisions. The base analysis in the Plan is from 2003, and an update is due.

To ensure the Plan is based upon the most recent data and reflects current community needs, Planning staff has begun the process to update the Plan.

Background

The Great Falls Urban Area has a central city with a population greater than 50,000, and therefore has certain responsibilities for local transportation planning — one of which is to have a current, compliant long range transportation plan. The transportation plan must be updated at least every four years, and also must be compliant with air quality regulations and meet other relevant federal transportation planning requirements.

In addition, a new transportation act has imposed additional planning requirements that will be addressed.

Process

The Planning staff also serves as staff to the Transportation Planning Process, of which the Planning Advisory Board is a participant. Serving in this capacity, staff

has advertised for consultant services to aid in the preparation of the Plan, with a deadline of February 19, 2013 set for submittal of proposals.

A selection sub-committee of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will review consultant proposals and recommend the best qualified firm to the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) for consideration. After PCC approval, the contract will be negotiated by staff and reviewed and approved by the City Commission.

Due to air quality requirements, the Plan must be adopted by April 2014. To meet that requirement, the Plan will be considered for adoption by the Planning Advisory Board and other participants in the Transportation Planning Process in early 2014. In its role as an advisory board to the City Commission on all planning matters, the Planning Advisory Board will be asked to review and make recommendation to the City Commission. Final action on the Plan will be taken by the PCC.

For Board member information, the anticipated contents of the Plan may be found on the attached Request for Proposals. It may also be viewed on the City’s webpage at <http://www.greatfallsmt.net/rfps>.

No Board action is required at this time.

Attachment

Request for Proposals

Requested Action

Receive Report
(No Action Required)

Project Planner

Andrew Finch