

## POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 14, 2012

### *Recommended Action*

Add 24th Avenue South to the Urban Highway System.

## ADDITION OF 24TH AVENUE SOUTH TO THE URBAN HIGHWAY SYSTEM

### SUMMARY

#### Overview

Transportation planning in the Great Falls area relies largely upon consideration of the major thoroughfares, striving to balance needs with available funding throughout the Urban Area. Part of the Planning process includes analysis of the function of the various roadways and assignment of funds from a number of different funding sources.

One of the major funding sources is “Urban Funds”, a State-designated funding category available to roadways on the Urban Highway System. This category contains roadways that are of lesser importance than through-routes, but still serve the important function of carrying goods and people around the community. Most Urban roadways serve the internal needs of Great Falls, as opposed to carrying traffic through the area.

24th Avenue South between 13th and 26th Streets is currently an “off-system” arterial roadway; that is, it has no State or Federal designation, and is not eligible for any of the standard sources of Federal System transportation funding.

The Transportation Advisory Committee has recommended the roadway be added to the Urban Highway System.

#### Background

Federal guidance (Title 23 CFR) charges

states with the responsibility of classifying roadways in cooperation with local agencies.

Montana’s classification system is hierarchical, in descending importance as components of transportation to the Nation, the State, and the Urban Area. They include:

- National Highway System-Interstate
- National Highway System-Non-Interstate
- Primary System
- Secondary System
- Urban System

All other roadways are considered, “Off-System”.

MCA 60-2-125(6), defines the Urban Highway System as “...the highways and streets that are in and near incorporated cities with populations of over 5,000 and within urban boundaries established by the department, that have been functionally classified as either urban arterials or collectors, and that have been selected by the commission, in cooperation with local government authorities, to be placed on the urban highway system.”

### *Presented by*

Andrew Finch, Sr. Planner

## Findings

In order to assist PCC in providing local input to the Montana Transportation Commission, staff has made the following findings:

- The roadway segment is designated as a “Minor Arterial” roadway by the Montana Department of Transportation. **It is the only Arterial in the Great Falls area not on the Federal-Aid System;**
- A Federal appropriation will be expended in the near future to upgrade this roadway segment (widening, vertical curve reduction, intersection improvements and bike/pedestrian improvements). **The improvements are projected to attract additional trips,** as well as encourage development of nearby properties;
- The Urban roadway on the east (26th Street South) currently dead-ends at this roadway segment. Adding 24th Avenue South to the Urban Highway System **will provide system continuity** of the Urban route (route number U-5226), connecting it to 13th Street South (U-5215) on the west; and,
- The Technical Advisory Committee has recommended the roadway segment be added to the Urban Highway System.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following motion be made:

**The Policy Coordinating Committee determines 24th Avenue South between 13th and 26th Streets South should be added to the Urban Highway System, and directs staff to request such designation by the Montana Transportation Commission.”**

## 24TH AVE. S. ROADWAY SEGMENT

