

# PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD ZONING COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

## *Source*

Great Falls Transportation Planning Process

## *Attachment*

FFY 2014-18 Transportation Improvement Program

## *Requested Action*

Approve the 2014-18 Transportation Improvement Program for the Great Falls Urban Area

## *Project Planner*

Andrew Finch

## FFY 2014-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

### SUMMARY

#### **Overview**

The TIP is a staged, five year, intermodal program of transportation projects proposed for implementation in the Great Falls Metropolitan Area. It includes projects financed with U. S. Department of Transportation, Montana Department of Transportation and City and County funds. Federal regulations require the periodic preparation and endorsement of a TIP, which has been done periodically since 1976.

The latest TIP, covering the 5-year period from Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2014 through 2018, is attached for Planning Advisory Board consideration and approval.

#### **Background**

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is prepared in accordance with Federal regulations. The TIP is required for use of U. S. Department of Transportation funds on local transportation projects, and is a responsible and effective way to plan for capital improvements on roadways with multiple jurisdictions and funding sources. The TIP is reviewed and approved by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC), Planning Advisory Board, Montana Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration.

Periodically, as projects are completed and new projects introduced, and as funding availability levels and project costs shift, a full update of the TIP becomes necessary.

The TIP includes a three year Implementation Element (Tables 5, 6 & 7) which identifies the project activities and implementation phases for the initial three years of the five year program. Specifically, these are activities for which funds will be available and obligated for construction or other fund uses during Federal Fiscal Years 2014, 2015 and 2016. All other activities for the two remaining years are presented in Tables 3 and 4 of the program.

In addition to the preparation of a TIP, Federal regulations also require that an air quality conformity determination be prepared on updated and amended TIPs. The purpose of this analysis is to determine and assure that the program of projects proposed in the TIP conform with the air quality goals, policies and intent of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) and the State of Montana Air Quality Implementation Plan (SIP). Because projects recommended for implementation in the TIP come from a conforming transportation plan, the mix of projects in the TIP are also in conformance and a separate emissions analysis is not necessary.

Planning Advisory Board, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization and a participant in the Transportation Planning Process, is being asked to approve the 2014-2018 TIP.

#### **Items of Interest**

A few projects in the TIP that may be of interest to Board members include the following:

- The Sun River Trail (from 6th St SW to Warden Bridge) is scheduled for a 2015 construction.
- Reconstruction of Fox Farm Road from the city limits to Dick Rd. is scheduled for 2017.
- Construction of the South Central Arterials project (24th Ave S between 26th & 13th Sts, plus segments of both streets) is scheduled for 2016.
- Although final authorization has not yet been received, MDT anticipates beginning design late this year for re-alignment of the north and south legs of the intersection of 32nd Street South and 10th Avenue South to eliminate the offset and the corresponding separate traffic signal phases—thus reducing the wait time at the signal.

### **Public Comment**

The TIP was advertised in the Great Falls Tribune for public comment beginning August 26, 2014, and made available for review on the City of Great Falls' website and in the office of the Planning and Community Development Department. As of September 12, no comments had been received. Any comment received before the September 23 Planning Advisory Board meeting will be provided to Board members at said meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION

**It is recommended the Planning Advisory Board approve the 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.**