

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes  
August 13, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Dave Dobbs 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:

Susan Conell	Director, Cascade County Planning Department
Dave Dobbs	City of Great Falls Engineer
Jim Ekberg	Deputy Director, Cascade County Public Works Department
John Faulkner	Director, Great Falls International Airport Authority
Andrew Finch	MPO, Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Craig Raymond	Director, City of Great Falls Planning & Community Development
Ken Jorgensen	Street Supervisor, City of Great Falls Street Division
Travis Drevecky (for Courtney Lyerly)	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls
Jerry McKinley	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls
Christie McOmber	District Project Engineer, GF District MDT
Rick Schutz	Cascade County Public Works
Carol Strizich (via telephone)	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT
Alex Dachs (for Bruce Treis)	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department
Jim Turnbow	Street Supervisor, City of Great Falls Street Division
Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, Great Falls District – MDT

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

Brian Clifton	Public Works Director, Cascade County
Jim Helgeson	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Bill McLaughlin	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Jim Rearden	Director, City of Great Falls Public Works Department

Recognition of Others Present:

Galen Steffens	Planner II, City of Great Falls
Kenn Winegar (via telephone)	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT

**MINUTES**

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the July 9, 2015 TAC meeting minutes. Mr. Faulkner moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ekberg. All being in favor, the minutes were approved as submitted.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

Prior to the meeting, TAC members were provided with copies of the TAC meeting agenda. Copies of the agenda and handout materials are attached and incorporated by reference.

5A. CMAQ Sidewalk project limits selection

Mr. Finch said this item is continued from the previous meeting, and locations now need to be narrowed down for identification for the existing sidewalk replacement project which is in the Transportation

Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Finch thanked Courtney Lyerly for providing some rough cost estimates for a variety of projects as shown in the table for Item 5A. Staff has offered a recommendation on 3-1/2 projects based on discussion at a previous TAC meeting as well as reviewing the Transportation Plan and looking at sidewalk gaps on the major street network. Recommended projects include filling in the gaps on 14<sup>th</sup> Street North from approximately 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, both sides; the same for 15<sup>th</sup> Street North, both sides; 13<sup>th</sup> Street South from 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, east side; and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South from 38<sup>th</sup> Street onward. For 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South segments, MDT would be requested to identify priority areas with input from TAC. These recommendations could be built at least to the budget. The remaining projects are important gaps but did not rise to the top in staff's evaluation.

Mr. Faulkner said that working on the gaps on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South makes sense considering the current development in that area. Mr. Dobbs discussed how sidewalks may connect with that development. He also talked about project Number 9 (25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE) on the list of suggested priority sidewalk gaps, and said that is a route for school children going to North Middle School. Part of the sidewalk connection was finished to Old Havre Highway, but there is a gap. Mr. Finch said there is a need for that area to connect with the sidewalks in Black Eagle. He discussed options such as adding money to this project, which would require a formal TIP amendment.

MOTION: That TAC recommend to PCC the approval of the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Streets, 13<sup>th</sup> Street South, and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South locations for the "Great Falls Sidewalk Infill Project" using the budgeted CMAQ funding of \$483,000, with the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South segment constructing as far as the budget allows.

Made by: Mr. Faulkner  
Second: Mr. Drevecky

VOTE: All being in favor, the motion passed.

#### 5B. Additions to Urban System, removal of Airport Drive

Mr. Finch said that input was requested from MDT Planning on what constitutes a desirable and supportable addition to the Urban System so that there is no net loss in urban mileage with the removal of Airport Drive. Last month, Mr. Finch provided suggestions on higher priority roadways that are currently off system but that will probably increase in classification over the next 10 years. The roadways suggested are a collector roadway or above, provide system continuity and have a logical termini. He reviewed details of the suggested list as provided to TAC members.

Discussion followed about the selection of a roadway. Mr. McKinley said that the first suggestion on the list, 9<sup>th</sup> Street South, was logical as it tied into two other FAU routes. Mr. Faulkner asked if there was an increase in density for item #4 (20<sup>th</sup> Street South), as they are building new housing for the University of Great Falls. Staff agreed it would be more dense. Ms. McOmber said she reviewed the suggested projects based on whether routes were developed and current pavement was in good shape. She was unsure about adding a segment where the road has not yet been constructed (57<sup>th</sup> Street South).

Mr. Finch said there are multiple reasons for adding a roadway to the Urban System, one being to make funds available for expenditure on that roadway. He said TAC has the option of not choosing a route at this time if they preferred. MDT says they will work with TAC to help identify and move routes forward. Mr. Dobbs agreed with Mr. McKinley that item #1 had some good attributes.

MOTION: That TAC recommend to PCC the selection of Item #1 (9<sup>th</sup> Street South/17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South – from 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, then east to 13<sup>th</sup> Street South) for addition to the Urban System, and removal of Airport Drive from the Urban System.

Made by: Mr. Finch  
Second: Mr. McKinley

VOTE: Mr. Faulkner abstained from the vote. All others being in favor, the motion passed.

5C. FFY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Finch explained that each year, staff prepares the Unified Planning Work Program to project for the Federal Fiscal Year the work activities the Planning Division staff will undertake. The Mapping GIS position is not planned to be filled this coming year, which results in a loss of revenue in PL Funds. Another difference in this year's UPWP is the addition of a North Great Falls sub-area Transportation Plan. He said that for the past number of years, there has been discussion about how to handle the increase in traffic on U.S. Highway 87, Bootlegger Trail, 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast, and the various intersections in that area. In addition, there is residential development to the west and industrial development to the east, which will impact the roadway network. He said we would like to look at where development is occurring, where connectivity will happen, and also point to specific projects that would be beneficial over the next 20 years. The sub-area study is a \$50,000 project with a \$10,000 local contribution and would be a shared project with the City of Great Falls and PL Funds.

Ms. McOmber noted a typographical error in the date on page 1. Mr. Dobbs said there has been a lot of discussion about traffic on the north end of town, and adding the study to the UPWP is a good idea.

MOTION: That TAC approve the Unified Planning Work Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2016 and recommend PCC do the same.

Made by: Mr. Raymond  
Second: Ms. Connel

VOTE: All being in favor, the motion passed.

Mr. Finch noted the motion includes a recommendation that PCC also approve the UPWP for FFY2016.

5D. New CMAQ project selection

Mr. Finch thanked Ms. McOmber for coming up with a list of possible CMAQ projects. He said he would like to wait on taking action on this item to allow for more time to get input on potential projects. He said these projects may require looking 5 years into the future.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Raymond moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Faulkner. All being in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.