

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Micuda called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at approximately 9:05 AM in the Planning and Community Development Conference Room in the Civic Center, #2 Park Drive South.

ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Russell Brewer	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls via Zoom
Andrew Finch	Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Kurt Depner for Ryck Cayer	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base via Zoom
Eric Boyd	Street Supervisor, City of Great Falls via Zoom
Jay Manuel	Operations Engineer, Great Falls District – MDT via Zoom
Tom Micuda	Deputy Director, City of Great Falls Planning & Community Dev.
Geoff Streeter	Planner, Statewide & Urban Planning – MDT via Zoom
Chris Gaub	Director, City of Great Falls Public Works Department via Zoom
Austin Shultz	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls via Zoom
Chris Ward	District Projects Engineer, Great Falls District
Rhonda Knudsen	Environmental Health Division Manager, City-County Health Dept via Zoom
Jesse Patton	City Engineer City of Great Falls Engineering Department via Zoom
Charity Yonker	Director, Cascade County Planning Department

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

John Faulkner	Director Great Falls International Airport Authority
Les Payne	Director, Cascade County Public Works Department
Kevin Angland	Planner, Cascade County Planning Department
Rick Schutz	Superintendent, Cascade County Road & Bridge Division
Nadine Hanning	Manager, Great Falls Transit District

Recognition of Others Present:

Katie Potts	Statewide & Urban Planner, Federal Highway Administration-MT via Zoom
Mitch Buthod	Supervisor, Statewide & Urban Planning - MDT via Zoom
Shyla Patera	NCILS, via Zoom

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided with the August 17, 2023 meeting minutes. There being no changes, the minutes were approved as submitted.

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update Progress Report, Power Point Attached

The consultants (RPA), Scott Randall and Kerry Lynch, presented an update on the progress of the development of the update to the Long Range Transportation Plan and walked TAC through their summary power point. After the presentation, Mr. Randall asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Gaub asked if the safety score, accounted for volume of traffic for per capita risk rate, noting that 10th avenue has a lot of traffic and accidents. Is this a true representation of where crash risk is?

Ms. Lynch confirmed the safety score is a compilation - crash rate is one component and traffic rate is another. However, it only accounts for 25 points out of 100 in a score. They are also calibrated to the study area.

Mr. Micuda asked about, general patterns of safety and general congestion statewide, and if these are similar to patterns in Great Falls.

Mr. Randall responded by noting Great Falls has less traffic congestion compared to many of the other communities –for example, Bozeman, tied to higher growth. Missoula is similar and also has more challenges with challenges relating to non-motorized vehicles traffic issues. Great Falls has less congestion-related issues.

Ms. Lynch added that Great Falls has less non-motorized (vulnerable users) severe injuries and fatalities than Billings and Missoula. In Billings results are similar to Great Falls, more urban areas are similar.

Mr. Randall added that, in rural areas, they see more severe injuries with high rates of speed, this is not something we are seeing in Great Falls. We believe this has to do with the areas we are studying and the slower pace of growth in Great Falls.

Mr. Ward asked about the split between the LRTP and the Transit Development Plan is this typical?

Mr. Finch replied that it is typical however there is a strong encouragement to tie the two together. Missoula is in the process of having the same consultant do both plans at the same time. There is a recognition that there can be a close tie between the two.

Mr. Randall added: Starting with this plan that the existing transit development plan is dated. There may be a benefit of tying the two together but this plan will be more current.

There being no further business, Mr. Micuda asked for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Made by: Ms. Yonker

Second: Mr. Finch

VOTE: All in favor, the motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM.