

GREAT FALLS URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS  
**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jim Rearden called the Great Falls Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at approximately 9:40 a.m. in the Rainbow Room of the Civic Center, #2 Park Drive South.

**ROLL CALL OF TAC MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE**

TAC Members Present/Represented:

Dave Dobbs	City of Great Falls Engineer
Andrew Finch	Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Great Falls
Tom Micuda (for Craig Raymond)	Dept. Director, City of Great Falls Planning & Community Development
Courtney Lyerly	Civil Engineer, Special Projects, City of Great Falls
Jim Ekberg	Deputy Director, Cascade County Public Works Department
Jerry McKinley	Traffic Supervisor, City of Great Falls
Jim Rearden	Director, City of Great Falls Public Works Department
Rick Schutz	Superintendent, Cascade County Road & Bridge Division
Alex Dachs (for County Planning Director)	Planner, Cascade County Planning Division
Jim Helgeson	Manager, Great Falls Transit District
Christie McOmber	District Project Engineer, GF District MDT
Bruce Treis	Environmental Health Specialist, City-County Health Department
Jerilee Weibel	Right-of-Way Supervisor, Great Falls District – MDT

TAC Members Absent/Not Represented:

Brian Clifton	Director, Cascade County Public Works Department
John Faulkner	Director, Great Falls International Airport Authority
Ken Jorgensen	Street Supervisor, City of Great Falls Street Division
Bill McLaughlin	Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Carol Strizich	Statewide & Urban Planning Section, Helena MDT

Recognition of Others Present:

Shyla Patera	North Central Independent Living Services
Chris Ward	TD&H Engineering

**MINUTES**

Prior to the meeting, Committee members were provided a copy of the August 11, 2016, TAC meeting minutes. Mr. Finch moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Dobbs. 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.

5.A. - State Participation in Sidewalk/Path Projects

Mr. Finch gave a brief overview of the attachments provided as part of this agenda item, reviewing the two memoranda from the Montana Department of Transportation and their likely impact upon local shared use paths. Ms. McOmber stated that MDT still would participate in matching portions of TA and CMAQ funded projects that were within MDT right-of-way. Mr. Finch said that a meeting with MDT-Planning and the MPOs

was scheduled for January 31, and he would let TAC know if he learned anything further on the topic of match and new paths in MDT right-of-way.

#### 5.B. - CMAQ Projects Discussion

Mr. Lyerly gave a brief overview of the project table for which he prepared cost estimates. Ms. Patera asked what radius from schools was used for the sidewalks project, for identifying needed sidewalks. Mr. Lyerly said it was those locations immediately adjacent to schools and those on main routes. Mr. Lyerly noted there were no large gaps recommended, except for around parks. Mr. Finch noted there would be some ADA ramps installed, where the new sidewalks abutted intersections. Mr. Lyerly stated there were upwards of 60 ramps in the estimates.

Mr. Ekberg asked if the Stuckey Rd. project involved any County segments. Mr. Lyerly said no, it included about 1600 feet of City roadway. Mr. Finch said the County could add a section if it wished to do so. Mr. Ekberg noted any commitment of match by the County would need to be discussed by the County.

Mr. Ward, who serves on the board of the non-profit River's Edge Trail Foundation, stated the Foundation was committed to supporting the River Drive South trail connection project. He said the Foundation was investigating further sources of match. Mr. Finch said the proportion of local/state match for that project needed to be researched.

Ms. McOmber gave a short overview of the project estimates she prepared. She stated the roundabout at 25<sup>th</sup> St. N. and River Drive seemed to fit well within the existing right-of-way, though the corridor to the west was constrained, and there probably was not room for sidewalks. She said the roundabout proposed at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. would be more of a traffic circle than a standard roundabout. Mr. Micuda mentioned mountable roundabouts as a possibility.

Mr. Finch said about \$8 million was available. Mr. Rearden said that his priority would be Stuckey Rd., the purchase of buses, then the first phase of the sidewalk infill project.

Ms. McOmber said the budget was tight on the proposed River Drive project, and any local assistance with CMAQ funds would help the project move forwarded sooner.

Mr. Rearden suggested the next priority on his list would be the River Drive South Path, then Phase II of the sidewalks.

TAC members discussed the merits of the various projects, and asked Mr. Lyerly, Ms. McOmber and Mr. Finch to clarify details on some of the projects.

MOTION: That the Technical Advisory Committee approve the following priority list for use of CMAQ-Local funding, and recommend approval by the Policy Coordinating Committee:

1. Purchase of 2 new buses
2. City-wide sidewalk infill Phase I
3. Stuckey Rd. paving/reconstruction
4. River Dr. S. Trail Underpass
5. 52<sup>nd</sup> St. N. paving/reconstruction
6. 25<sup>th</sup> St. N. roundabout
7. City-wide sidewalk infill Phase II
8. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. N./Park Dr. roundabout

Made by: Mr. Lyerly  
Second: Mr. Dobbs

VOTE: All being in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

5.C. - TIP Amendment Items From MDT

Mr. Finch noted a TIP Amendment is upcoming, to address funding and scheduling amendments for projects being managed by the Montana Department of Transportation.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business items were raised.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Patera thanked TAC for recommending funding for the ADA/sidewalk projects and the bus purchases, and commented upon snow and incomplete snow removal affecting the ability of mobility impaired citizens crossing the street, especially downtown. She especially noted the rutting of snow by vehicles.

Mr. Ward asked about the status of the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalks that were to be funded by MDT CMAQ, and Ms. McOmber said she would check into it. Mr. Ward was wondering about public input, since it was advertised as a design/build project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Dobbs moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Micuda. All being in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.