

MPO Citizen's Advisory Committee on Transportation

March 4, 2010 (reschedule of Feb 18)

City Municipal Building, Room 307

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Attendees: CAC: Jeannine Stallings, Gene Burchett, Jay Meyer, and Mike Weiland. Staff: Tom Mason and Nancy Olson. Guest: John Lane Excused- Palmer Trujillo

1. **The Grant application Health Impact Assessment demonstration project-** Matt Ashby [Planning Services Director, which includes Building Department, Development and Zoning, Planning Division and also functions cooperatively with the MPO] and Jan Spires, Urban Planner
 - a. This project is bringing together a number of core concepts that will advance our community. It will link together how we build a community with our citizen's health opportunities by passively encouraging better health.
 - b. Vision 2020 was formalized in PlanCheyenne, our community's comprehensive plan. PlanCheyenne added a layer to Vision 2020 with details, strategies and community growth aspirations. Cheyenne's Development Code is the implementation of the Vision in the built environment regulating three elements; Zoning (what can be built where, i.e., commercial and residential), Road Standards (how the streets should be built), and Subdivision Regulations (how land is divided up including the transportation network).
 - c. One of the key components that links community health, transportation, environmental awareness is embodied in the Smart Growth Concept;
 - i. an urban planning and transportation theory that concentrates growth in the center of the city to avoid urban sprawl; advocates compact transit-oriented, walkable, bicycle friendly land use; should include neighborhood schools, complete streets, mixed use development with a range of housing choices.
 - ii. Smart Growth – values a long range regional consideration of sustainability over a short term gain. Major goals are: develop a unique sense of place, expand the range of transportation, employment and housing choices; equitably distribute cost and benefits of development; preserve natural and cultural resources; and promote public health.
 - d. Important things that the City is trying to put in place as we continue to grow: A predictable development process for developers and allowing mixed land use which helps eliminate the need for people to drive everywhere. How our built environment affects the health of our citizens? Particularly important to this concept is housing choices; walkable neighborhoods; mix of land uses; preservation of open spaces; and transportation choices. These have the biggest impact on our physical well being (active transportation). Mental and social wellbeing are equally important. What are the health impacts of an hour long commute; Housing too expensive; lack of mobility of all ages (isolation); obesity; air quality; safety of streets; mental health; stress and social dysfunction?
 - e. Public health and all of this? 70% of your health is influenced by things that have nothing to do with the health care you can buy, i.e. healthier lifestyle as a part of your day, active transportation, etc. How do we influence our community to be built for better health? Unified Development Code. Offers 11 different housing types in the Neighborhood residential zone; Affordable, configuration, density, condos, etc. All types of households, single, families, seniors, single family no kids. Good design is important; include parks/open space, walkable, block size limits, sidewalk connections, Complete streets that will reduce need for large amounts of parking.
Current code restricts building places like the Avenues.
 - Vision 2020 is the **food genre** (Italian, Mexican, Chinese)
 - PlanCheyenne is the **menu**
 - Unified Development Code is the recipe to make the **entrees**(community we want)

- f. The City applied for Pew Charitable Trust grant to help evaluate our UDC for health benefits, but hasn't heard yet if they received it. New idea to be included is Community Gardens for health. Grant would help with education for the public on health and the built environment. To read the proposed Unified Development Code go to www.cheyennecity.org/UDC
- g. Jeannine asked why the Avenues wouldn't be allowed now. Matt explained that the block size and narrow streets don't meet current code. The Avenues work because there is a network of streets and alleys that allow multiple ways to get around.
- h. Mike W. asked, what are the incentives for developers to do this type of development? Financial incentives for more density can get more units per acre, and create a development that can accommodate different markets.

2. Call Meeting to Order

Introductions of members and guests

- a. John Lane - Retired 5 years ago. Always been interested in planning and a major part of his life. Degrees in Civil Engineering. Stay in tune with what is happening in the community. But is concerned with rotaries? Roundabouts. He knows a lot about MPOs. Worked with all federal programs and other urban areas and is up to date with MPOs and especially Transit.

3. Old Business

a. Approval of November 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Jay Meyer, chair asked for minutes Mike W. moved and Jeannine seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

4. New Business

a. Discussion and Approval of Missile Dr. Corridor Plan

Sreyoshi summarized the Missile Dr. Corridor Plan – Last several months the Consultants have finalized the Traffic Study. The project has many different elements: It is a gateway from I-25, it contains a wetland and Greenway opportunities, and the land-use recommendation to the west of Missile Dr. is one of higher density and more mixed use that mirrors the grid of the original City. 19th Street could be a continuous corridor into town from this area. NW of BNSF Bridge proposed for more mixed use, retail and hotels for highway type uses. Bridge is gateway and once past there the feel is more compact urban feel with denser uses including an entertainment district. Street sections change accordingly, i.e. more open with shoulders and bike lanes vs. more landscaping, street trees and landscaped medians. Project can be developed in phases with FEMA money as a first phase to take care of the flood plain. Sreyoshi went over the preferred 19th /Missile intersection recommendation.

Jay asked why the free right was removed at 19th. Sreyoshi answered to keep right turners more cautious about pedestrians and cyclists and keeps speeds slower while entering Missile.

Mike asked about the 20th St. connection to Old Happy Jack. Sreyoshi went over the other 4 alternatives. 20th St would be too expensive. Jeannine made a motion to approve and concur with Missile Dr. Plan and send to Policy Committee for approval. Gene seconded. Mike asked about the time frame for improvements. 5th Penny does not include this. Tom said it might be 8 years before it would get built. Motion passed.

b. Discussion and Approval W. Allison Rd. Corridor Plan

Nancy summarized the recommendations; Parsley connections that use existing locals and do not extend W. Allison straight, School campus improvements including additional exit from Johnson Jr. High and medians with pedestrian crosswalk and refuge. Street section would include 12 ft. travel lanes and an 11 ft. parking lane. Next section between Walterscheid and S. Greeley Highway has varying existing right of way (ROW), 50 to 60 ft. Section should be planned for 80 ft. ROW. Can be done in two phases, first would be from the south curb line northward to include a new road and detached sidewalk with tree lawn in a 65 ft. cross section. Next phase could be additional 15 ft. as development happens to include detached 10 ft. Greenway on the west half and an 8 ft. multi-use path on the east half. The road would be two lanes with 3 lanes at

the intersections to accommodate left hand turns. Recommendation of a new north south road approximately midway between Walterscheid and S. Greeley would create a smaller block size to allow a more walkable and connected neighborhood. Roundabout option is as an alternative to a standard intersection at the new N/S road. Jay sees no need for a roundabout at the new road. Nancy said it would cost a little more up front but would save money by not buying and maintaining a traffic signal. Jay called for a motion to concur with the MPO's plan and recommend it for approval to the MPO Policy Committee. Motion made by Mike W. Seconded by Gene B. Jay called for a friendly amendment that the committee does not recommend the roundabout. Tom pointed out that the preferred alternative is the standard intersection and the roundabout is an alternative. What type of future development and the amount of traffic generated would determined which intersection type would be built. Motion stands with no amendment and passes.

c. **Report on SRTS draft final**

Nancy reported the draft plan is on www.walkcheyenne.org website to review, or a copy is at the library, in the MPO's office and at the City Clerk's office. Plan is for the 24 elementary schools in urban area and three Jr. High. Plan addresses safety, encouragement or walking recommendations for infrastructure improvements and programs. Gene asked if the Plan will be voted on by the committee. Nancy answered yes and she will have copies for everyone.

d. **Membership**

- o **New members** – Issues to discuss:
- o Leave of absence – Can only miss two meetings. If you miss a third you're out. Tom commented that there should be consideration for illness, possibly. No decision on that at this time.
- o Proxy – Tom weighs in on proxy, NO. Committee spoke no on proxies.
- o John Lane as a potential member. Mayor's office keeps applications, check with them. Ads are on MPO website, City and County.

5. **New Projects of the MPO**

- a. **On Street Bike Plan** – Sreyoshi reports she is working on the RFP now. The last on-street bike plan was done in 1993 but was never formally adopted by City Council. MPO is once again teaming up with Parks and Rec. and will combine some 6th Penny funds with MPO planning funds to complete a Comprehensive On-Street Bike Plan and Greenway Plan update. Work will create a non-motorized system more continuous and efficient. Jay mentioned that there is a layer on the GIS system that he and Marty (past MPO planner) worked on. MPO will dig around for that. Sreyoshi mentioned that the plan will include standards for the bike facilities, as well as, locations. A Consultant firm would be hired to do the On-Street Plan and the Greenway update and would include a full public process. Committee can help with this plan by reviewing the scope of work and assisting with the public process.
- b. **Fox Farm Road** – Nancy reported that she is working on the RFP for this plan. It will be a conceptual plan for the corridor that will include more detailed looks at the Walterscheid and Avenue C intersections; what should the street cross-sections look like; and the plan will accommodate all modes of transportation to the greatest extent possible. The corridor has a couple of pockets inside the City boundary and mostly in the County. The planning process will try to involve all stakeholders so we can make a better plan that will be relevant into the future.
- c. **S. Greeley Highway** – Nancy reported that this plan will look at accesses, safety and enhancements to the corridor from I-80 to the south. The original idea was to end the plan at Wallick Rd. but with the new interchange at High Plains Rd. and I-25 maybe the plan should extend down to High Plains, the old Speedway Dr. Gene B. reported that he has talked to Jay Gould, WYDOT District Engineer, about I-180 from Lincolnway to I-80 getting funding for beautification and has gotten so much interest from CACVB, the Chamber and Leads. Gene recommends that the enhanced medians on S. Greeley stop at College Dr.

6. Items from the Committee

Tom mentioned that there actually is a N. Greeley Highway runs from I-80 to Fox Farm Rd.

Gene reported that at the beginning of April WYDOT starts construction on the north side of W. Lincolnway on the westbound lanes.

7. Items from Guests

Kevin McCoy from WYDOT planning asked if the Citizen's Advisory had been asked to comment on the selection of projects for the upcoming year's Unified Planning Work Program. Jay Meyer said that the MPO did come to the committee with suggestions for next year's program and the committee did have a chance to make comments on priorities of those projects. Nancy said that the Committee was asked for their ideas for future MPO projects at the August meeting. Tom reminded the committee that October 1, 2010 starts the MPO's fiscal year and we should be discussing future projects at the next meeting. Nancy asked folks to be sure to bring ideas for planning projects.

Next meeting is May 20, 2010.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Jeannine with Mike W. seconding it.