

**CHEYENNE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

June 28, 2011

**Mayor's Conference Room
2101 O'Neil Avenue**



Attendance:

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| Voting Members: | Diane Humphrey, Chair | Laramie County Commissioner |
| | Jay Gould | WYDOT, District Engineer |
| | Rick Kaysen, Chair | City of Cheyenne, Mayor |
| Non Voting Members: | Martin Kidner | WYDOT, Planning Engineer |
| | Kevin McCoy | WYDOT, Planning |
| | Jeff Purdy | FHWA |
| | Don Beard | Laramie County Public Works, Director |
| | Joe Dougherty | Cheyenne Transit, Director |
| Staff: | Tom Mason | Cheyenne MPO, Director |
| | Sreyoshi Chakraborty | Cheyenne MPO, Planner |
| | Nancy Olson | Cheyenne MPO, Planner |

AGENDA

Diane Humphrey, Chair, brought the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the February 15, 2011 minutes.

Jay Gould moved to approve the minutes from Feb. 15, 2011. Motioned passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and approval of the FY '11 - '15 Transportation Improvement Program

Tom reported that the TIP is the 15 year planning document for upcoming transportation projects in the urban area. It consists of projects for the City, County, DOT as well as the Airport and BOPU. Also included are old projects that have not been completed. The tables list projects, starting dates, amount allocated and source. The TIP is also broken down into specific agencies and project category. After it is approved by the Policy Committee, Tom sends it to the state DOT and it is then incorporated, along with the Casper TIP into the State TIP. Kevin McCoy inquired about the rail crossings that Tom had talked to him about and if they need to be included? Tom agrees to talk to Jennifer about it. Could be the rail crossings on BNSF at Reed Ave. Vandehi is too far done to list it. IRP amount is listed under the State projects. Jay motioned to accept with modifications about the rail project. Motioned carried.

3. Update on MPO Planning Projects

- a. Brownfields Grant Application – Tom reported: the \$6000 that the Policy Committee voted to hire Ayres to write the application for the Grant was well spent. The Coalition did receive the one million dollar EPA Grant. The next step is to get an MOU approved by the City, County, DDA and EPA to formally set up the Coalition to move forward with putting out an RFQ to hire a consultant to implement the Grant. Kevin asked Tom to describe the location that the Grant will cover. Lower Capitol Basin Downtown area where the 1985 flood hit hard. How will drainage improvements fit in environmentally with the downtown like a park or Greenway or redevelopment of blighted areas? Used for remediation of identified pollutants in the ground.
- b. Official Mapping – E. Pershing and US 30 & Christensen and Dell Range official mapping was complete. City adopted the amendment to the official map. The Mylars need to be made and signed and filed with the County Clerk.
- c. Transportation Safety Implementation – Sreyoshi reported that the three projects the MPO undertook this year were done with two grants from Highway Safety; 1) Distracted driving with the three High School students and the local employers in town, 2) Transit briefing for senior drivers to understand the system better. Over 40 people participated, 3) Developing marketing materials for Wyoming Safe Ride program for coasters and posters. The MPO has submitted two grants applications for next year. Details are not firmed up; first one is to work with the Community College to do a program or research

project on transportation safety. The second was to organize a car-fit program for seniors to fit cars to seniors so they will be more comfortable and safe while driving. Tom added that the MPO Safety Program is still getting notice nationally; Sreyoshi was asked to participate with Expert Panel on institutionalizing safety planning for municipalities at a conference at the end of June.

- d. On-Street Bike/Greenway Plan – Since the last Policy committee meeting the MPO has had a couple of Open Houses for the Plan. Consultants have now provided draft recommendations for bike improvements for the next 20 years. Also a draft bike network map was provided. A second survey will be up on the website soon to comment on the recommendations. Next step is to prioritize the recommendations. Mayor Kaysen received an email from NACTO asking to support bikeway systems in our community. Jay asked about how the MPO gets a good cross-section of public input for the bike plan for spending public money on bike facilities. Sreyoshi said about 12% of survey respondents do not ride bikes. Diane pointed out that there are places out in the County where it isn't safe to ride a bike.
- e. South Greeley Highway Plan - Nancy reported that the consultants for this project and MPO staff have conducted an open house, two steering and one stakeholder committee meetings and a corridor walk since the last Policy Committee meeting. The consultants have provided recommendations for the project area's land use, roadway network and street sections with enhancements. They will now work on the draft plan. A second public open house will be held in late August and in October there will be another round of steering/stakeholder committee meetings before the plan will go to the MPO Committees and the Planning Commissions. Study area is I-80 to Terry Ranch Rd.
- f. I-180 Pedestrian and ADA Improvement Plan – Tom said this project is being done by FHU as well. The folks with Gregg Crisp had a table at our first S. Greeley open house to talk about the pedestrian issues on I-180. They would like to move forward on building something for the short term before the proper planning process is done, however the MPO must follow the process. Jay reported that WYDOT will amend their STIP to include this project to get the hard infrastructure in place and not preclude any enhancements that this plan will recommend.
- g. Fox Farm Road Plan - The consultants, AVI, with MPO staff held a Public Meeting on March 29th. The public was asked for their issues for the corridor and ideas for land use in the neighborhood. The consultants will work on a neighborhood road network plan to connect the neighborhoods to Fox Farm. On July 6th a Steering Committee meeting will be held. The committee will reaffirm what the public asked for and or identify other concerns. A second Public Meeting in September will consist of an in depth Workshop.
- h. PlanCheyenne Update – Tom reported that the RFP is on the street for the update of PlanCheyenne. The update will look at the transportation and land use elements. Proposals are due July 6th. A Selection committee will narrow the proposers and schedule the interviews for August 9th or 10th. Tom expects about four proposals to come in. Kevin McCoy stated that the RFP asked for two different traffic model methods; WYDOT generated model and a consultant generated model. Kevin thinks it is a bad idea because the consultants would use a generic model for a town our size and WYDOT has 40 years of expertise building the Cheyenne model. Jeff Purdy was asked to comment; Larger MPOs do their own modeling. He suggested ask WYDOT to run scenarios with different type of demographics that the MPO wishes. 2000 base model is available to be used with different scenarios. Martin Kidner wishes more consistency. The 2000 model has new counts added every three years. It would not be until 2013 when the next calibration would occur.
- i. Carey and 8th Avenue Neighborhood Transportation (TRAFFIC) Management Plan - Tom reports this is a transportation safety management program (TSMP) for Carey and 8th Hynds to Evans due to numerous bike/ped issues along the corridor. The project will look at pedestrian and bike facilities and crossings on 8th especially at the Carey intersection. The SOW is being worked out now and the plan is to get started this summer.
- j. Interstate Interchange Enhancement Guidebook – The project is temporarily halted due to problems with the consultant that was hired. After a request for changes was made by the MPO, they were not able to produce the final product. They have not responded to our calls and possibly a staff change may have resulted in the loss of the document. The MPO is in the process of working something out to get it completed.

- k. Street Enhancement Plan – The SOW will be done shortly and we hope to get the project started before the end of the fiscal year.
- l. Roundabout Education – The MPO hired a consultant and the idea was to assemble a 1/2 scale roundabout in a parking lot and have the public go through a class and practice driving it. We encountered a roadblock with the City attorney and Risk Manager. City liability is the key issue. We now are rethinking our approach and working to discover how a public education event could work, possibly with other agencies. Diane asked if the neighbors are on board yet with the land acquisition. The Mayor said the project construction will be delayed until spring next year. Hollywood Video countered the City offer but it is not acceptable. He frequently reminds the public that the project is more than just the roundabout; it's about rebuilding E. Pershing and upgrading utilities.

4. Update on current and upcoming projects

- a. City of Cheyenne – Westland Road is progressing. The Ames underpass reconstruction may be delayed to late fall or spring because of the viaduct abutment replacements on I-180. Responsible agencies cannot close too many routes to the south over/under the railroad at one time. Snyder Ave. road reconstruction project has begun including curb, gutter and sidewalk replacement, and will go over the next two years. Project extent is from 15th Street to Pershing.
- b. Laramie County – Final phase of IRP project Clear Creek Parkway is underway and will have a one to two day closure of the Parkway. It will be done by fall. Avenue C is still going on. The project creates a tributary to Allison Draw diverting flow away from Arp, the reconstruction of the north section of Ave. C and the south section will be an overlay with sidewalks pushed away from the road. Hope to have it done by Frontier Days. County got a SLIB grant, \$1.75 million, for Campstool east of town for impacted rural roads from mineral exploration and extraction. The County has a Letter of Commitment from Anadarko for \$464,000 as a partner and has asked Commission for additional dollars. Open bids on it June 30th. Notice to proceed on July 19th. Chip seals are beginning.
- c. WYDOT – Jay reported the Vandehi Interchange Bridge was opened within the 46 day period. Still odds and ends to do. Contract patching on College with warm mix asphalt and ADA improvements are underway. The delay with the decorative treatments on W. Lincolnway is waiting for a precast capstone. Landscaping on S. side of W. Lincolnway was discussed in a meeting with the Mayor, Pat P. and Gene B. from Kiwanis. Pat is looking into some funding from the on-system enhancement program for 2013. Gene Burchett thought he had a grant from WYDOT, but it is this on-system enhancement program. Federal enhancement dollars are being used so WYDOT has to be involved in the project. Jay encouraged the MPO and WYDOT to come to a consensus on what type of modeling to use for PlanCheyenne, as this has been a contentious subject in the past. Tom asked about the water for landscaping on W. Lincolnway. Pat will have the answer. YMCA wants an approach off of E. Lincolnway and is feasible but should be incorporated with the work of the Greenway underpass. WYDOT traffic will do the geometrics of the intersection but there needs to be an MOU with city outlining responsibilities. Could be thrown into a 4F environmental if new road lands inside park. Don mentioned there once was a street there and the YMCA may have created this problem with its own expansion. Don is also concerned that additional development in Swan Ranch will cause the College interchange to come to an LOS of F soon.
- d. Others - none

5. Other Business

- a. FY `12 Work Program –Tom suggested to hold another short worksession with the Policy Committee the middle of August to go through potential projects for next year's UPWP before approval at the end of September. The Mayor and Diane agree.
- b. The MPO put in for a TCSP grant for \$300,000 to implement the bike lanes, both materials and staff time, and maintenance.
- c. Farewell and Thanks to Jay Gould – Tom thanked Jay for the 16 years of service and being a supporter of the cutting edge projects our MPO has done. Diane and Mayor Kaysen also thanked Jay.
- d. Next meeting is September 27, 2011 3:00 at the County.