

**CHEYENNE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

November 18, 2009

Conference Room 208

2101 O'Neil Avenue, Suite 205

Cheyenne, WY



Persons Attending

Tom DeHoff, Chairman	WYDOT
Tom Mason	MPO, Director
Dan Kline	WYDOT
Gary Kranse	Laramie County
Nathan Beauheim	City Engineering
Frank Cole	SEWBA
Tom Cobb	Nolte
James Sims	MPO
Leo A-Pando	LCPW
Joe Dougherty	Cheyenne Transit
Tony Laird	WYDOT – Project Development
Nancy Olson	MPO
Cathy Pesenti	FE Warren AFB
Allen Olsen	FHWA
Tom Bonds	FHWA
Neil Whitehead	LCSD #1
Matt Ashby	Planning
Jeff Wiggins	Parks and Recreation
Don Beard	Laramie County
Jim Elias	Public Works
Sreyoshi Chakraborty	MPO

Tom DeHoff called the meeting to order.

1. **Approval of September 16, 2009 Minutes.**

Minutes are approved without further discussion.

2. **Wayfinding Plan Presentation by Nolte Associates** – Tom Cobb from Nolte Associates provides a presentation of the draft Wayfinding Plan recommendations. Sreyoshi Chakraborty provides an overview of the project. This project was jointly funded by the MPO and the CACVB. The project Consultants are Quinby Clune Design and Nolte Associates. Tom Cobb provides design details including sign theme, hierarchy, location, phasing plan and cost estimates. It is questioned if the signs are sold and Tom Cobb says that they can be bid out. There will be a phased package in the plan that will help the City decide how it may bid out the signs. Frank Cole mentions that in New York City, every district has its unique sign design and every street sign within the district adheres to that design. Tom Cobb mentions that the signs in each of the three districts each have their district name attached on the top which should make it easy to identify which district you are in. Tom Mason mentions that final touches to the plan are being completed right now. The cost estimate stands at about \$530,000. After the document is completed and has been reviewed one final time, it will be sent to the Governing Body. Tom says that there could be several sources of funding for this project, such as Fifth Penny taxes or grants such as TEAL.

3. **Pedestrian and Safe Routes to School Plan by Alta Design and Staff** – Jeff Wiggins says that the Consultants Alta Design will provide a presentation over the phone. Jeff also gives a brief update. Alta has been working on this project since May of this year. They have completed two phases of this project which is looking at existing conditions and providing recommendations. This is a two part project with the SRTS section funded through a WYDOT SRTS grant and the Pedestrian Plan section funded by the MPO. Comments on the draft recommendations are being received and incorporated and a final document is anticipated by the end of this year. Rory from Alta provides a presentation and update on the project over the phone. Rory reiterates the existing good work that is being done in Cheyenne and mentions that the plan will recommend strategies to complement and improve the existing efforts and also identify funding sources. He also emphasized the need for education, encouragement and enforcement in addition to addressing basic infrastructural needs to improve the pedestrian environment. Nathan Beauheim asks if there are any other public meetings planned. Jeff Wiggins says that there will be a Council work session before taking it to the Governing Body. Tom Mason mentions that there will be an opportunity for public comment when this plan is taken to Planning Commission. Nathan asks if there will be another opportunity for the staff to talk to the Consultants. Jeff says there would be. Tom Mason says that the final draft will be made available to a broader group and will also be available on the website for review. If there are any unresolved issues at that point, another staff meeting can be organized.

4. **Subcommittee Proposed Functional Classification Map** – James Sims goes over the updated functional classification map and lists the changes that were made since the last meeting. A question is asked about the impact of traffic on Randall with the work being done at the gate for the Base. Tom Bonds says that work on the gate should not have an impact on traffic volumes. There is additional discussion about the concurrent activities going on at the Base. Tom Mason asks for a recommendation from the Committee to approve the functional classification map as currently presented on paper to the MPO Policy Committee. There is a motion for approval and seconded. There is additional discussion on the urban growth boundary to the north. The map is approved without any further discussion.

5. **Update on MPO Planning Projects**

a. **Transportation Safety Phase II** – Sreyoshi provides an update. The projects are moving along well. The Safety Emphasis Area Team meetings were held recently. The Plan has 6 Emphasis Areas. The meetings went very well and were well attended. Plenty of input was received. The goal of doing these meetings was to revisit the strategies identified in the plan and to flesh out some of these strategies that could be worked upon over the next year or so. The information received through these meetings are being compiled by the consultants right now. The two ongoing projects for this year have both been funded by WYDOT Highway Safety Office. The first grant is to address the issue of Occupant Protection through the involvement of 3 High Schools in Cheyenne. An assembly program addressing the issue of seatbelt usage will be done at each of the three High Schools with a pre and post seatbelt usage survey at each location. The school that has the highest seatbelt use rate will win the ‘Battle of the Belts’ contest and a gift from WYDOT. The second grant is to organize a Legislative Briefing meeting for the Wyoming Legislators. At this meeting, important transportation issues, data and other facts will be shared through various speakers and presenters. The presentation topics were identified by the Emphasis Team discussions. Finally, the intersection safety project is progressing well. Field visits in the framework of a safety audit are being planned at the 20 intersections that were prioritized with the help of City and WYDOT staff.

6. **STP – Urban Project Sequence List Discussion** – Tom Mason says that the STP Urban Project Sequence List was last approved in 2006. Summit Road between Ridge and College has now been constructed. Next in the list is West Pershing between Pioneer and I-25. This is undergoing the environmental and design phase right now and is being run by WYDOT. Third on the list is West Allison Road between S.Greeley and Cribbon. Part of it is being built by the School District between Cribbon and Walterscheid. So that leaves the section between Walterscheid and S. Greeley to be improved. The MPO is working on a conceptual plan for this section which will be completed soon. However, the source of funding for this project remains doubtful. Fourth on the list is the proposed

roundabout intersection of Pershing, Converse and 19th. The conceptual plan has been completed and approved by the City. The City is now moving forward with the final design and construction after that. There is some funding in place for this project. Nathan has sent out a letter request to the MPO and explains his request to the Committee. The request is to move Pershing/ 19th and Converse up in the priority list and move down West Allison project for the same reasons that Tom just mentioned. Nathan says that this is with the understanding that more money, in addition to the 5.5 million STP funds allocated for Cheyenne may be needed for both the Pershing projects. Tony Laird says that for West Pershing, the estimate is 5.4 million for P&P and 6.4 million for concrete street sections. And that is inflated to 2012. Frank Cole says that a County project is being moved to the City. Is the County okay with this. Don Beard mentions that there are currently some ROW and funding issues that need to be resolved with the West Allison project. Therefore the county is okay with the swap. Frank asks if the City has any ROW issues with the proposed roundabout. Nathan Beauheim says that there is one piece of property that needs to be acquired and the City is entering into an agreement with WYDOT ROW to do the acquisition. Tom Bonds asks if any federal funds are being used for design. Nathan says that only local funds are being used for design and NEPA process which will support federal funding for construction only. Nathan also mentions that the project be modified to include the corridor from Dunn Ave to the intersection of Pershing Converse and 19th. Tony Laird expresses concern over the operation and acceptance of a two lane roundabout in the community. Tom Bonds mentions that in the UPWP for this year there has been some dollars allocated for roundabout education and Tom concurs. Nathan asks about future STP urban funding. Tony Laird says that the draft bill that came out of the House, Wyoming's share is about 10 million/ year. And the Elections opts to fund 5.2 million for the urban areas from that STP category. This might change however after the Senate drafts their bill and the shares are balanced out more towards the low density western states. There is further discussion on the reauthorization Bill. The motion to swap project number 3 and 4 on the STP Urban Project Sequence List with the inclusion of the corridor section from Dunn to Converse for the Pershing/Converse/19th intersection project is approved without further discussion. Also, Summit Drive, which is project number 1 is removed from the list.

8. Update on current and upcoming local construction projects

a. **City of Cheyenne (Norris, Carey/Pioneer, Deming, etc.)** – Nathan Beauheim provides an update. The City's Fifth Penny allocation for the next few years is being looked into. The revenue projected from the tax is lower. If there is a shortfall, the Snyder project would slide into the next cycle. City is looking into funding the ongoing maintenance operations including pavement management etc. But there are very few if any reconstruction projects planned. With other ongoing projects, Norris is substantially complete. They

will soon start tearing the existing bridge down. Carey and Pioneer is also under construction. Deming project is mostly complete. The Transit Bus Stop designs are still being done and will be bid out after the 1st of the year.

b. **Laramie County** – Don Beard provides an update. The only ongoing project right now is the Clear Creek Parkway road which extends from College Drive to the new High Plains interchange. Dirt is being moved and construction will continue through winter. The contractors hired are the same as those hired by WYDOT. Tony Laird asks if the Phases I and II will be completed this year. Don says that about 72 percent of Phases I and II are completed.

c. **WYDOT** – Tom DeHoff provides an update. I-25 and Randall are done for this year. They will come back next summer and finish up and complete the enhancements. Work has also been done at the Missile Drive interchange, where one of the arms is now a diamond and the other is a cloverleaf. It has not been opened up yet because a left turn lane needs to be completed. I-180 fencing project is mostly complete except for the meters for the lights that need to be put in place. High Plains Interchange project was let to Reiman Corporation. The bid was 2 million dollars less than the engineer's estimate. They are going to start working on this very soon, including the bridge. They still show a completion time of August or September of 2010. Frank asks who is administering the job and Tom DeHoff says its Don Fuller. A question is asked regarding south bound lane closures. Tom says that the roads will be closed only at night and the traffic will move through the ramps that are being built. There were some unexpected issues with West Lincolnway with the weather in October and utilities that needed to be moved. They are very close to finishing up for this year and will be back in March or April of next year. Happy Jack Road construction is shut down for the winter. There is still some remaining work to be done on the west end. There is an upcoming project to be let in January. This is the I-180 and I80 acceleration lanes and will be adding acceleration lanes to the on ramps. This is being funded through federal safety dollars. The other project is West Pershing. The recon will be given to the City to sign and then the design. The design is quite far along. The final upcoming project is Vandehei and WYDOT is looking at letting it out in October of next year. There will be a public meeting for this to present the roundabout option, as well as to talk about the scenarios during construction and see what the public thinks about it.

Jeff Wiggins mentions that Phase IIIB will be re-let before the end of the calendar year. This stretch is between College Drive and Hot Springs Ave. Soon design will begin for the Walterscheid Underpass. This is the TEAL project and depending on how long it takes to design, construction will begin after that. A question is asked on when Phase IIIB will be re-let. Jeff says that the bid opening should occur before the end of the year.

d. **Cheyenne LEADS** (Amtrak, NCAR etc.) – No update.

10. Other Business

a. **Other** – It is mentioned that the Amtrak Study is out and it says that it will cost about \$460 million to bring it up to Wyoming plus another \$36 million in annual operating losses. The study is up on the Amtrak website. Also the Legislative Transportation Military affairs Committee met a few weeks ago and one of the agenda items was the Passenger Rail Study from Casper to New Mexico. That study has been terminated now. It was not a WYDOT recommendation. If the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority comes out with a feasibility recommendation for Cheyenne, then somebody may want to pick that up as a local champion and complete the study. Tom Mason says that if Colorado gets further along then the first phase of the study can be picked up. Tom Mason also mentions that today is the International GIS Day. Cheyenne Laramie County GIS Cooperative has a display at the Library Cottonwood Room. Next meeting is February 17th, 2010.

Meeting is adjourned.