

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

May 20, 2009

Conference Room 208

2101 O'Neil Avenue, Suite 205

Cheyenne, WY



Persons Attending

Tom DeHoff, Chairman	WYDOT
Tom Mason	MPO, Director
Joe Dougherty	Cheyenne Transit
Dennis Auker	LCSD #1
Sreyoshi Chakraborty	MPO
Brandon Cammarata	Urban Planning
Bill Stockman	Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power
Bruce Wise	Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power
Kevin McCoy	WYDOT
Tom Bonds	FHWA
Jeff Wiggins	Parks & Rec
James Sims	MPO
Gene MacDonald	Ayres associates
Tony Laird	WYDOT
Nathan Beauheim	City Engineering
Martin Matsen	City Building & Development
Doug Vetter	City Engineering
Dale Kaizer	SEWBA
Randy Bruns	Cheyenne Leads
Vicki Nemecek	City Public Works
Andy Dana	Ayres Associates

Tom DeHoff called the meeting to order.

1. **Approval of February 18, 2009 Minutes.**

Minutes are approved without further discussion.

2. **Discussion and Approval of the Transportation Improvement Program and TEAL Projects** – Tom Mason says that the revisions to the TIP based on the Committee’s emails have already been done and hands out copies. Tom explains that MPOs are required to prepare TIP every 4 years. We are going through a 2 year cycle right now. The packet includes road projects from the City, State, County, BOPU etc. The City projects include road and transit projects. BOPU projects which occur in coordination with City and/or WYDOT are listed under those projects accordingly. Tom goes over the various projects. He also requests the Committee members who had turned in projects for the TIP to review the final draft including the dates, and funding sources and report back to him by the end of the week.

Jeff Wiggins explains the upcoming City TEAL grant application. The application request is for a trail underpass at Walterscheid Boulevard. Last year, about .85 miles of trail was installed from Parsley to the top of the hill at the substation along the WAPA corridor. Therefore the TEAL application is to construct trails to the bottom of the hill and then under Walterscheid Boulevard and the intent is to get to the future home of the Boys and Girls Club.

There is further discussion on TIP projects. Nathan Beauheim points out that he was unaware of a mill and overlay job by WYDOT on Yellowstone between the City limits and Fourmile Road. Kevin McCoy clarifies and it is decided that updated information on WYDOT’s project of mill and overlay of Yellowstone between City and MPO limits will be included.

Tony Laird asks if the County’s Clear Creek Pkwy. project includes any ARRA funds. Tom Mason says no. Tony also points out that this project has 2 years worth of IRP funds.

The draft TIP document including the City and County TEAL grant applications are approved by the Committee.

3. **Discussion and Approval of East Pershing Corridor Plan and Intersections** – Andy Dana and Gene MacDonald from Ayres Associates present the final recommendations to the Committee. A public hearing at the Planning Commission had already been held and about 40 residents had attended that meeting. Gene talks about the corridor design for E.Pershing as well as design for the two intersections in the study area. Gene points out that they have been focusing on the crash data and level of service in the corridor at the various public meetings. He goes over the 5 intersection design alternatives for Pershing/Converse and 19th Street in detail. Tony Laird asks if the capacity analyses for the intersection alternative designs include pedestrian crossing times. Andy says yes. Marty Matsen asks if any drainage calculations had been done for some of the design alternatives which require additional ROW and create greater impervious surface. Gene says that drainage should not be an issue for any of the design alternatives because the Henderson drainage project would take care of it, however, some of the design alternatives which may require ROW acquisition will create more impervious surface with the front row of houses being acquired by the City.

While explaining the final and preferred design option for the intersection, which is a modern roundabout, he says that it provides a 67% reduction in the number of crashes, reduces velocities and the severity of crashes, provides an LOS C or better in the 2035 time period, can handle high traffic volumes if required with the addition of a third lane at the center, and provides greater safety to pedestrians. Andy also explained how a 2 lane roundabout generally works at the request of some Committee members. Doug Vetter asks for a cost estimate for the roundabout. Gene said it would cost about 3 million. The Plan is approved unanimously by the Committee.

4. **LCSD #1 Presentation on Area School Construction** – Dennis Auker provides an update on the Capital Construction Projects in the following order:

South High School-This project is on schedule to open August 2010. Reconstruction of Allison Road between Cribbon and Walterscheid Blvd. will begin June 6, 2009 with completion in September 2009. Work includes a traffic signal at the intersection of Walterscheid Blvd. and Allison Road. The project is currently 40% complete and has a total budget of \$65 million dollars.

Rossman Elementary School-This project is on schedule to open in August 2009. Work includes curb and gutter on Walterscheid Blvd. and College Drive. The project is about 80% complete with a budget of 12 million dollars.

Saddle Ridge Elementary School-Project is on schedule to open in August 2009. The project is about 85% complete with a budget of 12 million dollars.

Central High School Renovation-This project is ahead of schedule with most of the work being completed by October. Remaining work will be completed in summer of 2010. The project is about 85% complete with a budget of 17 million.

East High School Renovation-This project is ahead of schedule as well and is expected to be completed in December of 2009. The project is currently 92% complete with a budget of 25 million.

Upcoming Projects-Pending funding approval from the School Facilities Commission, LCSD#1 will start planning a one story elementary, a two story elementary, and a new Carey Junior High School. Tom Dehoff asks if there is any information on plans for future elementary schools. Dennis says that they think a lot of them need to be replaced but they do not have approval yet. Some of them would be Goins, Davis and potentially ARP. Nathan Beauheim points out that there have been talks about an elementary school going in the north side. Dennis says that they are still working on it. Tom Mason asks if there are any plans with the old Carey Junior High building. Dennis says that nothing has been finalized yet.

5. **Update on MPO Planning Projects**

a. **Missile Drive** – Sreyoshi Chakraborty provides an update. A focus group meeting and a charrette had

been held to glean additional input from property owners, business owners, community leaders, city staff and developers. About 6 property owners had attended the focus group and provided their input on issues such as access, drainage, pedestrian safety and a future vision for the corridor. About 20 participants were involved in the design charrette which included city staff, property owners and community leaders. Each group at the charrette underwent a visioning process for the corridor and identified future landuse and other amenities that they would want to see in the corridor. The input from the two meetings have been compiled into a summary report and is available at the MPO website for review.

Randy Bruns asked what was the status of the two hotels that were supposed to be built in the study area. Nathan Beauheim said that he has heard that the hotels are intending to go in soon. Jeff Wiggins says that updated agreements between the City and the Developers is in the process of going through the Council.

b. **Greenway Planning** – Jeff Wiggins provides an update. The 2007 MPO Greenway Plan consisted of 3 parts. The final report is almost complete and a copy should be received by the end of this week. Most of the details were in place but a few minor changes needed to be made. Although this is a 35% plan, some segments of the project ran into current development projects and had to be designed to a 65% or 100% design level. This included some of the South Cheyenne connectors as well as the Holliday Park connector. Bill Stockman asks about a line that will be impacted at College and Campstool and they have been waiting for the City to resolve the railroad issue. Jeff says that the acquisition was approved by the Council 2 weeks ago. The paperwork was sent to BNSF for signatures and the City is now waiting to receive the signed copies back.

c. **Wayfinding Plan Phase II** – Sreyoshi Chakraborty provides an update. A public open house was held on May 5th to present the draft design recommendations. The displays from the open house are expected to be placed in the Laramie County Library to give the public another chance to review the design again and provide their input to the MPO. The consultants are also coordinating the sign location plan and a cost estimate. The draft final plan is expected to be completed and provided to the Steering Committee soon with a final meeting to receive their feedback on the plan.

d. **Allison Road Plan** – Tom Mason provides an update. This is a corridor plan on the south side between Parsley and S.Greeley highway. The school district is building a piece of this corridor near the South High School with the roundabout. The MPO has held a public meeting for this project. Recently, a steering committee meeting was also held to fine tune certain details such as the road sections of the City on the west side as well as the County on the east. The next step is to hold another public meeting. The date is not set yet so Tom asks the Committee to check the MPO website in the future for details.

e. **Transportation Safety Plan Phase II** – Sreyoshi Chakraborty provides an update. There are two concurrent projects going on right now. Both of them have been funded by WYDOT, one by WYDOT Planning and the other by WYDOT Highway Safety Office. The Planning grant is being utilized to prioritize hazardous intersections. The consultants have acquired the crash database from the City and are

working on diagnostic tools to look at the top 100 intersections and identify the biggest problem areas. The second project utilized a Highway Safety grant to organize an ‘Occupant Protection Enforcement Summit’. This Summit was organized to coordinate with the law enforcement officers about seatbelt enforcement issues and how seatbelt usage can be increased in the Cheyenne area. Several speakers from Cheyenne PD, Casper PD, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center and WYDOT spoke at the Summit highlighting the issue of low safety belt usage in the city. The MPO expects to track seatbelt citations over the next few months to see if additional enforcement was done as a result of the Summit. The MPO is also working on a detailed scope of work for future safety implementation projects. Nathan Beauheim asks when the Consultants will have some information for review by City Staff on the first project. Sreyoshi says that the Consultants should have the first list of intersections in a little over a month. Nathan mentions to Tom Dehoff that some of the potential intersections in the list may belong to WYDOT.

Tom Mason has a reminder about Allison project. The MPO is doing the corridor plan; however, for the county’s section between Walterscheid and S.Greeley Highway, the design will be driven by drainage considerations. Therefore it seems likely that the contract will be amended to look more into the drainage issues.

f. **West Pershing/I-25 Randall Interchange/Gate 1 – City/WYDOT/Warren Update** – Tom Mason says that Trihydro is gearing up for the public hearing process for the West Pershing project. The meeting is scheduled for July 7th at the Community House. Tom Dehoff asks Doug Vetter if he has additional information on this project. Doug says that as far as he knows the preferred alternative is the 3 lane section. Efforts are being made to preserve as many existing trees as possible and the goal is to get the public’s feedback on this. Tom Mason mentions that Joe Elms from the Air Force Base is not able to make it to the meeting today.

g. **Pedestrian and SRTS Plan** – Jeff Wiggins provides an update. This is a dual plan including a SRTS plan for LCSD#1 and a pedestrian plan for the Cheyenne urbanized area. A selection process was conducted earlier in the month and a firm called Alta Planning and Design from Portland, Oregon was selected. The contract is expected to go through the Council on the following Tuesday. The Consultants are moving forward pretty soon with most of the information to be collected being front ended, especially walking data from the various schools which included 23 elementary schools and 3 junior high schools. Jeff mentions that there will be a public meeting/design charrette/training on June 9th at the Kiwanis Community House. The schedule for that has not been finalized but will be available soon. This project is being funded through an SRTS grant acquired by Parks & Rec. as well as MPO funds.

6. **Formation of a Sub-committee to Update the Functional Classification Map** – Tom Mason says that the road classification map for the Cheyenne area needs to be updated. A subcommittee will be formed with the appropriate City, County and State agency representatives who will assist the MPO

staff in updating the map. This project should be completed by the end of this year.

7. **Ideas for FY `10 MPO Work Program** – Tom Mason says that he has been communicating with the City and County for ideas on the next work program. Some of the ideas that were thrown out to him are drainage projects such as West Allison design, roundabouts at intersection such as on Fox Farm and Walterscheid, corridor plan for S.Greeley Highway, more access control, and enhancements and so on. Also, the design for High Plains Road which connects Speer interchange with S.Greeley Highway needs to be looked into. Tom invites ideas from the Committee. Tom Bonds suggests an On Street Bicycle Plan for Cheyenne. Nathan Beauheim suggests corridor plans for Logan between Norris and Pershing Boulevard as well as installation of new permanent counters.

8. **Development of 5 to 10 Year MPO Goal Setting** – Tom says that we are close to ending the current federal fiscal authorization period of SAFTEA:LU and are expecting a new authorization bill soon. Therefore there is a need to start thinking about new goals and objectives for the MPO based on the requirements from the new authorization. A new subcommittee may need to be formed to brainstorm ideas.

9. **Update on current and upcoming local construction projects**
 - a. **City of Cheyenne (Norris, Carey/Pioneer, Deming, etc.)** – Nathan Beauheim says that the Norris project is moving along well and they still anticipate opening up the new bridge in September. Carey/Pioneer is in the process of being designed and there should be public meeting in early June. Deming Drive is coming along and a contract is in place for the transit bus stops and is expected to go before Council soon. Dry Creek project is very close to being done. Henderson Basin project is coming along; Pershing and Converse was just reopened, and some storm sewer improvements are being done on Foxcroft. Also, curb and gutter is being done on Yellowstone as part of the repaving between Dell Range and where Gardenia used to tie in.
 - b. **Laramie County** – Since Gary Kranse and Don Beard were absent, no update was available from the County. Tom Dehoff mentions that the low bidder for the Clear Creek Parkway project was S&S Builders.
 - c. **WYDOT** - Tom DeHoff provides an update. Summit Drive or the extension of Storey Boulevard has been let to Simon Contractors. They closed the road on May 5th. It should take them about 60 days to get it done. For I-180, the Reiman contractors with subcontractors Alco will be installing the fence as well as new lighting. Lights may be installed earlier but the fencing will not begin until after Frontier Days. For the Randall Avenue Interchange project, Tom says that they hope to have traffic switched by July. The bridge work is coming along well and they will probably start paving on June 1st. Tom Mason asked if the big sign

on the south bound ramp will be replaced. Tom Dehoff says no. Randy Bruns asks if the roundabout might have overhead signs and Tom Mason says that it will not have overhead signs. Tom Dehoff says that the contract completion date is November of 2010. Tom says that the West Lincolnway project with Enhancements was also awarded to SEMA. There is no schedule for this project yet; however they might wait till end of Frontier Days. There is no update with Speer Interchange. Randy Bruns asks about the Vandehei Interchange project and mentions that planning needs to be done for that interchange as that is another opportunity for the City to enhance one of its community gateways. Tom says that an agreement with the City for the enhancements hasn't been reached yet. Nathan Beauheim mentions that the potential north 'Welcome to Cheyenne' sign is possibly tied in with this project.

Tom Mason mentions another little project the MPO is working on is standardizing some of the enhancement features for the various gateway projects. Some of these already got done with the Speer Interchange and Randall project, however they should be consolidated together and so it can also be applied to Vandehei and future gateway projects when they are built.

d. **Cheyenne Leads** (Amtrak, NCAR etc.) – Randy Bruns provides an update. He mentions the Amtrak Study about which he had discussed at the previous MPO meeting. Amtrak has selected its Consultants who will be in town sometime soon. He mentions that the possibility that Amtrak will select its route through Cheyenne is remote. The pieces for infrastructure are quite good but the Congressional delegation has always been very negative about it and will only support it if it pays for itself in the long run. However, if it does happen then later in the year he may come back and talk about certain crossings and other transportation infrastructure work. Leads is also wrapping up the rezoning of the West Business Park from LI to PUD, redoing the covenants and splitting of the lots as well as the transportation network. He said he thinks that no transportation issues will be created; some signage and enhancements will go in conjunction. With the Coal Gassification Plant, they will close on the property sometime in June. Construction on it will probably start this Fall. This will be east of the Fire Training Facility right up against Christensen Road. They will be right up against the railroad ROW and the ROW for the Christensen Railroad Overpass. This will be at least a 2 year project and there will be some internal road work as well as access off of Christensen that will need to be done. Tom Dehoff asks if the Christensen Overpass will need to be built to provide access. Randy says that it will definitely be desirable for them, however they will mostly be using I-80 as of now. Tom Mason mentions that we have an application in to our congressional delegation about the design and environmental assessment for the Christensen Overpass.

10. Other Business

a. **City Unified Development Code** – Brandon Camaratta provides an update as well as an overview of the project. They have been into this project for about a year and a half and are entering the final leg. A final draft has been developed which will be reviewed throughout the summer. They are looking at

adoption of the document in Fall. He mentions that paper copies are available to Committee members if interested and should also be available online soon on the City Planning website.

b. **Pavement Management Inventory Update** – James Sims provides an update. The RFP went out and the proposals have come in which are being reviewed. The City is also looking at including a sign inventory to this project.

c. **Other** - Doug Vetter asks if there have been any discussions of corridor planning for Central Avenue west of I-25 with the expanded use of I-25. Nathan Beauheim says that he has had discussions with Jay Gould about the need to look into Central Avenue from Gate 5 to Walker; long term plans for access into Highway Department, Game & Fish etc. Tom Mason asks if this will be MPO driven or WYDOT driven and Tom Bonds replies that this project ought to be a joint one as per the amendment done to the work program.

Meeting is adjourned.