

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

September 21, 2011

Historic Courthouse, 310 W. 19th Street, 4th Floor



Attendance:	Andrea Allen, Vice-Chair	WYDOT
	Matt Ashby	City Planning
	Dennis Auker	LCSD 1
	Nathan Beauheim	City Engineering
	Tom Cobb	AVI, PC
	Frank Cole	SEWBA Development
	Brad Emmons	AVI, PC
	Dale Keizer	SEWBA
	Gary Kranse	County Planning
	Kevin McCoy	WYDOT
	Tim Morton	WYDOT
	Doug Vetter	City Engineering
	Jeff Wiggins	Parks and Rec
Staff:	Sreyoshi Chakraborty	MPO, Planner
	Tom Mason	MPO, Director
	Nancy Olson	MPO, Planner
	James Sims	MPO, Planning Tech

Andrea Allen, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 11, 2011 MINUTES.

Minutes are approved without further discussion.

2. UPDATE ON MPO PLANNING PROJECTS

a. South Greeley Plan – Nancy Olson provides an update. FHU has been working on this project since last fall. Four Steering Committee Meetings and two Public Meetings have been completed so far. Several traffic model runs have been done, incorporating the impacts of the new Swan Ranch development. Two percent and four percent growth rates have been considered. Nancy goes over the various scenarios including required travel lanes, signalization, short and long term corridor segment design options including access, auxiliary network, enhancement ideas and so on. The Plan is expected to be completed by end of this year or beginning of next year.

b. I-180 Pedestrian and ADA Plan – Tom Mason provides an update. FHU is also looking on N Greeley Highway to provide a plan for a better pedestrian and ADA friendly facility in this area between Fox Farm Road to 5th Street. There are two improvement options being looked at. One utilizes the existing curb section while the other considers a higher reconstruction level. Short term improvements and long term solutions have been proposed. Tom goes through the various road segments in detail. Tom says that these drawings will be presented to the public during the next S Greeley Public Meeting, yet to be scheduled but will probably be held sometime in late October or early November. Nathan Beauheim points out that there was not a whole lot of difference in

construction needed between short and long term improvements at the Fox Farm intersection. Therefore the committee agreed to consider the long term recommendations.

c. Fox Farm Road Plan – Tom Cobb and Brad Emmons of AVI provided a presentation to the Committee for this project. The project began in February. The first Public Meeting was held in March. A Steering Committee meeting was held in May and since then the project team has been presented at two Planning Commission meetings to keep the Commission members updated on the project. The design details are not completely worked out yet. One of the biggest concerns pointed out at the public meeting was that the existing width of the road is just not big enough to accommodate trucks. Secondly, there is a lack of connectivity, especially lacking sidewalks and to the greenway system. Finally some concern was raised about the look of the corridor, maintenance, drainage landscaping and lighting in the corridor. There was a desire to have amenities, activity nodes such as parks and commercial uses in the area as well. A conceptual landuse plan for the area is being developed. A design charrette will be held in November. Some traffic analysis of intersection will also be done in the coming months. There is some additional discussion on the landuse by Committee members. Andrea announces a slight change in the order of the agenda items. The Interchange Enhancement Guidebook will be discussed prior to the Bicycle Plan update.

d. Interchange Enhancement Workbook– Sreyoshi provides an update. The latest version of the document was sent out to the Committee Members for their review. Sreyoshi provides a summary, overview and goals behind this workbook. Nathan Beauheim asks if the intent of the guide is to require these design ideas for all projects or is it an option to use them. Sreyoshi and Tom Cobb clarify that the intent of this Guide is to be a resource and not a requirement for future transportation enhancement projects. Tom Mason mentions that the Workbook will be presented to the City and County Planning Commissions for public comment before moving to the Governing Bodies for approval. Tom also mentions that this document was done at the request of WYDOT so that when they build future interchanges and community gateways, there is consistency and less ambiguity in what needs to be incorporated as enhancements in such projects. However, everything is contingent on funding. There is further discussion about the document by the Committee. Matt Ashby summarizes the purpose of the Guide again and recommends acknowledgement of receipt and approval of the document. The Interchange Enhancement Workbook is approved unanimously. Nathan Beauheim adds that the document be proof read for typos.

e. On Street Bicycle Plan and Greenway Plan Update – Sreyoshi Chakraborty provides an update. Two Public Open Houses, two bicycle tours (in Cheyenne and Ft Collins) and four BAC (Bicycle Advisory Committee) meetings have been completed so far. The previous two months have been spent developing the draft recommendations including a Network Plan for future on-street and off-street improvement. Feedback on the network plan has been received twice from the BAC, other City Department as well as the public. Several iterations of the map have been generated as a result. The recommendations and other documents are on the MPO webpage. Sreyoshi requests that the Committee look at the documents on the webpage and familiarize themselves. If schedule allows, the Consultants will provide a detailed presentation at the next meeting. Frank Cole requests a paper copy of the network map as he has been unable to open it online. The Consultants have taken the recommendations in the network plan and prioritized them as high, medium and low priority projects as weighted by different criteria. The Consultants will then develop detailed project design sheets for the top five on-street and off-street projects.

f. Carey and 8th Avenue NTMP – An NTMP request was received for this area by the MPO office. The issues pointed out concerned pedestrian and bicycle safety while crossing 8th Avenue to access Lions Park. A Committee was convened to review the NTMP request and James Sims did some preliminary survey collecting traffic counts and talking to the residents in that area. In the end it was

decided that the MPO needed to do a corridor plan for 8th Avenue and take a harder look at the intersection of Carey and 8th Avenue and propose some short and long term design improvements that would improve safety of all users in that area. An RFP was issued and three proposals were received. Interviews are expected to happen the first week of October and the project is expected to kick off by the end of the year. Frank Cole mentions that the Consultants need to observe and collect data during Frontier Days to experience the problem first hand.

g. Street Enhancement Toolbox – Tom Mason provides an overview on this project. The MPO is getting ready to interview consultants next week. Two firms have put in proposals. This toolbox will come up with ideas on approximately how much landscaping would be appropriate within the ROWs in Cheyenne and approximately how much does it cost to install and maintain such landscaping. It will include best practices from other communities that will be appropriate to Cheyenne. The project should be completed in six months or so. Jeff Wiggins asks if there will be a work session to make the Council aware of the issues that are being addressed by the MPO through its projects and the issue as it stands at present with Engineering, Parks and Rec. and Public Works not being able to maintain such facilities. Tom says that will be part of the project. Nancy mentions that the goal is for everyone to be aware of the costs associated with various levels of landscaping, capital as well as for operations and maintenance. There is discussion on how the costs could be updated regularly. Nathan Beauheim suggests that ‘man hours’ could be used as a measure for updating the maintenance costs. Matt Ashby points out that we have a good estimate of the capital costs through project planning and design. However there is no way to gauge what the maintenance costs associated with a project could be and this project could help with that. Doug Vetter mentions that this information could potentially help create a budget that would be needed for operation and maintenance.

h. PlanCheyenne Update – Tom Mason provides an update. Clarion Associates has been selected for this project. This is the same Consultant Firm that worked on PlanCheyenne 2006. However their entire sub-consultant team is different this time. AVI is the local liaison to assist with the project. The contract will be approved by the City Governing Body on Monday night and by the Policy Committee. It is a big project and should take about 18 months to complete. The Landuse changes as well transportation recommendations to reflect those changes will be key elements of this project.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT AND UPCOMING LOCAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

a. City of Cheyenne – Nathan Beauheim provides an update. Concrete and storm sewer work is being done on Westland. Storm sewer work is also going on Snyder between Randall and Pershing. Curb and gutter work is being done on Snyder between Lincolnway and 19th in preparation for paving that section. Ames underpass is shut down and under construction right now. For next years projects, if ROW is worked out then East Pershing project will move as planned which includes the roundabout at Pershing, Converse and 19th. WYDOT will be doing West Pershing between Pioneer and I-25. There will also be several overlay projects. Longer term projects in 2013-14 will include construction of Snyder between 23rd and Pershing, and some reconstruction at 19th and Logan. Additionally some greenway construction projects are going on. Jeff Wiggins provides an update. These include the section on Nationway between the Norris Viaduct over to Hot Springs Avenue, the connection by the UP Railroad under College Drive, and the SRTS path down by Avenue C/Morrie and Reiner Court. They are all expected to be done this fall or winter. Frank Cole asks why curb and gutter is not being added at the SRTS section. Jeff says that the SRTS project was to create a safe walking path for the school kids and other roadway improvements is not within the scope of this construction.

b. Laramie County – Gary Kranse provides an update. Paving projects are being completed. Chalk Bluffs and Campstool is being repaved. Campstool is being repaved through the money that was received from the State to mitigate oil impacts. That should be finished by end of this month. Archer

should be paved by the end of this month too.

c. WYDOT – Tim Morton provides an update. Things are wrapping up for the season; however, Don Fuller has the State Welcome Center going. He is also working on some passing lanes on US85 north of Cheyenne. Also district wide patching jobs are being done but there are several areas around town which includes Four Mile Road, and a section of College Drive. Warm mix asphalt was used for this section and seems to be working out quite well and could lead to cost savings in the future. An urban pavement marking job is also underway in town for replacing existing striping including crosswalks with thermoplastic. The Vandehi project is mostly done. For future projects, the structure of Burns is going to be let, and the I-180 abutment repair is going to be let this month. Also WYDOT is working with Nathan on the Pershing project. There are also several pavement preservation type projects, repair and chip seals that will be done. The southbound I-180 bridge will be closed for repairs during winter.

d. Others (LEADS, Airport, Warren, LCSD #1, etc.) – Dennis Auker provides an update on LCSD#1 projects. Goins Elementary is under construction and on schedule to open next fall. Nathan Beauheim asks what other projects are on the list after Goins. Dennis says that Davis is pretty high on the list. Deming, Hebard and Carey are others. Everything is dependent on funding which is expected to change very soon. The last prioritized list of projects was developed in May/June but could change due to funding.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Other – Jeff Wiggins mentions that for the past few years he has been working on the Safe Routes to School Program. However, it is more of an MPO related issue being related to safe transportation for school children. Therefore, for this grant application which is due by the end of the year, a sub-committee of the Technical Committee or others could look at the recommendations and provide a direction as to which project should be moved forward for this year's grant request. Nathan says that he would propose using the entire School Safety Committee as a group to be involved in this. Tom says that if anyone else from this Committee wishes to join the School Safety Group to assist with the SRTS program then they are welcome to. Their next meeting is on October 10, 1:30 at School District Office.

Kevin McCoy mentions that WYDOT allocates \$5.7 million in its urban system funds and Cheyenne gets a portion of it for infrastructure improvements. When the census numbers come in then WYDOT has to recalculate what value will be allocated to each community. Cheyenne's new dollar amount is \$1,124,822 which will be allocated on October 1, and is a decrease of \$25,972 from the last ten years amount. Nathan Beauheim mentions that the two immediate projects being funded are the West and East Pershing projects and the next eligible project to receive the funding would be County's choice. Kevin McCoy says that the contract for West Pershing had to be revised. About \$3 million of urban funding was dropped and the City is making up for it and that \$3 million then got applied to the City's East Pershing project. This should have been taken care of in the revised agreements. Due to uncertainty about the Highway Bill, this discretionary pot of funding could be cut at the discretion of the Wyoming Transportation Commission.

Tom Mason says that the MPO's budget for next year has been completed and will be up on the webpage this Thursday. The Policy Committee will vote on the budget next week. The next meeting will include a presentation on the Bicycle Plan. Depending on the schedule, it could happen either in November or December.

Meeting is adjourned.