

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

February 14, 2008
Mayor's Conference Room
2101 O'Neil Avenue, Suite 310
Cheyenne, WY



PERSONS ATTENDING

Ken Lewis	City of Cheyenne
Jeff Ketcham	Laramie County
Jay Gould	WYDOT
Matt Ashby	City Planning
Don Beard	Laramie County Public Works
Tom Bonds	FHWA-WY
Jim Brown	City Council
Sreyoshi Chakraborty	MPO
Gary Kranse	Laramie County
Tom Mason, Secretary	MPO
Kevin McCoy	WYDOT

Meeting called to order

Approval of September 27, 2007 minutes

Jeff Ketcham made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Jay Gould. Minutes are approved without discussion.

Approval and Discussion of MPO Public Participation Plan

Tom Mason: The MPO has provided a copy of the plan. Federal regulations require the MPO to develop a documented plan that provides the opportunity for transportation system users to be involved in the planning process. The document is in a newsletter format and communication was made with FHWA and WYDOT to insure all aspects of concern are included. Information about the document was shared with the technical committee as well as the Cheyenne Transit Program Advisory Board, the Greenway Committee, Laramie County Community Partnership and the Mayors Council for People with Disabilities. There was a good citizen response. The Public Hearing notice was published in the newspaper on November 1st to begin the 45 day comment period. There were also two display ads published. There was a Public Hearing at the Planning Commission on December 17th. There were no significant changes to the document. Tom asked for adoption of the plan. It was motioned, seconded and approved.

Updates and Discussion on Planning Projects

East Dell Range and US-30

Sreyoshi Chakraborty: The US-30/Dell Range project is moving toward completion. The consultants have prepared a draft plan. A copy was provided to the

Steering Committee and is being reviewed. At the start of the project there were 18 alternatives that were narrowed down to 6. As of now alternative 2 has been chosen as the preferred alternative. This alternative will realign Dell Range west of the current intersection. It is cost effective in comparison with the other alternatives. The community showed great support for this alternative. Choosing alternative 2 will also allow for some flexibility in the future. The consultants also made designs of the corridor cross-sections. Both Dell Range and US-30 would be designed as 4 lane roadways with the option of a center turn lane or raised median.

Tom Mason: Once the Steering committee has had a final look at this document there will be a public meeting but it has yet to be decided whether it will be a general public meeting or if it will go to the planning commissions. It is hoped the plan will be ready for approval in about six months.

Christensen Road Extension Plan

Sreyoshi Chakraborty: Currently Christensen Rd. extends north from US-30 as a minor arterial, but Plan Cheyenne recommends the road be extended south of US-30 to Commerce Circle. The proposed extension would also include crossing the Union Pacific railroad tracks north of Commerce Circle. The plan recommends two travel lanes initially with the scope of future expansion to four lanes based on traffic. The consultants have done a 35% design for Christensen Rd. from Commerce Circle to Pershing and a 10% design from Pershing to US-30.

East Pershing Corridor Plan

Tom Mason: Ayers Associates are the consultant working on the plan. The project's cost is about \$195,000 and due to the high cost it will be spread over three fiscal years. Public meetings will be held between April and May and there will be a heavy public campaign that will also include going door to door to talk to adjacent residents. This will be done to ensure the public is well aware of the plan.

Crow Creek Greenway Floodplain Map Revision

Tom Mason: This is for the section between Westland Road and I-25, south of Missile Drive. At this area of Missile Drive there will be two hotels built and the developer has agreed to include greenway in the development. Floodplain mapping was necessary to ensure the greenway is built properly. Gene MacDonald is doing the plan and has assured the city that the greenway will be built in such a way that there will be room for extension in the future. The project is expected to be completed in a few weeks.

Greenway Planning Project

Tom Mason: The areas that are being planned include Nationway and Henderson Drive as from College Drive. Currently the plan includes greenway at Henderson Drive as it comes from Sun Valley and crosses underneath College Drive by the railroad tracks. The planning work takes the greenway to Norris and Logan (at the Norris Viaduct) and then into Holliday park. Currently the plan is for an underpass to cross Lincolnway by Cowboy Dodge, however there are different options being considered including taking the greenway over Lincolnway.

In the southern part of Cheyenne there are greenway plans for the South Park subdivision to connect existing Crow Creek greenway at Deming Drive and through to Cribbon and connecting to Johnson by the elementary school. The greenway plan for south Cheyenne will allow for other greenways to be built along with the Safe Routes to School Program. South High School is building greenway on the perimeter of their property.

Way Finding Plan

Sreyoshi Chakraborty: This is a sign program for the Cheyenne area to assist visitors in getting to the various attractions and destinations. There are two phases to the plan, and the MPO is working in collaboration with the Cheyenne Visitors Bureau. The first phase is the conceptual phase and is almost finished. There was an inventory done of the existing signs in Cheyenne. Different case studies from around the country were considered as well as different design elements that will coincide with the character of the community. The next phase will begin soon and will look at designing specific signs and deciding on specific locations for the signs. A Steering Committee has been formed with members from many different agencies in the city. The visitors bureau will also be sharing the cost of the project for the second phase.

Safety Management Plan

Sreyoshi Chakraborty: This project was started in early October and is moving along well. An Advisory Committee was developed to help with the project and involves many organizations. The committee met for the first time and developed a safety goal to help reduce as many traffic fatalities and crashes as possible. There are six emphasis areas in consideration: older drivers, younger drivers, distracted drivers, alcohol related crashes, unbelted drivers and intersections. The next step was to convene a Transportation Safety Summit which was held on January 31. Through the Summit it was possible to reach many more stakeholders and there were approximately 60 people in attendance. Thanks are given to WYDOT for the 402 Highway Safety Grant that assisted in making this event happen. There will be a meeting in March with the Advisory Committee to look at the draft plan and it should be ready by April.

Transit Development Plan

Tom Mason: The plan is nearing completion. The consultants are working with Joe Dougherty and the Cheyenne Transit Program; they are working through the transit route changes. A major change to the program is how people are picked up along the routes. Other issues being considered are how to keep travel times down and making specific pick-up/drop-off places to get the bus. After the last public meeting is held, the formal adoption process will be started.

Matt Ashby: City Planning will be working with the MPO on upcoming development projects as they relate to the bus routes to ensure the proper facilities are built with new developments as they come in; there will be more emphasis placed on this in the future.

Joe Dougherty: Permanent stops will probably begin in May or June. Shelters are still being considered.

County Road Standards

Tom Mason: The draft document has been reviewed by the MPO, County Planning, and Road and Bridge but has been put on hold while the City/County Building Department goes through the changes taking place. They hope to get to the road standards at a later time this year.

VANGO

Tom Mason: The MPO has gone full circle with all options to try and get a van pooling system underway. The existing program in Ft. Collins and other cities have received many calls from citizens that wish to take part in such a program. However, the program is currently insured in Colorado but not in Wyoming. Wyoming does not currently allow the same insurance benefits in regards to liability insurance for the drivers. This legislation would provide governmental immunity to the drivers crossing state lines. There is a bill waiting to be introduced, it is House Bill 150. The chances are short but the MPO is prepared to try again next year if the bill is not passed in the current year.

Passenger Rail Feasibility Study

Tom Mason: The study is underway; WYDOT has a contract with TranSystems. The cost of the scope of work was low enough that they did not need the monies from Cheyenne and Casper.

Kevin McCoy: He has spoken with Dan Kline and Colorado has signed with a consultant. The consultants from Wyoming and Colorado should be working jointly.

Front Range Transportation Plan

Tom Mason: We are starting to become more involved with regional planning rather than strictly our own urban area. Colorado held a Transportation Forum at the Convention Center in 2005, that thousands of people participated in, and discussion of regional planning began. The Population of the Colorado Front Range is expected to grow from 3.5 million to 5.7 million by 2030. This stresses the need for regional cooperation. It was decided that a consultant would be hired to prepare a scope of work for a seamless Front Range Transportation Plan. Participants range from Cheyenne to Pueblo. There was a workshop held on May 14th and there were several elected officials in attendance from the Front Range. Three alternative scopes were considered and the third was chosen. This option included framing and structure by taking the existing land use from the current Transportation Plans along the Front Range and combining them. This would make it possible to use each plan but also to coordinate them all. The final draft Scope of work was prepared and has been made available to WYDOT and FHWA. The job of funding the project still needs to be accomplished. CDOT has already attempted to get a federal grant and were rejected. The next step is to try and get appropriations funding from federal delegations.

West Pershing/I-25

Tom Mason: There are 3 projects going on in the same area. The Air Force Base is rebuilding gates 1, 2, and 5. WYDOT is planning to completely rebuild the Randal/I-25 interchange, including new bridges and ramps. The city is rebuilding Pershing from I-

25 to Pioneer. All 3 of these projects are being coordinated. A work session was held with city council to explain what the reconstruction of Pershing will pertain. The recommendation was to continue with the 3 lane design so as to be able to retain as many of the trees as possible and keep the road out of residents' front yards. Also, the redesign of the Randal/Pershing intersection and the consideration of closing westbound Randall and redirecting traffic either up Snyder or Cribbon, to make the intersection at Pershing safer with a 4 legged intersection instead of five. Enhancements to the I-25 interchange are being discussed between the MPO/City and WYDOT to make it a nicer entry way to the community. There is a public meeting scheduled for March 4th.

Update on Summit, West Pershing and Speer Interchange

Don Beard: The design for Summit is about to be completed and ready for construction. After that it is simply a matter of receiving funding for the project. This will extend the identical section found to the west, to College and will include some deceleration lanes and curb and gutter. He anticipates re-development in that section. At this time BOPU is not planning to bring water services to the area.

Speer Interchange

Jay Gould: Currently they are working on the NEPA document and also the design. Hopefully a letting date will be October 2010. So far it will be a 3 lane bridge with roundabouts. Everything seems to be moving along smoothly. The bridge over the railroad tracks is not included in the project but the plan is allowing for the design and construction of one later.

Don Beard: Industrial Road Program (IRP) project is somewhat connected because it will probably become part of the interstate frontage road down to Speer, an extension of College Drive. A west extension by Flying J has been improved. They are currently in the process of engineering to WYDOT standards. The private sector has been asked to provide an attachable account that can be billed through. As soon as these two things are finished, the process of building the first extension will begin.

Update on Local Construction Projects

Norris Viaduct

Ken Lewis: The design is complete and they are waiting to get a commitment to acquire the air space for the bridge from the Union Pacific. It should be out to bid in the next couple weeks.

Other Projects

There will be a new traffic signal put in at Marble and Dell Range. The signal is warranted and there have been many requests for a signal so the city is moving forward.

Deming/Walterscheid

He has had a meeting with StanTec, the consultants, and the project should be out to bid in late spring. The consultants will be in Cheyenne to walk the project.

Environmental concerns are the reason the project has been held up. A wetlands delineation and a survey are needed to see if there needs to be a mitigation plan.

Warren Bridge over Crow Creek

Project bids will be opened February 19th and should bring the project to closure soon. This project is associated with the Crow Creek/FEMA project in which there was a grant to remove some houses from the floodplain.

Henderson Basin Project

This is the detention basin that the city will be installing on the VA property on the North-eastern corner of Converse and Pershing. This project should be out to bid in the next couple of months. It will impact the transportation system because there will be large pipes put in across Converse and down Foxcroft.

Dry Creek Realignment Project

There will be a profound impact on the Sheridan portion of Dry Creek. The project will go to bid this spring.

Maintenance this summer is planned for Dell Range, there will be some patching done on the roadway.

Missile Drive overlay is supposed to be going out this spring and will be out to bid.

Masonway is finally under construction.

I-180 Pedestrian fence is under design.

A question was asked of Ken Lewis concerning whether or not the closure of 1st St. and Warren will be a permanent closure.

Ken Lewis responds: No, there will be a bridge built over Crow Creek. The only closure will be a temporary one, lasting long enough so the culverts can be removed and to construct the bridge.

Another question was asked of Ken Lewis: What is the best estimate of when Masonway will be opened?

Ken Lewis responds: He is expecting it to take until at least late summer or early fall.

County Projects

Don Beard: Design on North Yellowstone is almost complete. It will end up costing a little over \$1 million. There has been a bid placed on 33 miles of chip seal that will be done throughout the county. The project has yet to be awarded. On Campstool Rd. there are some things WYDOT would like to annex but they are in discussion with UP concerning a long-standing rail lease.

Dell Range and Whitney goes along with Saddle Ridge and has been sent to engineering. They did apply for CMAQ money this year. That application was turned down.

Jay Gould: This spring they should be able to get back to the construction on the turn lanes of US30 from the end of the divided section out to Archer. Bids were opened today for the northbound lane of I-25.

Other Business

Tom Mason: Last years Performance Report has been approved and distributed. It is the fiscal end of year budget report. It explains what the MPO has accomplished. There are a couple voting vacancies, one from the City and one from the County, on the Technical Committee. Currently on the county side Don and Gary have voted but there are three votes, and on the city side. The three votes need to be reviewed too. He will attempt to get this done through email.