

Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Committee Meeting

December 16, 2020

Virtual Zoom meeting 4:00 PM



Attendance:

Voting Members:

Buck Holmes
Ralph Tarango
Tom Cobb for Mayor Orr

Laramie Co. Commissioner
WYDOT, District Engineer
City Engineer

Non-Voting Members:

Charles Bloom
Dave Bumann
Bryan Cawley
Tim Morton
Juli Monahan
Vicki Nemecek
Lisa Pafford
Hank Rettinger

City Planning & Development
County Public Works
FHWA
WYDOT
WYDOT Planning
City Public Works
Asst. City Planning & Devel.
FHWA

Staff:

Tom Mason
Jillian Harris
Nancy Olson

MPO Director
MPO Senior Planner
MPO Office Manager

Guests:

Allison Fluitt

Kimley Horn

Meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Vice-Chair Commissioner Holmes.

1. Approval of the October 22, 2020 Minutes

Mr. Holmes asked for corrections or additions, hearing none he declared the minutes approved.

2. Approval of a Budget Amendment to the FY `21 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Mason stated that there were two simple changes. First, is a proposed contract with West Edge Collective (WEC) for their work for the coming year. This contract for \$31,200 is for ongoing public involvement on the MPO webpage and Facebook page. WEC also included five opportunities for public education by developing a series of videos that would explain the MPO projects and programs. The GIS ERSI software cost increased \$3,950, as well. This changed the Software and Software Maintenance line-item to \$52,400. Mr. Mason took the extra from the HPMS line item decreasing it to \$18,850. He feels HPMS still has enough funding to do counts in the coming year. Mr. Mason asked for questions and asked for approval of the budget amendment.

Mr. Tarango asked if any of the budget increases, especially the public involvement, were due to COVID-19. Mr. Mason said that yes, it was as most all public involvement is now

virtual.

Mr. Tarango moved to approve; Mr. Cobb seconded. Motion approved. The budget amendment was unanimously approved.

3. **Approval of the *Connect 2045 - Master Transportation Plan Update to PlanCheyenne***

Mr. Mason stated the Plan, *CONNECT 2045*, has been in development for about a year and a half. One well-attended open house was held in March and then Public Input has all been done virtually since then. The Planning Commissions and the Governing Bodies have adopted the Plan so this is last step.

Ms. Fluitt shared a brief project overview, walked the committee through the Long-Range Plan document and then explained the supplemental tools that were provided. The Long-Range Plan's purpose is to allow federal funding to be spent and to make good transportation planning decisions based on the priorities.

The project goals are important because they align with MPO, federal and state goals. They also reflect what is important to the public.

A variety of in-person and on-line public involvement events were held. The MetroQuest survey tool was a real benefit when gathering input on the preference survey that occurred from April through May 2020. An August 24th virtual open house was held near the end of the planning project that concentrated on gathering input for project prioritization and the financially constrained project list. The materials presented got the public to think about the importance and needs of pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure, as well as, new development and unincorporated enclaves. Lastly was the round of public hearings.

The current and future demographics chapter, as well as, commuter patterns, crashes, and traffic counts laid the groundwork for coming up with the project prioritizations. Transit recommendations focused on updating the Transit Development Plan with a special focus on paratransit, express service, evaluating service expansion to new areas, and limiting downtown transfers. Bike and Pedestrian systems looked at gaps and recommendations for trails and bike facilities as well as, priority areas for sidewalk upgrades. Aviation and Freight recommendations were mode-specific, but Freight routes need to mesh with the roadway network improvements. The chapter on Livability and Economic Growth addresses a variety of topics that have all been expressed as concerns for this region.

The Project and Implementation chapter was next. The prioritization methods and results were developed but a new prioritization system was needed that allowed the consultants to translate the goals to things that are measurable. Something of note was the distinction between rural and urban projects and how they are prioritized.

In the Implementation Plan chapter, the consultants took the roadway capital projects all the way through financial constraint. The projects were listed by their funding bands and then the ultimate metropolitan transportation plan map was developed that shows the full buildout network. Allison then showed the Financially Constrained Plan map. The Policies and Future Studies were shown and the last chapter: System Performance Report, is where the federal performance requirements are related to the projects and initiatives in the documents. The future land use and transportation map was shown.

Mr. Cawley thanked Ms. Fluit for the good job, and he was glad to see direct links to Federal program goals and objectives included in the plan. Commissioner Holmes said it was a great presentation. Mr. Holmes asked for a motion to adopt the plan. Mr. Tarango made the motion to adopt the *Connect 2045* Plan and Mr. Cobb seconded. Motioned passed and the Plan was adopted unanimously.

4. **Other Business**

- a. Mr. Mason wanted to thank everyone for their participation with the *Connect 2045* Plan. He also thanked Commissioner Holmes for his willingness to fill in when Commissioner Ash left. This was his second stint on the Policy Committee. Mr. Mason mentioned that Troy Thompson will be the new Laramie County representative. Mr. Mason also welcomed Mr. Tarango and mentioned that the new City representative to the committee will be Patrick Collins. The next meeting will be in March, but Mr. Mason will attempt to schedule a short work session to get all the new Policy Committee members up to speed on the Cheyenne MPO after the first of the year and Merry Christmas.
- b. Mr. Holmes said goodbye and Merry Christmas.
- c. Mr. Cawley will report to the Wyoming Transportation Commission that the Plan is done and approved.
- d. Mr. Tarango complimented Ms. Fluit and Kimley Horn. He was looking forward to serving on the MPO Committee.

Next Meeting March 24, 2021