

Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Committee Meeting

December 19, 2019

Commissioners Conference Room, 319 W. 19th Street
3:00pm



Attendance:

Voting Members:	Marian Orr, Chair Amber Ash Tom DeHoff	City of Cheyenne, Mayor Laramie Co. Commissioner WYDOT, District Engineer
Non-Voting Members:	Wes Bay Charles Bloom Dave Bumann Bryan Cawley Martin Kidner Juli Monahan Walt Satterfield	City Engineering City Planning Director County Public Works FHWA WYDOT Planning WYDOT Planning FHWA
Staff:	Tom Mason Nancy Olson	MPO Director MPO Office Manager
Guests:	Troy Russ Mary Richey Luke Reiner	Kimley Horn Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities WYDOT, Director

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mayor Orr.

- **Approval of the September 24, 2019 minutes.**

Mayor Orr called for a motion to approve the September minutes. Mr. De Hoff moved, and Commissioner Ash seconded. Motion passed.

- **Budget Amendment to the *FY '20 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)***

Mr. Mason presented and began with salaries and benefits: these changes was due to Mr. Cobb no longer being employed by the MPO, so the position was changed back to a Senior Planner for the rest of the year for nine months. This leaved \$45,235 in an undesignated line-item to be used for the three projects yet to be started in this year's work program or for other projects if necessary. The bottom line is a bit lower because the unencumbered from last year was less than anticipated. Ms. Ash mentioned that Walterscheid is split down the middle between County and City. Mr. Mason said the Plan will make recommendations about a single jurisdiction for the roadway. Commissioner Ash moved to approve the UPWP budget amendment #1; Mr. DeHoff seconded. Motion passed.

- **Presentation and approval of the *U.S. 30 & Dell Range Corridor Study*.**

Mr. Mason introduced Mr. Troy Russ from Kimley Horn and stated that the City and County Governing Bodies have approved this Plan. Mr. Russ gave the presentation. The study boundaries are College Dr. on the west and the UPRR railroad bridge on the east. The corridors are both Dell Range; mostly city and some county and U.S. Highway 30 which is a WYDOT facility. This area is a large growth area with big subdivisions like Whitney Ranch and Saddle Ridge expanding.

This is an update to the 2008 MPO Plan for the same corridors. The level of service at the main intersections are currently good with only the intersections of Dell Range and U.S. 30 with Whitney Rd. being the two that are LOS D. With the extension of Christensen to I-80, the 20-year traffic will be allocated differently and several of the intersections will start to fail. The study looked at crash rates prior to 2018 where the largest number of crashes were between College and Pershing. In 2018/2019 there were several crashes with some fatalities in the study area adding to the urgency of this study. In addition to the crashes, there is a need to design for pedestrians and bicyclists as there are five schools in the area and the Greenway bisects the corridor.

Public Outreach started with the City, Laramie County and WYDOT, and continued with the stakeholder group comprised of business and property owners, as well as special interest groups. Three community workshops and meetings were held. Congestion of some intersections and lack of roadway network extensions were the primary concerns at the beginning of the study, but it changed to safety with several tragic deaths at intersections in the project area.

Recommendations on Dell Range Blvd. east of College were shown and described within the existing 80 feet of right of way. This would include an extruded concrete bike lane out from the curb, two travel lanes each direction and a raised median to restrict access to all but properly spaced intersections. The Dell Range and Whitney Rd. intersection has two options; a roundabout and signalized, to be determined during final design. However, WYDOT has done the reconnaissance for this portion and since the county is the entity with jurisdiction the decision was made for the roundabout. Mayor Orr asked if the County would oversee maintenance. Yes, until it is annexed. Heading east, the road cross section goes to three lanes with a buffered bike lane. The Dell Range and U.S. 30 intersection has already been decided by the previous 2008 plan; it was reaffirmed. The U.S. 30 Highway design: Eastward from College Dr. the five lanes will have a median to restrict access except at the fire station. At the intersection of Pershing there will be a protected left turn and the additional roads coming into that intersection will be closed or diverted. The cross section will we urban and frontage roads will be removed, and medians installed with trails for pedestrians on both sides. In the future between Pershing and Whitney, there can be one more signalized intersection, at Van Buren. East of Christensen will be no median and five lanes. Also, all intersections will get redesigned to eliminate the skew and make them more 90°.

Another important recommendation is to work with the City and the UDC and the County

with the Land Use Regulations to complete secondary roadway network throughout the area. Funding has been allocated for most of this project. Christensen Road/Overpass has already begun (Fiscal Year 2019/2020) with City of Cheyenne 6th Penny. Dell Range Blvd. intersection with U.S. 30 (Fiscal Year 2022) -Surface Transportation Program (STP) – Urban. Whitney Road (U.S. 30 north right-of-way edge to and including the Dell Range Blvd.) (Fiscal Year 2021) STP – Urban. U.S. 30 Reconstruction (College Drive to Railroad Road) (Fiscal Year 2024) National Highway Program (NHP). Mayor Orr called for a motion to approve the Dell Range/U.S. 30 Plan. Mr. DeHoff moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ash. Motion passed.

- **Presentation and approval of the *Interim Cheyenne Area Master Transportation Plan (MTP)***

Mr. Mason explained that the last MTP, dated April 2014 had both a County and City version. The Interim Transportation Plan was prepared by Mr. Mason as result of a meeting with Mr. DeHoff and Mr. Satterfield. WYDOT has a couple of new projects they soon will seek federal funding for, and they have not been included in the master transportation plan nor the recent TIP or STIP. The Interim Plan has been advertised in the paper for a 30-day public comment period; posted on the MPO webpage; been heard at the City and County Planning Commissions, who gave recommendations of approval to both governing bodies; those bodies have approved/certified the Plan. Now the last stage is to get the Policy Committee's approval. Mayor Orr asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Ash moved and Mr. DeHoff seconded. The motion passed.

- **Presentation and approval of amendments to the *FY '20 - '23 Transportation Improvement Program***

Mr. Mason said that now the *Interim Transportation Plan* is approved, there are amendments to be made and projects to be added to the FY '20-'23 TIP. He distributed a project lists with the new projects.

Mr. Morton explained the new projects: I-25/I-80 interchange design project and Right of Way acquisition for that project; Wyoming 210 signal project will add a traffic signal for the intersection of Happy Jack/Missile Drive/FEW Gate 2; Pavement marking project around town such as, crosswalks, lane markings etc.; Epoxy striping; I-25 markings from the state line northward; BNSF crossing improvements.; I-80 and U.S. 85 drainage improvement; Yellowstone & Four Mile Rd. intersection signal; and the LCCC pedestrian underpass design and environmental work.

Cheyenne Transit Program is working on relocating the Transfer Station. The final line item is for the purchase of a lot and building to house CTP operations.

Mr. DeHoff expressed gratitude to Walt and Bryan from FHWA for working with everyone to bring it to their attention. Also, to Mr. Mason at the MPO for being so responsive by getting the Interim Plan written and ready for adoption so quickly. Lastly, Mr. DeHoff thanked WYDOT, i.e., Mr. Morton for getting the projects together quickly.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ash, and Mr. DeHoff seconded. Motion passes.

- **Discussion and approval of an amendment to the *Existing Functional Classification Map***

Mr. Mason reminded the committee that at their last meeting there was discussion regarding Carla and Jackson, two east/west roads that together run from Hilltop Rd. in Buffalo Ridge to College Dr. They are classified as minor collectors, but function more like local streets.

Today's proposal is to change the classification of these streets to locals so that a development can provide residential access on Jackson. Charles Bloom explained that when the Alliance Addition preliminary plat northwest corner of Jackson and Ridge Rd. came forth for review, the subject of access was a concern because the current classification would not allow it. After traffic counts were performed by the MPO staff, the numbers on Jackson did not meet the warrant for a minor collector status. The Planning Commission and Council have approved the change with a caveat that if it is not downgraded to a local, they cannot have access to Jackson. The MPO Technical Committee has recommended the change as well.

Commissioner Ash moved to approve. Mr. DeHoff seconded, and the motion was approved. Mr. Mason stated that he has a signature block for the chair to sign after the meeting.

- **Update and approval of MPO Technical Committee Membership**

Mr. Mason handed out the list of proposed Tech Committee members. There are some new members and a couple of categories still needing to be filled. Tom Cobb is the new City Engineer. Laramie County added Paul Whalen and Molly Bennet. The representative for the trucking industry is Sally Stainbank from Lowe's. Tom suggested a new category could be added, an ADA representation. So, when he spoke to the Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities regarding input for *Connect 2045*, he asked Mary Richey to attend this meeting. This representative could be either Ms. Richey or Jarred Dixon. Also, the new trails planner is Jeanie Vetter.

Mayor Orr asked about the Union Pacific vacancy. Mr. Mason said that Sarah Thompson Cassidy used to be the representative. Mayor Orr believes we can find someone from the railroad staff that attend regular coordination meetings with engineering, and it is important to get a new RR rep on this committee.

Mr. DeHoff moved to approve the Tech Committee membership. Commissioner Ash, seconded. Motion passed.

- **Update on Planning Projects**

- a. *Whitney Plan***

We are encouraging Tom Cobb to finish the plan. He has only a little bit to do. Then the materials will be turned over to AVI to do their part. WYDOT is moving forward with the design and their recon of the corridor and this really needs to get done.

- b. *Municipal Complex Pedestrian Plan***

Mr. Mason reported that this plan has been put on hold for almost a year because the Civic Center was doing an analysis for their building to upgrade the facility, remodel with modern improvements and make it ADA compliant. The Civic Center analysis is complete so the MPO consultants will coordinate with the Civic Center team, get public

input and finish the Plan and go forward to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Ash asked if it made sense to continue with the plan due to the fact that there has been discussion by Council and the Treasurer's Office to rehab or move the 40 year old plus City Municipal Building. There is a pro forma going on now for the Hynds building for Municipal Offices and talk of relocating the Civic Center by the Ice and Events Center. The current ½ block could be sold for downtown, high-rise residential. It was suggested to let the Consultants finish with their contract which is 2/3rds complete and wrap the project up.

c. Connect 2045 - Master Transportation Plan Update to Plan Cheyenne

Mr. Mason stated that the Plan is moving along. First public open house was held about a month and half ago. The MPO office is working on the technical work for the Travel Demand Forecast Model. Mr. DeHoff asked what the timeline was for completion. Mr. Russ said they were shooting for July or Aug. 2020.

• **Update on current and upcoming projects**

- a. City of Cheyenne* – Mayor Orr reported that the CIP is wrapping up. The LCCC connector is particularly exciting to her. Mr. Bay said the Christensen Railroad Overpass project should start up again the beginning of February. Evers Blvd. is about half done and will finish next year. Deming and 5th St. will be getting a bridge replacement. Traffic signal upgrades to be done at 24th and Pioneer. Reed Ave. Rail Corridor Design Project is slowed because of negotiations with the Railroad regarding the definition of the easement Right of Way limits. Mr. Russ interjected that over the last couple of weeks he and Wes have been meeting with a few major property owners on the Corridor and they are all excited about the project coming and are committed to bring it to fruition. The Dell Range to Whitney Rd. widening will happen within the next 3-4 years. Projects have been committed to be completed that are ahead of that. Mr. Morton asked for an update on the Frontier Mall/Prairie Ave. roundabout. Mr. Bay said the design was done to WYDOT specs and there has been push back by local contractors. Therefore, they are redoing the specs to include the City and WYDOT specifications. It will be out to bid early to mid-February. Yes, there will be a resubmittal to the TAP office at WYDOT.
- b. Laramie County* – Mr. Bumann reported since the last meeting the County has finished the rehab projects on Yellowstone and Venture Drive. The Dell Range and Whitney intersection, the U.S. 30 and Dell Range intersection, and Whitney from Dell Range to U.S. 30 have been put out to bid and they have selected the consultant. Recon report needs to be signed and then the design can begin.
- c. WYDOT* – Mr. Morton reported that 2020 will look like a “construction invasion” for Cheyenne. I-25 will be heavily impacted. Continuing with slab repair on I-80. I-25 bridge rehab at Missile Dr. Slab repair on Central and Warren at 8th Ave. College, Pershing and Lincolnway. BNSF bridge on Missile Dr. Chip seals for Pershing, Randall, Logan, Morrie, and Ridge Rd. the largest project in District #1 will be the I-80 stretch around Hillsdale getting an overlay and replace bridges. Mr. Morton also announced that on

January 16 is the public meeting at LCCC for the College Drive realignment and reconstruction. The recon for this project is scheduled for 2025.

Mr. Mason wanted to mention something about downtown traffic signals. He could not find any document that called for all poles and signals within the DDA area to be black. He believed it was an unwritten agreement and understanding. Mr. DeHoff said they would discuss this with the City as the time for replacement of the signals on WYDOT roads in the DDA nears.

Next meeting Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at the Mayor's Conference Room