

CHEYENNE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes Laramie County Library
Windflower Room
and Zoom
October 13, 2021



Attendees:	Barbara Boyd	in-person
	Rachel Meeker, Vice Chair	via Zoom
	Clay Muirhead, Chairman	via Zoom
	Boyd O. Wiggam	via Zoom
	Dawn Fiscus	via Zoom
	Kellie Johnson	in-person
Absent:	Gene Burchett	
Guest:	Nathan Silberhorn	Ayres Associates (in-person)
Staff:	Tom Mason	MPO Director
	Jillian Harris	Senior Planner
	Valerie Pickard	Office Manager

1. Approval of the June 9, 2021 minutes

Mr. Muirhead asked Vice Chair Rachel Meeker to chair the meeting. Called for approval of June 19th meeting minutes. Mr. Wiggam motioned to approve meeting minutes, Mr. Muirhead seconded. Motion passes.

2. Introductions: Introduction of Staff and Committee Members.

3. Election of Chairperson: Mr. Mason, the floor is open for nominations. Mrs. Meeker motioned to nominate Boyd Wiggam for chairperson. Mrs. Meeker motioned, Mrs. Boyd seconded, motion passes.

4. Discussion and Approval of Converse Plan by Ayers Associates.

Mr. Silberhorn gave a presentation of the Converse Plan. The project consulting team was Ayres and Summit Engineering. The scope of the project was to study Converse north from Dell Range to Carlson. The plan included evaluate safety, improve intersection design, evaluate access management, enhance and improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. During the plan development the following was studied:

1) Review of existing conditions: lane continuity and Dry Creek culvert;

2) Identify opportunities for improvement and mobility. Connectivity for pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles and truck traffic. There are 9 Study Evaluation Criteria: safety, traffic operation, speed management, pedestrian friendliness, connectivity, right of way impacts, drainage, cost and maintenance impacts;

- 3) Public involvement: direct public involvement, focus groups. Presentations to CAC, Technical, Planning Commission and City Governing Body;
- 4) Traffic Analysis: Existing and Future conditions, corridor templates (cross sections) and Intersection configurations. We are projecting to double the traffic volume in the next 25 years;
- 5) Develop Improvement options, 3-lane with continuous left turn lane, shoulders raised median and tree lawn, second option is 4-lane divided road. We looked at signalized intersections at Mason Way, Point Bluff and Carlson. Also looked at roundabouts at Mason Way, Point Bluff and Carlson.
- 6 Evaluate Improvement options; Pros & Cons of 3 vs 4 lane options. Dell Range modifications, widen right turn radius in northeast. Access management to business and Grandview and Briarwood Lane. Connection at Plainview, Pattison or Apache.
- 7 Preliminary recommendations of a modified 3 lane template, signal at Mason Way and Point Bluff (at some point in the future) We recommend a roundabout at Carlson, and close cul-de-sac at Briarwood Lane, prohibit left turns southbound to business access. Extend greenway south to Mason Way on the west edge of Converse. Construct crosswalks at Carlson, Point Bluff and Mason Way. East-West extension to Converse. Presentation of modified 5-lane divided roadway and modified 3-lane continuous left turn lane, and roundabout at Carlson;
- 8) Final recommendations same as preliminary plan, recommendations did not change.

Next steps are to present to committees for formal adoption process. City Engineer has concerns on the Dry Creek structure replacement due to current conditions. Traffic Analysis will be under way with the City soon. City will need to complete final design, then construction. The City is hoping to construct Converse between the Greenway Bridge north to Mason Way and include the Dry Creek structure in 2023, and the rest of Converse on a later date.

Questions:

Mrs. Meeker; could you clarify the 35% project.

Mr. Mason clarifies that the MPO Planning dollars allows for up to 35% design, or preliminary engineering to be in the MPO's plans, then City or County Engineering proceeds to final design.

Mrs. Meeker; preliminary recommendations construction cost is just under \$11 million and appreciates the well put together report.

Mr. Silberhorn, cost estimate clarified that in June cost estimates were \$10 million which includes inflation for when the project starts in 2023. \$11 million now includes replacing the Dry Creek culvert.

Mr. Wiggam; clarification on Dry Creek ditch, does this reduce the capacity of water/drainage.

Mr. Silberhorn, we are not getting into the details of flood plains at the 35% plan. With development upstream, water should be diverted before reaching Dry Creek. Pipe system will be designed to accommodate today's flows.

Mr. Wiggam; At what point would we know when we find out more about the east-west connection.

Mr. Mason; There is still a lot to work out with developers and property owners, We will continue to watch this area as the area develops.

Mr. Silberhorn; Any of those connections will help intersection operations. This will largely be a decision that will be based on negotiations and agreements between developments and not primarily a traffic issue as all the proposed options work.

Mr. Mason; My first choice would be Plainview, second choice would be the Red Alignment (Pattison Ave). This morning at the Technical Committee it was discussed to connect the on-street bike lanes and add a 10' sidewalk from Sheridan to pedestrian crosswalk at Mason Way.

Mrs. Harris; This ties into Boyd's question, this is a 35% plan and additional data will need to be researched, language added to include this plan is fluid and the options need to be flexible in order to move into the design process.

Mr. Muirhead; How much of this plan will proceed to final?

Mr. Mason; There has been a lot of work that has gone into this plan we will go to Planning Commission on Monday to adopt the plan. There is an expectation that the details of this plan will move forward into final design, and there is always an expectation that there will be some modifications as the plan moves through final design. Then there is a public process where citizens can follow the design and ask questions.

Mr. Silberhorn; This is a preliminary exhibit that was presented in May, the actual design plan sheets are in the report in appendix A page 49-60. The right of way impacts at the Dell Range Intersection were not modeled when we put the plans preliminary design together.

Mr. Mason; Are there any final comments? We are looking for a motion to recommend the plan to the Policy Committee.

Mrs. Meeker; With the detail of the budget and supporting information concerning the budget information is helpful in these committees. Great job. Do I have a motion to approve?

Mr. Muirhead moves to approve the plan to the Policy Committee, seconded by Mr. Wiggam. Motion passes.

5. Laramie County Library Smithsonian Project

Mrs. Johnson: Smithsonian traveling exhibit; Mid-December through January. The exhibit is 'Crossroads of Rural America, the past and moving forward'. Mrs. Johnson presents slides to introduce the concept. Might have program how your average citizen can impact land usage? Speakers from this committee and possibly other offices city/state/county entities? What are your thoughts?

Mrs. Meeker; I think the panel idea is great, our State Auditor has land ties and the Lummis' Sweetgrass subdivision near LCCC – Mixed use.

Mrs. Harris; Recommend contact local/indigenous people/tribal. Is the Smithsonian providing any funding? Might bring in a well-known speaker for a whole program.

Mr. Mason; This is a great opportunity to have a series of conversations. A citizen planners' perspective. Citizens Advisory Committee. Having Planners from City Planning and Development as well as County Planning processes in working with Developers to bring their projects to fruition. From the MPO perspective, how road projects along with land development gets planned from the beginning. There is an organization out of UW Ruckelshaus Institute, land use and landowners' perspective – protect the land and development properly.

Mrs. Johnson; Community slide: WE are talking about how our community grows. Sustaining Communities

Mrs. Harris suggestion for cultural foods and decorations

Mr. Wiggam; Is there any other place that is a better example for 'Crossroads' than Cheyenne? If we are talking about rural relationship with the land, we are the product of being the crossroads of access to and relationship to the land. What was once rural is now more urban, we have a fantastic opportunity here and how that has shaped our community.

Mrs. Johnson & Mrs. Harris; Boyd would be a great M.C. for this event!

Mrs. Johnson; What would be the next logical step?

Mr. Mason; Let me take the concept to the City Planning Director and we can help you plan this.

Mrs. Harris; Since this exhibit is looking at the past and present, we could ask the State demographer to speak and add to the panel.

Mrs. Johnson; History of 'Johnson County Wars'. Thank you for your support with this.

Update on MPO Planning Projects

1. East Park Greenway and Drainage Plan

Mrs. Harris; we have been working on getting the UPRR to give us their blessing to build drainage pipes to relieve drainage. Unfortunately, we have not received approval yet from UPRR, we are working with City staff and consultant on East Park Plan to put out public outreach.

Mr. Mason; The City's Mayor is in communication with UPRR about this plan, we are making headway.

Walterscheid Blvd Plan, Mrs. Harris; In June we had our 2nd public meeting, shortly after that meeting that the City Engineer reached out to the MPO and asked if we would do a contract amendment to include an Intersection analysis at Fox Farm and Walterscheid. We are in the process of getting that contract amendment approved. This addition will extend project by about 3 months.

2. East Pershing Blvd Plan

Mr. Mason; This is looking at East Pershing from Lincolnway (US30) to Christensen Rd. Y2 consultants in conjunction with Western R&D are hired to perform this. They are in their data collection mode; we are looking at having our first public meeting in November.

3. Transit Development Plan

Mrs. Harris; The MPO does do a TDP about every 5 years, we are 3 years overdue. This plan will not use previous studies and will start from scratch. This will look at fixed route vs. hybrid service, what sort of technology we can integrate into our system and transit centers. Issued an RFP and interviews all 3 and selected LSC Consultants of Colorado Springs. Meeting set tomorrow morning will have a better idea of how we move forward. The plan will take about a year to complete and include to the public outreach.

Mr. Wiggam; When will we have goal identification? Is there any chance that this plan looks at the lens of maximizing ridership or supporting higher densities or those with limited mobility? If this program is going to serve an urbanizing community, then we should have listed in our goals increasing ridership.

Mrs. Harris; your thoughts align with our original discussion with the TDP. We decided that it was critical that we have a decision in what direction we go in. I am glad that you bring that up.

Mrs. Meeker; The proposal is on the MPO website along with the 2013 TDP.

Other Business

Mr. Mason; Two projects approved in our budget for this year, one corridor plan is Van Buren from Dell Range south to US 30, with Whitney Ranch building we should look at this. Secondly, another project is looking at the need for transit from the Front Range to Cheyenne. This plan will look at transit feasibility and is funded four ways by CDOT, WYDOT, Cheyenne MPO and the North Front Range MPO.

Most likely will not be another meeting this calendar year.

Mr. Mason; We have an announcement that Nancy Olson has retired and we have Valerie Pickard here with us today.

Mr. Wiggam; I have looked over the special purpose ballot, which bear directly on MPO projects?

Mr. Mason; Number one; anything with Greenway Projects including Propositions 7 & 8. The other project is the Division Ave and Wallick Rd south of College Drive, that is a plan we did and would be looking for the funding to build it.

Possible January 12th as next meeting.

Discussion and looking at 6th Penny Ballots.

Mrs. Meeker adjourned the meeting. Motion passes.