

Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Committee Meeting

December 6, 2023

Mayors Conference Room



Attendance:

Voting Members:

Patrick Collins
Linda Heath
Ralph Tarango

City of Cheyenne, Mayor, Chair
Laramie Co. Commissioner, Vice-Chair
WYDOT, District Engineer (Zoom)

Non-Voting Members:

Molly Bennett
Charles Bloom
Tom Cobb
Juli Monahan - Absent
Mark Wingate
Justin Arnold

Laramie County Public Works
City Planning & Development
City Engineer
WYDOT Planning
WYDOT State Planning Engineer
Laramie County Planning

Staff:

Jeff Noffsinger
Ginni Stevens
Christopher Yaney
Valerie Pickard
Stefanie Boster

MPO Director
MPO Senior Transportation Planner
MPO Transportation Planner
Office Manager
City Attorney

Guests: Bloom,

Tom Mason, Richard Duran, Mark Wingate, Molly Bennett, Charles

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes, motion to approve both august and sept moved by Tarango, seconded by Heath
3. Approval of Annual Report FY '23
Mayor East Pershing Plan dates corrections. Motion to approve by Heath seconded by Tarango. This will be forwarded to FHWA and WYDOT for final approval
4. Approval of Van Buren Avenue Corridor Study
Noffsinger: Van Buren Study, this is the final step in the approval process.
Mayor: There were some questions about the southern crosswalk, but those questions have been answered. Motion to approve by Tarango, seconded by Heath.
Mayor: Temporary mini roundabouts
Bennett: I really appreciate the consolidation of the presentations.
Cobb: It is very expensive to have multiple meetings, this saves time and I really appreciate the change.
5. Approval Powderhouse Avenue Corridor Plan

Noffsinger: approved by all committees and Boards

Mayor: Sounds like there were concerns about the roundabout on the north end

Bennett: We will need to acquire some ROW corners.

Mayor: Commissioner Heath, will we see this plan on your next 6th Penny?

Bennett: I don't expect that we will.

Mayor: Will the City see this on the next 6th Penny

Cobb: Yes, I expect to portions of this on the next 6th Penny

Cobb: A signal will go out to bid on Powderhouse and Carlson, and reconfigure the stripping.

Mayor: I have a concern about the curb going out to the

There is no room for a bike lane, we will

Moved by Heath, seconded by Tarango. Motion passes.

6. Approval of High Plains Railroad Overpass Contract

Noffsinger: This just came in this morning. We have been working with Olsson and they have developed a fee and plan for us. Budgeted 83k for the overpass and the roundabout, proposal came in at 165k. Solution is to postpone our West Crow Creek study, I have spoken with Betsy Hale at LEADS, would add an additional 30k for the local match and the City/County would not have to pay their local match. I propose that we conditionally approve this.

Mayor: We will table this for now.

Noffsinger: I will send this over to Juli at WYDOT and also send to Wes in the Engineering office.

7. Safe Routes to Schools Update

Stevens: We have been working with the consultant on this project with a lot of public outreach. Our public open houses were right before Thanksgiving. We received a lot of feedback in-person as well as a digital survey. Survey closed this Friday. The consultants were doing safety audits during the days at the schools.

Mayor: Were any of the open houses recorded?

Stevens: No, they were very interactive with those that attended.

Cobb: Leadership Cheyenne has some funding opportunities to help us with this plan. We have already added some signs at schools.

Tarango: What was the attendance at the open houses?

Stevens: about 15-20 per open house.

8. Southwest Drive Corridor Study Update

Noffsinger: We had a open house at the animal shelter, we are looking to shift the alignment of Southwest to Broken Arrow. We received feedback from residents. The consultant is doing 35% design plans and the public meeting presentations.

Mayor: How far does that move the intersection?

Yaney: About 800 feet.

West Crow Creek Greenway

Stevens: We had a kick off with our and went out to look at the area. What alternatives are feasible and realistic We are planning to have a public open house in January.

Noffsinger: One of the alternatives is to go north in to the AFB property. It would be a nice connection for the Base.

Mayor: I would like to see the greenway extend for military personel to Lions Park

County Road impact Fee Study

Noffsinger: We are working with TishclerBise as a consultant. Molly was thinking that it would be more for maintenance of County Roads, but the fees are going

Bennett: As we got into this project, and reviewing the State Statutes

Heath:

Noffsinger, Yes, I think the intent is to discuss if this is beneficial or should be ask the consultant to stop work.

Bennett: There are requirements on how to use the funds.

Mayor: So it might not be worth it. Let's ask the consultant to pause.

9. Director's Report

a. Mayor's Passenger Rail Coalition

Noffsinger: There is a lot of things happening with passenger rail. I just learned that the rail corridor was approved from Federal Rail to have a route from Cheyenne to Trinidad, CO has been approved. Our local coalition is looking on how to expand the rail to Cheyenne. Also, made a connection with All Aboard Rail Northwest, and I hope to get him in for an interview.

Bloom: AARN would have 2 routes through Cheyenne, one along I80 and one through Casper and up to Montana.

b. Traffic Counts

Yaney: Annual traffic counts, I collect 400 traffic counts each year since I started in 2019. Decline during COVID. There has only been a .33% increase in our traffic in Cheyenne. Possibly due to people working from home and early retirement for workers.

c. Complete Streets

Noffsinger: We have been working on this over the past few months. We are required to spend 2.5% of our budget on this. We are sending out this document for reviews. We would like to present this document to the public early next year.

d. The Peanut!

Noffsinger: This idea came out of our West Creek Greenway walk. There was a study for missile Dr in 2010. We have a double roundabout proposed for the area.

e. City/County Assistance

Noffsinger: As we move forward, I see some opportunities to change some things. We are limited in what we can do with our funds. We have the technical expertise to help with City/County work. Just planting seeds as we look at next years budget.

Bennett: We thought about some project management, public interface, traffic counts

Noffsinger: Some of the smaller projects we can do in house to save money.

Cobb: I would like to budget for about 5% of Mr. Yaney's salary.

Tarango: I would like to talk with our Planning Dept to make sure that the funds are being spent correctly.

Bloom: We are looking to have the greenway counts moved under the purview of the MPO.

10. Other Business

Next Meeting March 20, 2024 at 3:00 at County Commissioner's Conference Room

Meeting adjourned. 4:20 pm