

Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Committee Meeting
August 24, 2023
Laramie County Commissioners 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 (Wes Bay)
Richard Duran
Kevin Erickson
Ed Fritz
Tim Morton
Juli Monahan
Vicki Nemecek
Brenden Schaefer
Wayne Shenefelt
Ryan Shields

Laramie County Public Works
City Planning & Development
City Engineer
FHWA Community Planner
WYDOT Resident Engineer
WYDOT Systems Planning
WYDOT Maintenance Engineer
WYDOT Planning
City Public Works
WYDOT Systems Planning Engineer
WYDOT Resident Engineer
WYDOT Construction Engineer

Staff:

Jeff Noffsinger
Valerie Pickard
Ginni Stevens
Christopher Yaney
(Zoom)

MPO Director
MPO Office Manager
MPO Senior Transportation Planner
MPO Senior Transportation Planning Tech

Guests:

1) Approval of the June 15 and June 30, 2023, minutes

Move to approve June 15th minutes by Tarango, seconded by Heath.

2) Discussion of the Unified Planning Work Program FY '24

Noffsinger gave an overview of our UPWP showing proposed projects and costs associated with them.

Yaney discussed traffic counts contract, cost not to exceed 37k contract services with Kimley Horn, we need to do a renewal of 15k for this next year.

Noffsinger: I met with Betsy Hale from LEADS to discuss the effect on the southside of town due to project Cosmo. Also, a study of having an Amtrak or transportation hub on the south side. Tarango: are we looking at a comprehensive study of this area? Cosmo will change this area drastically.

Noffsinger: We are looking at a collaboration from LEADS and the Business Council.

Stevens: Complete Streets planning document, these would be best practices for consultants to use.

Noffsinger: Update to Connect 2045, this needs to be updated every 5 years. Our hope is to do this in-house. Henderson Greenway from Windmill to Nationway, this has been on the list for a long time and would make greenway connections and a safer route.

Collins: I have a concern with safety of the underpass and flooding issues. A high priority would be High Plains and the Amtrak station.

Bennett: East Allison to US85, conversation about a connection to Roundtop would be a higher priority. Our impact fee study is coming.

Noffsinger: East Allison, is that for 35% plans? This is a rollover from last year. We need to talk about an RFP for the design.

Bloom: I would recommend an early September work session with a final for vote the end of September.

3) Approval of the West Crow Creek Greenway Contract

Stevens: This is the last remaining original Greenway section. Ayers was selected as the consultant; this contract is for 134k.

Collins: Exhibit A I like all the open house meetings but am concerned about what the grade separated crossings. Do we need additional right of way?

Motion to approve by Heath, seconded by Tarango. Motion passes.

4) Approval of Laramie County Roads Impact Fee Study Agreement

Yaney: we put out an RFQ, we received 1 application. The consultant met the qualifications will take about a year to complete and the cost is not to exceed \$97,840.00.

Bennett: the intention is to take this to the Commissioners and implement Impact fees that are assessed for revenue.

Collins: you are going to be asking developers for additional funds, but I don't see a lot of public outreach for this contract. Could be beneficial to have some meeting with developers to explain why we are doing this.

Tarango: would there be an opportunity to revise the contract to include public engagement?

Bloom: TischlerBice is going to be looking at a lot of this data, their priority is not going to be public outreach. I think staff can bring this before the public and can be implanted in stages.

Motion to approve by Tarango, seconded by Heath. Motion passes.

5) Update on other MPO Planning Projects

a) Southwest Drive

Noffsinger: Steering committee meeting was held last week with Benchmark Engineering, discussion of alignment of the road and intersection with College Dr.

Yaney: Southwest Dr and Lincolnway railroad crossing, a range of 40-60 trains cross here daily. The crossing closures are 37-40 times. Longest closure was an hour and a half. Totaling 5-8 hours per day.

Heath: it's a natural location for industrial business. I would like to see the realignment to Broken Arrow.

Tarango: I would like to see Broken Arrow used as well.

Bloom: CFD Parking, this is the old parking on the old AFB golf course, and to build a pedestrian bridge over I-25.

Collins: we have a lot of official steps to go through, it would be difficult to get this parking done by the next rodeo.

b) Safe Routes to School Plan

Stevens: we have a signed contract and received a notice to proceed. The consultant is Stantec.

c) Powderhouse Corridor Study

Stevens: the plan is in final stages. The next Technical and Citizens meeting we will present this final plan.

d) Van Buren Corridor Study

Stevens: we just received its final plan draft, and we are collecting comments. The next Technical and Citizens meeting we will present this final plan. This plan suggests a mini roundabout in front of Dildine.

6) Other Business

Noffsinger: looking to review bylaws for all 3 committees and a review of the master agreement.

New member for the Citizen's Committee, Jane Smith.

Collins: could you send us the application so we could review and make a decision at our next meeting.

Noffsinger: Juli can speak to the Urban systems, and how the MPO serves a role in those funds.

Monahan: WYDOT sets aside 5.7 million construction dollars to set aside for the 16 communities get annually. The Policy Committee sets the projects. The current project is US30 and Dell Range.

Tarango: how do we prioritized construction funds for the USAC committee?

Monahan: these funds use corporate bounds, the Casper MPO includes Bar Nunn, Mills and Evansville.

Noffsinger: Juli could you give us an update on roles and responsibilities of the MPO?

Monahan: two remaining items we talked about are not planning functions are pavement management and traffic counts are not considered planning dollars. These should go through Engineering.

Next Meeting TBD

Muchado: we have grants coming down the pipeline one for complete streets of 50k so please apply for these.

Meeting adjourned 4:57 pm