

Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Committee Meeting
April 25, 2024
Mayor's Conference Room



Attendance:

Voting Members:	Patrick Collins Linda Heath Ralph Tarango	City of Cheyenne, Mayor, Chair Laramie Co. Commissioner, Vice-Chair WYDOT, District Engineer
Guests:	Molly Bennett Tom Cobb Juli Monahan Craig Lavoy (Vicki Nemecek) Ryan Shields Renee Smith Richard Duran John Poelma	Laramie County Public Works (Zoom) City Engineer WYDOT Planning City Public Works Director WYDOT Construction Engineer City of Cheyenne Grants FHWA (Zoom) Laramie County Public Works
Staff:	Jeff Noffsinger Valerie Pickard Christopher Yaney	MPO Director MPO Office Manager MPO Senior Transportation Planning Tech

1. Call to Order
2. [Approval of Minutes March 13, 2024](#) Motion to approve by Heath, seconded by Tarango, Motion passes.
3. [Passenger Rail Station Site Selection Study](#)
Noffsinger: This scope of work is before you for final authorization, Technical Committee reviewed the proposal and approved to move forward with the study. The amount will not exceed \$199,117.61. Motion to approve Heath seconded by Tarango. Motion passes.
4. [STP-U Sequencing List](#)
Noffsinger: Recommendation from Technical Committee to approve. There was discussion on item #1, High Plains Railroad Overpass. Moving forward, the city will be working with WYDOT to complete a recon report.
Mayor: Could you explain a recon report?
Tarango: We hire consultants or use our development team to show the scope of work on a project. You have to make sure that all the steps are in order, and having the railroad involved complicates things. They will review preliminary plans but not approve until final documents are complete. Andrea Allen can guide the MPO on how to move projects along. This will require FHWA approval as well.
Mayor: How long can it take to get a recon report?
Tarango: It could take around a month and it is about \$5-\$10k.

Cobb: Allen said she is looking to directly contract with a consultant. This would provide a detailed cost estimate for Betsey Hale at LEADS. There would be ICAP fees and a small match.

Mayor: No funds out of the STP-U for this? How do we pick a consultant.

Monahan: WYDOT will choose the consultant.

Collins: How does WYDOT get to pick the consultant if we are using City funds?

Monahan: WYDOT has a list of approved consultants, and the process will move much faster.

Mayor: That makes sense. Does this have to go through City Council?

Cobb: No, it is under the approval amount.

Motion for approval by Tarango, seconded by Heath. Motion passes.

5. [MOU with LEADS](#)

Not necessary now, hold for a later date.

6. [TIP 2024-2027 Amendment](#)

Noffsinger: Update on transit facility construction. The original estimate of \$250k was extremely low. Now that they have gone through the design process additional funding will be needed for the estimated \$2 million project.

Mayor: Do we know where that match will come from? Our budget?

LaVoy: We will be seeking grants for the funding.

Monahan: The dollar amounts are all under FY 2024, should it extend to 2025?

Mayor: This will carry over to FY25. Are there grants identified?

LaVoy: Yes.

Motion to approve amendment to the TIP. Motion by Heath, seconded by Tarango. Motion passes.

7. [Director's Report](#)

▪ Southwest Drive Update

Noffsinger gave an update on the adoption process. The MPO will have another public meeting on May 2nd. Future road construction will most likely be developer driven.

Mayor: Was there any WYDOT representative there?

Noffsinger: Taylor McCort was present at the last two neighborhood meetings.

Bloom: Broken Arrow is a minor collector to the north of College Drive and as a major collector to the south.

Mayor: Did the Planning Commission not want to vote on this?

Noffsinger: The first meeting got into the weeds on the intent of the project, so it was postponed. The second meeting the neighborhood appeared with a lot of misinformation. It was recognized that another neighborhood meeting was necessary to explain the project to the residents and allow the opportunity to ask questions.

▪ East Allison Corridor Study

Noffsinger: The MPO has been working on this study in house. The project is studying the corridor from South Greeley Highway to College Drive. A neighborhood meeting is scheduled on May 14 to get input from the neighbors.

Mayor: Have we had conversations with the landowners?

Noffsinger: This will be the start of conversations.

Collins: Will we need to purchase ROW?

Yaney: ROW varies on the corridor. We could probably get it to fit on the 50' ROW but we have limitations on the power poles on both sides of the street. ROW will be required to make the connection to Niobrara Energy Park.

Bloom: As part of the Niobrara Energy Park, they have a cash-in-lieu to connect the Greenway.

Noffsinger: Greenway coordination will be part of the planning process.

Collins: Molly, do you have anything since this is a County project?

Bennett: We have 6th Penny for East Allison. The section between College and Avenue C out to bid for full design, then full construction. Possibly start construction next summer.

- Grant Applications – SS4A, CRISI and ATIIP

Noffsinger: SS4A – Safe Street for All. The application was submitted, for a \$200,000 grant to complete a Comprehensive Action Safety Plan. The grant requires a \$50,000 local match, which has been committed by the city and county. We are waiting to hear if we were awarded the grant.

Noffsinger: CRISI for rail infrastructure. After speaking with FRA directly they discouraged us not to apply as we would not score very high. Rather, they suggested to submit an application to Corridor ID program in FY 25 to extend to extend the corridor from Colorado north to Cheyenne.

Noffsinger: We have the MOU with the Front Range Passenger Rail District. I will be speaking to their planning committee on May 8th. They will determine at their executive meeting if they are going to take this to the Colorado voters for taxation.

Noffsinger: ATIIP – Alternative Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program. We are looking at connecting gaps in our bike and pedestrian sidewalk system. We have identified the Henderson Greenway as a candidate. It is estimated to cost \$150k for a planning study.

Collins: Are we missing any gaps in the County?

Bloom: Division between Project Cosmo and the Allison Draw.

Bennett: We are looking to put together a list of these projects. The Greenway Advisory Committee is looking at this as well.

- [MPO Planning Area](#)

Noffsinger: We are looking at extending the MPO boundary. The proposal was presented to Technical Committee, and they recommended expansion west of the Air Force Base, extending along Happy Jack Road and to Boundary Rd on the west then south along County Road to the state line to include the Belvoir Ranch. Also, the Technical Committee recommended including the southeast side of Cheyenne to include the EOG property and Chalk Bluff Road to the state line. It is unclear whether the approval process requires Governor authorization.

Collins: Would FHWA have any requirements if we expand the MPO boundary?

Duran: I am not aware of any. I just did this with the City of Richmond VA, I can look back at the process with them.

Collins: We have companies that are looking for a place to put alternative energy out at the Belvoir.

Bloom: We are looking at possible future arterial road to connect Otto Rd to High Plains Road.

Duran: I will put together a procedure list and email it to you all.

A final decision will be made at the next meeting.

8. Other Business:

Noffsinger: We will have a neighborhood meeting on May 16th at the Public Library on West Crow Creek.

Richard Duran from FHWA indicated Carlos is on leave and Jeff Cunningham is the acting division manager.

Next Meeting – June 12th at 3:30 Mayor's Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 4:43pm.

DRAFT