

Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Committee Meeting

June 12, 2024

Mayor's Conference Room



Attendance:

Voting Members:

Patrick Collins

Linda Heath

Ryan Shields (Ralph Tarango)

City of Cheyenne, Mayor, Chair

Laramie Co. Commissioner, Vice-Chair

WYDOT District Construction Engineer

Guests:

Molly Bennett

Tom Cobb

Juli Monahan

Vicki Nemecek

Ryan Shields

Brenden Schaefer

Renee Smith

Richard Duran

Josh Jefferson

Pamela Cypher

Kemille Dixon

John Poelma

Ben Weaver

Jill Rosselott

Joe Polacek

Joanne Cho

Paul Belotti

Liz Albers

Laramie County Public Works

City Engineer

WYDOT Planning

City Public Works Director

WYDOT District Construction Engineer

WYDOT Systems Planning Engineer

City of Cheyenne Grants

FHWA

FHWA

FHWA

FHWA

Laramie County Public Works

Stantec

Stantec

Stantec

Stantec

City Project Manager

American Heart Association

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 April 25, 2024

Shields: Funding for the recon report for High Plains, clarification to minutes where the funding is coming from. Motion to approve as amended by Heath, seconded by Shields.

3. Safe Routes to School – Consultant Presentation

Weaver: Gave a presentation on the Safe Routes to School Plan. Draft plan to be completed in July/August.

a. Ben Weaver gave an introduction on the Safe Routes to School Plan.

b. Joanne Cho gave an update on initial parent/guardian concerns, and high-level recommendations.

- c. Joe Polacek presented best practices for achieving the recommendations.
Draft for your review, open houses in September and then a final document.
Mayor: What funding sources are we able to seek?
Weaver: The completion of this is a little off of funding schedules, but you should be able to apply for the next grant cycle in the spring.
Mayor: Juli, have we found other grants for this?
Monahan: I am not aware of any.
Noffsinger: The SS4A grant application could be used in tandem with this and make us eligible for funding next year.

4. TIP 2024-2027 Amendment

Noffsinger: We are amending the TIP, we have updated costs and projects. This has County and WYDOT amendments. Identifying where funding will come from for these projects.

Bennett: The County updates are to incorporate our 6th Penny projects within the TIP.

Cobb: No updates, during the Tech Committee we discussed the College & Dell Range intersection and go out for a federal grant for this. But it will not be for this cycle.

Shields: The updates are for updated costs and reorganizing the priorities.

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

5. MPO Planning Area

Noffsinger: The Governors office will direct the WYDOT Director to amending the MPO boundary, first approved by MPO Policy Committee, then to WYDOT Director for approval.

Motion to approve by Heath, seconded by Shields. Motion carried.

6. Connect 2045 Update

Noffsinger: This is required to be updated every 5 years. We propose to do this in-house with the help of Kimley Horn to run the traffic models. Technical Committee today had recommendations for some more specifics on the tasks and who would complete those, who is doing what. We feel like we can narrow that scope and where we need to outsource.

Bennett: The conversation this morning was more of a collaboration, where the consultant would be the project manager, and then MPO Staff would assist. The motion is to update the scope of work and designate what is going to be done by the consultant and what is going to be done by staff. Then bring that to Technical Committee.

Mayor: I am hearing that the MPO Staff would like to be the 'General' on this and have the consultant support the work. The Technical Committee would like to have the consultant be the 'General' and the MPO Staff would support.

Bennett: Yes, this is the general consensus in the room.

Cobb: It is very important to have a 3rd party review of this, from the public standpoint the consultant can run those public meetings and take the heat.

Shields: We need clarification on this project.

Monahan: There was a conversation that this is not really an update, but a standalone document.

Mayor: Are we alright with have a collaboration between Kimley Horn and the MPO Staff?

Duran: FHWA is alright with moving forward with the way things are set up now.

Mayor: This needs to be consultant driven.

7. Director's Report

Noffsinger: Southwest Drive failed at Planning Commission.

East Allison Road Corridor Study, this is an in-house project. We will meet tomorrow with the County. We had a survey and a public meeting on this and will turn over to the County upon completion.

Mayor: Will the County be able to fund this project?

Bennett: I hope that we can have funding on this project.

Passenger Rail, we have an approved MOU with Front Range Passenger Rail. Ballot initiative was postponed until 2026. Council approved the site selection study on Monday.

Mayor: Are the lines that are currently running getting a good ridership?

Noffsinger: It depends on where you are, the east coast is doing well. Long distance rail routes Congress would fund, anything shorter and the States would have to pick up the funding.

County Road Impact Fee Study: We are expecting a draft from our consultants soon. The consultants will be making a presentation on July 1st at County Commissioners meeting.

Bennett: There is a different breakdown for each use. The fees will be used for capacity improvements. Our rough numbers we are looking at 300k a year. We are looking at presenting to the County Commissioners and get an idea of the route we want to go.

Mayor: How is the EnBridge, are you making progress?

Bennett: We are in negotiations with them, we have two options one, that we provide 2.5million to them and have them build the road, or they pay us 10 million and we manage the construction ourselves.

EV Charging Station: We are looking at locations for these, we have started a draft report. We have had discussions with Black Hill Energy on costs and how to get power to the sites. Applications for funding are due August 28th.

Heath: How many charging stations do you estimate that Cheyenne needs?

Noffsinger: We are looking at one Downtown that is a level 2 and looking at locations within 1 mile of the Interstates.

SS4A, we were awarded 200k with a match from the City and County. I am meeting with Richard Duran tomorrow to discuss next steps. We would like to get a consultant on board so that we can start with the next funding cycle.

Heath: Several years ago, there was a Fox Farm/South Greeley plan, has that been taken off the list? What happened to that plan?

Cobb: We are going out to RFP for Walterschied and Fox Farm intersection, we are going to install a roundabout there.

Noffsinger: This plan was stopped by the business owners in the area.

ATIIP: We do not have the resources for this, we can try next year.

Flex Funding: After working through this with Richard Duran, we are not able to use these funds.

Budget update: We received updated numbers from Juli, we have about 293k remaining. New funding will be about 1.1 million. About 339k will be used for planning related projects. If we decide to hire a consultant for the Connect2050 update, we will not have much money left over for planning projects.

Staffing: We advertised on the City website, and other professional sites. I don't believe that it is necessary to fill this position now.

Schaefer: I think you will need to fill this position.

Master Agreement

Monahan: We have some concerns with the rewrite on this.

Schaefer: We have some red flags and have our supervisors reviewing the document.

8. Update on Local Construction Projects

- City of Cheyenne – Cobb: We are very busy; we did get the College Dr regional detention pond plans in and should be advertising next week. Carlson and Powderhouse intersection, we expect to be done before school starts. HAWK Systems proceeding quickly. The Van Buren storm drainage is ahead of schedule. VA and cemetery road improvements. Paul Smith way is going to be delayed, completion by October this year. Pedestrian overpass at Norris viaduct. All maintenance projects are out now.
- Laramie County Bennett: Our big project is County Road 142 is under construction, we have Simon under contract for this project. Archer Parkway, Knife River has been awarded this project. East Jefferson should go out to bid this fall. Division and Wallick design; we are working with HDR.
- WYDOT: US 30 project is going well. I-80 concrete slab repair. College Drive between the interstate and US 85. Concrete slab repair on Central. Chip seal on Bishop Blvd, and S. Greeley Hwy south of College Dr. Overlay on Roundtop Road is complete. Overhead warning system on I-80 and road closure gates on I-25.

9. LCSD: Signal is going up at Carlson, should be up before school starts.

10. Other Business Next Meeting – TBD at 3:30 in the County Commissioner’s Conference Room.

Duran: Made introductions of his team.
Meeting adjourned at 4:53pm.