

Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization

Citizens Advisory Committee

February 12, 2025

6:00 pm

Council Conference Room 208



Attendance:

Voting Members:

C.J. Brown	Zoom
Leif Paulson	Zoom
Barbara Boyd	Zoom
Boyd Wiggam -Chair	Zoom

Guests:

Mary Karlsson of Quandel	Consultant
Randy Grauberger of Quandel	Consultant

Staff:

Christopher Yaney	MPO Director
Jennifer Corso	MPO GIS Coordinator
Athen Mores	MPO Planner & Transportation

1. **Call to Order-** Boyd Wiggam (Chair) to call the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes from 11/06/24- Boyd Wiggam

CJ Brown moved to approve the previous minutes with corrections. A second was made by Leif Paulson. The motion was approved by all members voting yes.

3. Passenger Rail Site Selection – Presentation by Quandel. *Plan is moving forward. This project is scheduled to be completed by 2025.*

Christopher Yaney discussed the consultant (Qunadel) that has been hired to do a study for the passenger rail site selection. The consultants Mary Karlsson and Randy Grauberger were on the call and had a presentation ready for the committee. *(Presentation will be attached to minutes)*

Mary Karlsson and Randy Grauberger gave a presentation of the draft recommendations to the committee. Questions will be asked throughout the presentation. The study focuses on locations for a passenger rail system in Cheyenne, Wyoming that would be an extension from the passenger rail in Colorado.

Boyd Wiggam asked about the feedback they received from stakeholders that weren't part of the last presentation.

Mary Karlsson stated that NSF wanted stations to be on separate tracks and that they require a 15ft access road on the west side of their tracks and the reed avenue corridor. UP has operating rights on the tracks and Reed Corridor, so coordination needs to be made with them. Amtrak stated the platform length needs to be 16 feet long and 15 feet wide for specs for the platform area. Building materials were implemented into the costs of these platforms. Snow removal was discussed about the railroad and was also incorporated into the cost estimate.

Mary Karlsson continued with the presentation and information on each location.

Leif Paulson asked about space for luggage and bags, he also brought up the parking lot and enforced a security measure for people.

Mary Karlsson stated yes, those were included in the cost estimate.

CJ Brown asked if it was fenced or exposed?

Mary Karlsson stated it was not fenced but staffed and under video surveillance.

CJ Brown asked about snow removal for the parking lot.

Mary Karlsson stated that the parking did not include snow removal, but the station area has heated surfaces to aid in melting the snow.

CJ Brown asked about alternatives to an elevator.

Mary Karlsson answered they have stairs, and a ramp.

Boyd Wiggam asked what was currently present in the project site.

Mary Karlsson answered that the lot was vacant.

Boyd Wiggam asked about the requirement for the Grant Avenue extension and the requirement closure of old Happy Jack for completion.

Mary Karlsson answered that it doesn't require those, they were assumed because the city asked them to.

The presentation continued from Mary Karlsson.

Boyd Wiggam responded to the presentation stating that due to this location of this project, and it being a bit out of town.

Leif Paulson disagreed with Boyd Wiggams statement.

CJ Brown added that he is in between the two of them and can see both sides of their opinions, and gave his reasoning for the site, and to look at parts of Cheyenne that is growing. He believes in if you build it, they will come.

Barabara Boyd asked how close this was to MLK park.

Mary Karlsson answered it was roughly a quarter of a mile away.

Chrostopher Yaney went over the map to the chair and showed where MLK park was shown on the map. He also discussed new developments occurring and alternative routes from the station.

Mary Karlsson continued with the presentation and moved onto the Reed Avenue Corridor site.

CJ Brown asked about asbestos and other cleanup with the building, would this affect the cost.

Christopher Yaney answered that it will cost 9.4 million to refurbish that area.

Mary Karlsson proceeded with the presentation.

Boyd Wiggam asked about an opportunity to remit a brownfield might open the doors to funding that might not exist.

Christopher Yaney answered that if the city were to get a grant it would help with private industry or contractors to help with refurbishments.

Boyd Wiggam followed up with would placement of passenger rail station make qualification for brownfield remediation funding more likely.

Christipher Yaney answered he did not know if that would be a placement of a station trigger.

Boyd Wiggam asked if we could open the door to something and listed the economic effects of the project at other locations.

Mary Karlsson stated yes this will create additional jobs and continued with the presentation.

Boyd Wiggam asked for some clarification on the plans and the steam plant. He also asked if either of the two Rial road companies had a preference on the location.

Mary Karlsson stated they did not express opposition and continued with the presentation.

Boyd Wiggam stated the station concerned as a real catalyst to move the needle, and the efforts of the two-story parking structure. Could additional parking be added?

Mark Karlsson stated yes, this was all possible and presented the draft recommendations.

Boyd Wiggam stated the old Happy Jack location if chosen, will be a missed opportunity, and they should site the locations as close to downtown.

Mary Karlsson stated the final stages of what we can all do to stay engaged in the process of the project, and that the project was on schedule for fall of 2025. She explained the final details of the

project regarding contact info Federal Grant on pause at this time. A Contract Modification is being processed to expand by adding the following schools. Public School and public comment.

Boyd Wiggam asked what kind of methodology will be used for public comment.

Christopher Yaney stated the MPO will have all the slides and the draft report will be on the website.

Boyd Wiggam asked if Christopher Yaney was looking for any sort of action from the board on this meeting.

Christopher Yaney answered no, it was more of an informational meeting to show where we are at, at this point. There is no need for a vote or to move forward.

Leif Paulson stated we are at a very certain period of time with funding, tax, etc. and that there is a lot of uncertainty.

This was the end of their presentation.

4. Safe Routes to School– Federal Grant on pause at this time. A Contract Modification is being processed to expand by adding the following schools.

1. Willadsen Elementary (K-6) 645 Harriman Road, Granite Canyon, WY Private Schools:
2. Cheyenne Hills Christian Academy (Pre-K - 6th Grade) 7505 US Highway 30, Cheyenne, WY
3. Cheyenne Classical Academy (K-12) 5200 Ridge Road, Cheyenne, WY
4. Destiny Christian Academy (K-12) 215 E 8th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82007
5. St Mary's Catholic School (Pre-K - 6th grade) 2200 O'Neil Ave., Cheyenne, WY
6. Laura E Mason Christian Academy (K-8) 723 Story Blvd., Cheyenne, WY
7. Trinity Lutheran Church and School (K-12) 1111 E 22nd St., Cheyenne, WY
8. Harvest Time Christian Academy (Pre-K - 4th grade) 4700 Ocean Loop, Cheyenne, WY.

Christopher Yaney stated the federal grant originally was on pause but has been reopened. When it went to the policy committee it was asked 8 schools to be included. The MPO will be evaluating these schools for students and accessibility for the public for the school. The cost will be deferred to the city and the county for these schools to be evaluated.

Boyd Wiggam stated he has a child at the charter school on the daily bases and it could use some evaluation.

5. West Crow Creek Greenway- No Change in Schedule Ayres is moving this project forward and is on schedule for completion in 2025.

The change that occurred previously was the location of the greenway whether it be on the easterly or westerly side of missile drive north of 19th and south of 24th. An agreement was made the westerly side is the preferred side with alternate pathways down grant connecting towards the event center.

Boyd Wiggam asked if this would aid in movement between passenger rail and other preferred “camping” spaces.

Christopher Yaney answered with more people using these functions it should discourage the use of camping along those sites.

Boyd Wiggam asked

6. Travel Demand Model Update- No Change in Schedule Kimley Horn is moving forward in validating the data and is on schedule to be completed for the Connect 2050 program.

Boyd Wiggam asked what the status of the project was.

Christopher Yaney answered the travel demand model is used to look at all traffic within the city in roads, and is looking at the adjustment of land use, population, and business developments as well.

**7. Connect 2050- Long Range Transportation Plan Update – No Change in Schedule
Kimley Horn is moving forward with data they have received from the MPO and is on schedule for completion.**

Christopher Yaney stated the focus of the plan and updating the model from the 2045 plan. They are also looking at the future land use throughout the MPO area with the expansion to incorporate the Belvoir property all the way over Harriman Road.

Boyd Wiggam asked if we would have to do a future land use plan for all of the additional area that does not have current future land use. Also asked how this folds into the county wide zoning land use.

Christopher Yaney stated we are working with both for the current land use and future land use in these areas for the MPO and city and county land uses.

Boyd Wiggam asked if we need to worry about sequencing these.

Christopher Yaney answered there might be a few adjustments that may need to occur as people come in and develop and want to change the land use. This will happen when future companies start to come in. If the land use is different a submittal will need to be approved.

Boyd Wiggam asked if we expect a lot of community feedback for this plan.

Christopher Yaney answered that there aren't any major changes the public is wanting to see.

Boyd Wiggam made a request that he would like to see these changes occurring.

Christopher Yaney answered the FUL map and other areas show this data.

8. Update on Local Construction Projects

Christopher Yaney discussed the listing attached with status for 2024 and 2025 construction projects. There are no additional updates. This was the last list provided. There are no additional changes, nor have they responded which 2024 projects have been completed.

Boyd Wiggam asked when they start on planning to redirect traffic for the realignment of the east end of dell range.

Christopher Yaney answered that portion of the project will be starting next year.

9. Other Business

No other business. How can we get more people on the Advisory Committee.

Please share Citizens Advisory webpage for new applications.

Reapplications for current numbers.

Other ways to get information out to the public, Facebook, paper, news, how can we get citizens involved?

CJ brown gave recommendations on how to get members involved on the committee.

Boyd Wiggam asked about the next quarterly meeting or work plans coming up

Christopher Yaney is hoping to have information on the safe streets for all by the time the next meeting comes around.

Next meeting set for May 14th, 2025.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Leif Paulson, meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.