

MINUTES OF THE
BUTTE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (BTCC)
AUGUST 12, 2015

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Jon Sesso, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. August 15, 2015.

2. **ROLL CALL :**
Members Present: Jon Sesso, BSB Planning Board; Dave Schultz, BSB Public Works; Matt Vincent, BSB Chief Executive; Karen Byrnes, BSB Community Development; John Ries, Mayor of Walkerville; Karen Sullivan, BSB Health Department; Katie Potts, MDT-Helena; and Joe Walsh, MDT-Butte.
Members Absent: John Moodry, Weed Control Manager; Charlie Osborne, public member/resigned; Shad Foster, public member; Janet Lindh, BSB Planning Board Chair;
Others Attending: Lori Casey, BSB Planning Department; Julia Crain, BSB Planning Department; Andy Zdinak, BLDC; Nick Sandford, BSB Road Operations Manager; Brad Archibald and Andy Dare, Pioneer Technical Service, Inc.; Dave Gates and Troy Kelsey, Staley Engineering.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – A copy of the minutes of October 16, 2014 was distributed to all members; the following amendments were noted:
 - a) Section 2, page 1, should read “Katie Potts reported that she will be Carol Strizich’s proxy on the Committee”.
 - b) Section 4.g., page 4, should read “Jon Sesso” (v. Jeff Ebert) stated all the poles...
 - c) Section 5.a., should read “FHWA” (v. Federal Highway Commission); change to “Rocker” (v. Rock);
 - d) Section 5.a., should read “FHWA” (v. National Federal Highway).

Matt Vincent made a motion that was seconded by John Ries to approve the minutes with the amendments included. The motion carried unanimously. Staff will incorporate changes into the minutes of record for October 16, 2014.

4. **OLD BUSINESS/ONGOING PROJECTS REVIEW/UPDATES:**

Structure/Purpose of a TCC. Ms. Potts, MDT/Helena-Planning, offered a brief presentation (**a copy of which is made part of these minutes, as Attachment A**) on the purpose and responsibilities of a local transportation coordinating committee. Ms. Potts also addressed the need to update the Butte TCC organizational structure, such as the Committee By-laws, membership, and the Operating Agreement with the MDT. The more recent versions of these documents on file are dated 1992, although Mr. Sesso stated that there are edited, “red-line” versions of the By-Laws and the Agreement, dated May 2010, on file at the Planning Department. Those updates include the

appointment of two more BSB managers (Weed Supervisor and Health Officer) and a third public member to the TCC, as well as additional “boiler plate” language suggested by the MDT to comply with federal guidelines.

Despite the fact that the suggested changes and appointments were implemented in 2010, the official documents were never finalized. Toward that end, Mr. Potts offered to prepare a new, redline, updated version of the Agreement and By-Laws for the Committee’s review and approval for the next meeting. Mr. Sesso reported to the Committee that two of three public members – Mr. Osborne and Mr. Burke – had resigned from the Committee, and per the By-Laws, Mr. Vincent agreed to recruit and appoint two new members to fill those public positions.

Section 4: Old Business (Continued)

Mr. Walsh, MDT-Butte Division provided an update of the non-action items under Old Business, referring to a handout, “**MDT – Butte District: Active Construction Projects in Silver Bow County**” (which are made a part of these minutes as Attachment B).

- a. **Dewey Boulevard (Non) Extension/South Montana Street/Hanson Road** – Project moving forward; paving should be completed by mid-August; landscaping will follow; final completion in 2015.
- b. **Traffic Control Devices:**
Hill/Holmes/Warren: design steps underway; scheduled for 2016 construction;
Platinum/Excelsior – Mr. Schultz reported that the conversion to a 4-way stop has produced good results, with much positive feedback from the affected neighborhood and general public; BSB requests concurrence from MDT for permanent change;
- c. **Urban System Projects: Park Street and Excelsior Street: ACTION ITEM:**

Ms. Potts stated that the BTCC needs to take formal action to recommend expanding the project scope, i.e., extend distance on Park Street from Excelsior to Western Avenue (toward MT Tech); add landscaping; reduce travel lanes on Park Street and add boulevard; make parking lane changes on South Excelsior Street. Ms. Potts referred to a Status of Urban Funding chart (see page 6 of her slide presentation, Attachment A) and stated that the expanded scope/costs for the project have been incorporated into the project.

Mr. Gates, Staley Engineering (consulting engineer for the project), provided a presentation on the Preliminary Field Report for the Park Street/Excelsior Street Project. Mr. Gates explained that the existing lanes on Excelsior Street need to be

analyzed further, to the extent widths could be changed. Ms. Byrnes suggested removing the narrow boulevards (between the curbs and sidewalks) from both sides of Excelsior Street. Mr. Sesso suggested that storm drains could be left in current locations to avoid cost impacts of moving storm water utilities, using curb bulbs at each intersection.

There was also considerable discussion about the Park Street improvements, for example, to reduce the number of driving lanes and incorporate a middle boulevard with landscaping, and improve sidewalks and include bike lanes, etc. The transportation improvements would be part of a larger project, the Park Street Corridor Initiative – to connect the Uptown Business District with Montana Tech. This corridor improvement project is a high priority for Butte-Silver Bow and Montana Tech. The road and pedestrian improvements – both the Urban System project and the Transportation Alternatives grant project – can and should be a big part of the overall project.

Mr. Gates and Mr. Walsh explained that the preliminary engineering phases will continue, and in the Spring (2016), there will be public meetings to receive options and alternatives from property owners and the public. Mr. Sesso suggested that public involvement steps should start sooner, for example this fall, to both let the property owners know what's going on, but also to solicit their input before we get too far along on any specific design. He asked Mr. Gates whether the consultants could pull together the viable options (and costs) for the public to look at and provide input. Mr. Gates and Mr. Walsh said, "yes" they could do that.

There was much discussion on project costs. Mr. Walsh stated that the original estimate was \$2.3 million, and with the expanding scope of work, Mr. Gates has prepared a very rough, preliminary estimate of \$6.2 million. Mr. Sesso asked why so much increase. Mr. Gates explained that the new estimate includes all the standard cost line items, such as the MDT indirect cost, an 18% contingency, engineering fees, etc., all of which could change and ultimately be lower than the estimate. The Committee members asked Mr. Walsh and Mr. Gates for a detailed breakdown of the costs; Mr. Walsh said he would get those to the Committee.

Mr. Schultz inquired about several line item estimates, for example, the \$58 per linear foot for curb and gutter. That figure compares to a recent bid Butte-Silver Bow received in the \$12-\$15/lf range. Mr. Gates explained that he used industry estimates, and again, actual costs could be lower. Mr. Schultz also asked whether MDT knew of any Montana cities that have "taken over" the urban funding and built the projects through local management and administration. Mr. Walsh said, "no" he didn't know of any other cities in Montana that have done that.

After additional discussion about project scope and related costs, Mr. Vincent made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schultz, as follows:

The BTCC recommends and approves an expanded scope of work for Excelsior Street/Park Street Project (UPN # 8678), from a mill-fill project to a Minor Rehabilitation, including but not limited to an extended length of Park Street westerly from Excelsior Street to Western Boulevard, and other refinements, such as additional, irrigated landscaping, historic lighting, bike lanes, expanded sidewalks, a new median boulevard on Park Street, and traffic lane configuration changes. The motion carried unanimously.

As a final note regarding the Park/Excelsior project, Mr. Vincent, as BSB Chief Executive, voiced his concern over the need for better communication among all parties involved. He asked MDT and the consulting engineers, who are managing and implementing the project, to be more timely in providing information and updates on progress being made, or, for example, major shifts in schedule or costs are being discussed and put on the public record. Mr. Vincent asked that the MDT review and reconsider the “standard” timeline that was presented for the project, which now indicates a 2018 letting date. He restated that the Park Street Corridor Initiative is a top priority for the community, and the road improvements should not need to take four years to design and engineer before construction can begin. Several BTCC members expressed similar comments. Mr. Gates and Mr. Walsh responded that they would review the schedule and see where time could be saved, and get the public involvement process going sooner than spring 2016.

- d. Safety Project: Mercury/Arizona Intersection: Mr. Sesso asked the MDT if an improvement could be made at this intersection as a “Safety Project” using District funds. Mr. Walsh said he would check. (NOTE: Mr. Walsh informed Chairman Sesso a few days after the meeting that a safety project could not be done, given data showing no extraordinary accidents or incidents at the intersection. The work would need to be scheduled as part of an Urban Project.
- e. Other MDT Projects – schedules/updates:
 - Interstate bridge replacement (Neversweat RR bridge removal and construction of new culvert for the BA&P trail): Complete
 - Harrison Avenue South – Interstate to Highway 2: Project is scheduled for a 2016 letting; Butte-Silver Bow (DPW Director Schultz) declared that any necessary improvements to the drinking water system distribution system infrastructure will be completed in advance of a 2016 pavement project;
 - Silver Bridge/Pump House Road: Ongoing and under construction
 - Other projects around Butte-Silver Bow: Refer to Attachment B.

- f. CTEP projects/Transportation Alternatives:
- CTEP Montana Street At-grade Crossing: Design complete; waiting on final MDT approval to bid, which hopefully can be scheduled for September 2015;
 - CTEP Sidewalks 1 – Project Closeout nearly there; all corrective measures requested by MDT/FHWA have been completed with the exception of one on Hornet Street; expected completion in September 2015;
 - CTEP Sidewalks 2 – Design completed and approved; waiting for MDT notice to bid project; expected to bid in September 2015;
 - CTEP Bike Lanes: MDT approval to bid project has been received; BSB may hold project bidding until January for a spring 2016 construction to ensure best results for investment in pavement markings, etc.;
 - CTEP Landscaping – design completed; waiting on final MDT approval of notice to bid project; again, BSB may hold project bidding until January for a spring 2016 construction to ensure best results for intersection pavement markings;
 - 2014 Transportation Alternatives Project: ADA Ramps/Sidewalks (Park Street and Excelsior): MDT has awarded design/engineering contract to Staley Engineering, in conjunction with the Urban System-Park and Excelsior Project; preliminary engineering underway; expect the project to be let at same time as roadway project;
 - 2015 Transportation Alternatives Project: the new round of TAP proposals were due on July 31, 2015; Butte-Silver Bow submitted a proposal for additional sidewalks in the East Middle School area, the Hillcrest Elementary School area, and the Clark Park area – generally in those areas that met the TAP objectives but will not get constructed under the CTEP Sidewalks 2 scope of work, due to funding limitations; MDT notice of award expected in the fall 2015.

5. NEW BUSINESS (BTCC INPUT/FEEDBACK):

- a. 2015-16 Transportation Plan Update – steps moving forward. Mr. Sesso reported that Urban Plan Updates are cost-share (50/50) between the local entity and MDT. At their 2013 meeting, the BTCC recommended that a Trans Plan Update be done. Then the Council of Commissioners authorized the cost-share funding with the MDT in their 2014-15 budget. Butte-Silver Bow and MDT signed the Project Agreement and BSB solicited interested firms to conduct the Update. In August 2015, BSB selected Pioneer Technical Specialists, Inc. to conduct the Update. Mr. Sesso introduced Mr. Brad Archibald, Principal, and Mr. Andrew Dare, Project Manager, from Pioneer Technical at the meeting. A contract should be in place by the end of August 2015, and the project is expected to take 12 months to complete. An extensive public involvement process will be implemented as part of the Plan Update.

- b. Continental Drive: Pavement Preservation Project. Mr. Walsh stated that the project is under design; in addition to the new pavement, the project will address concerns that have been raised with the Continental Pedestrian Trail along the roadway; MDT will eliminate the grade change between the road and trail by raising the grade of the trail, install safety strips in the pavement as a vehicle warning device, and implement other accessibility improvements. This project is scheduled for 2016.
- c. Rocker Interchange I-90/I-15: eastbound on-ramp (climbing lane), eastbound weigh station re-location; landscaping; roundabouts design vs. other alternatives. Mr. Walsh reported that the climbing lane is installed and final re-seeding will be implemented this fall 2015. As for the relocation of the eastbound weigh station at the Rocker interchange, and various design alternatives, the public involvement process is moving forward; a landowner meeting has been scheduled for August 17, and an update will be provided at the next BTCC meeting. The project is presently scheduled for 2017 construction.
- d. Funding Updates: Urban system; National highway; Primary route; Secondary System; Woodville Hill funds; next priorities. Ms. Potts provided an update on the Urban System funding as part of her presentation (see Attachment A). She also reported that there is \$48,000 in the Woodville Hill account.
- e. Major Site Plan reviews – coordination issues re: traffic studies, storm water, etc.; The site where the Skookum Motel was located will be the future development for Pizza Ranch.

6. OTHER BUSINESS - None

- 7. ADJOURNMENT - John Ries made a motion, seconded by Karen Byrnes to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.**

Attachments to Minutes for August 12, 2015:

- A. Power point presentation by Ms. Potts regarding TCC purpose and responsibilities, and Urban System funding (six pages, 12 slides)**
- B. MDT – Butte District: Active Construction Projects in Silver Bow County (3 pages)**