

TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

April 27, 2016

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gene Wade, Pierre Jomini, Jerry Dunning, Ron Alles, Sondra Baker, Capt. Harper

MEMBERS ABSENT: Todd Cormier,

STAFF SUPPORT: Aaron Lebsack, Erin Claunch,

GUESTS: Debra Hagel (MET), Kathy Barr (MET), Anthony Chase (Planning Division)

BUSINESS MEETING:

Call to order: Gene Wade called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

Minutes: Pierre noted that Anthony Chase was present at the March meeting as a guest. He also noted the February minutes were approved as amended. Motion for approval of the March minutes as amended by Pierre Jomini. Seconded by Jerry Dunning. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

- **32nd & Gabel Signal:** Erin reported the new traffic signal is in operation at the intersection of 32nd St. West and Gabel Road. A single Grid Smart camera is being used for detection. In addition to providing input to the signal controller when traffic is present on a given leg or movement, the camera allows remote viewing of traffic flow at the intersection.
- **Citywide signal controller upgrade.** Erin noted that funding is programmed in the CIP to upgrade signal controllers and where necessary controller cabinets at 115 intersections of the next 5 years. Total cost (5 years) is estimated at \$3 Million.
- **Grand Avenue reconstruction—**Zimmerman Trail to Shiloh Road. The full closure of Grand between Zimmerman Trail and 38th Street West will start either May 11 or May 16. The full closure will last approximately 90 days. Access to the businesses along Grand will be available from the Shiloh Road end of the project. Pierre asked if closures such as this could be posted on the City website. Terry noted that with changes to Google maps, it is no longer possible to update & post the map of street & lane closures that used to be posted on the Engineering Division webpage. Erin noted that the old map had very few unique users, and that information on major projects such as Grand is posted on the Engineering Division's Face Book page.
- **MET Transit route, schedule & Fare Changes.** Debra Hagel & Kathy Bar from MET gave a presentation on proposed schedule, route and fare changes for MET Transit. In general they are proposing eliminating some under-utilized routes. In exchange other routes will be extended or modified to go into areas not currently being served. Billings fares were compared with other cities in the area and in general Billings MET has lower fares. Increased fares will be phased in over the next several years. There was significant discussion on how the

proposed MET service to the new Medicine Crow middle school in the Heights would fit with the bussing being provided by the school district.

BOARD REPORTS: The draft report for the West End Multi-Modal Planning Study is being finalized. The approval schedule includes the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on May 5th; City council on June 20th; County Commissioners on June 20th; and the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) on July 19th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **6th Avenue North & North 31st Street. Is there a pedestrian crash trend?:** Postponed until June meeting
- **Access to MDT new crash database.** Terry reported that MDT is working out the details to allow direct access to the State's crash database. This will require a use agreement between the City and the State

Pierre asked that all unfinished agenda items be listed on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **May 25th Meeting.** There was discussion of canceling or rescheduling the May 25 meeting because it conflicts with the Safety Summit meeting for the Community Transportation Safety Plan. Ron Alles moved and Sondra Baker seconded a motion to cancel the May meeting. Motion carried on voice vote.
- **Snowplowable Pavement markers**—item postponed
- **Crosswalk Uniformity**—item postponed
- **Primary Seat Belt Law.** Pierre asked if the City could enact a primary seat belt ordinance at the local level. Terry and Capt. Harper responded that the City cannot adopt a more restrictive rule than the State in this respect.
- ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Traffic Safety – How Billings crash data is used by Engineering
Billings Bypass Project
Airport & Main Intersection study (MDT w/ Kittleson & Associates)

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.