

**TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES**  
**September 28, 2016**

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gene Wade, Sondra Baker, Todd Cormier

STAFF SUPPORT: Aaron Lebsack, Terry Smith, Erin Claunch, Lora Mattox

GUESTS: None

BUSINESS MEETING:

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

**Minutes:** Motion by Pierre Jomini for approval of the August 2016 minutes as printed. Seconded by Ron Alles. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS: None

BOARD REPORTS:

- **Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP):** The safety plan has been completed in draft form. Staff will be reviewing the plan with TAC, Planning Board, City Council, County Commissioners and finally PCC for final adoption.
- **Complete Streets Progress Report:** Planning staff is updating the Complete Streets Benchmark Report from 2013. Staff is working with a variety of departments and organizations on the report. Anticipated completion date is the end of the year.
- **Planning Projects & Studies in 2017 UPWP:** Lora gave a brief overview of the projects listed in the 2017 Unified Planning Work Program. This plan outlines the use of Federal transportation planning funding for the next year and includes staffing and planning projects. The planning projects include: Finishing the update to the Bike/Ped Plan, completing a Household Travel Survey, the development of a Billings MPO Travel Demand Model, a Downtown Traffic Circulation Study and an update of the Long Range Transportation Plan which will include updating the Public Participation Plan.
- **Construction Project List.** Pierre asked if the federal transportation improvement project list could be provided to the Board. Lora noted that the Planning Department does not directly administer construction projects, those would either be thru MDT or the Public Works Department. Staff will distribute the current State TIP and the City CIP for proposed roadway projects to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Revised Complete Streets Policy:** The final version of the resolution was distributed via email on September 16, 2016.
- **Letter to Council re: Primary Seatbelt Law:** Terry distributed a copy of a letter for Council urging support for a primary seatbelt law in the State of Montana. Lora suggested adding a statistic concerning the number of fatalities related to the number of unrestrained occupants. Board members can provide any additional comments or suggestions via e-mail.
- **Access from Rimrock Frontage Road to Rimrock Road: inconsistency in traffic control (*update*):** Terry gave a report regarding the inconsistency in traffic control at access points from the frontage road to Rimrock Road. Staff review focused on the frontage road west of Shiloh Road. Stop signs will be installed at the three uncontrolled access points. He stated that he does not expect to see changes in driver behavior as a result of the new stop signs.
- **Five non-signalized intersections with most injury/fatal accidents for 2014-2016 (*nothing to report at this time*)**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **November-December meeting date:** The board agreed a combined November and December meeting date December 14, 2016.
- **Current Board Member Terms:** Terry distributed a printout from the City website listing the terms of current Board members. There are no terms expiring in 2016. Two will expire in 2017, two in 2018, and one in 2019. All terms expire December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year listed.
- **Local Option Gas Tax:** Pierre had requested a presentation on the feasibility and potential structure of a local option has tax. Terry distributed several handouts related to consideration of a local option has tax by the City Council and County Commissioners in July 2016. Included were copies of a staff recommendation to Council, an excerpt from the July 11 City Council minutes, and two *Billings Gazette* articles. Neither the City Council nor the County Commissioners supported putting the issue on the ballot. Pierre indicated he would like to know more about what state law allows. During discussion it was suggested that perhaps Brent Brooks (City Attorney) or Dan Schwartz (County Attorney's office) be invited to discuss the topic with the Board.
- **62<sup>nd</sup> St W & Rimrock Rd – Intersection Improvements:** Erin gave an update on the Intersection of 62<sup>nd</sup> & Rimrock. Sanderson Stewart completed a preliminary layout showing how much additional right-of-way is needed to install a roundabout at the intersection. Development proposals have been submitted for the properties in the NW and SE quadrants of the intersection. Additional right-of-way will be obtained from those properties when they subdivide. Those properties will also make a monetary contribution to intersection improvements. The property in the SW quadrant is currently for sale and the City is obtaining an appraisal on it. One or more of the lots in the SW quadrant could possibly be used for a storm drain detention area as well as to provide the right-of-way necessary for a roundabout. The small parcel in the NE quadrant is actually owned by Yellowstone Country Club and the thought is maybe a land trade can be worked out where the existing roadway area around the curve could be traded for the right-of-way needed at the intersection. Money is currently budgeted in the fiscal year starting July 1, 2017 for construction of a roundabout. The unknown at this point is whether there will be enough money left from existing developer contributions after the purchase of right-of-way in the SW quadrant to fund detailed design so that construction can start in July 2017. If there is not enough money, then design will have to be delayed until after the new budget year starts July 1. Pierre asked why the special improvement district for a left turn bay into the subdivision further north on 62<sup>nd</sup> was advanced ahead of a project for the 62<sup>nd</sup> & Rimrock intersection. Terry stated that the traffic projections show that the

turn bay is required to develop the remaining vacant land in the subdivision. The timing of the turn lane project was dictated by the desire to plat and develop additional lots. The subdivision involved in the SID, as well as Ironwood, Augusta Ranch and other recent subdivisions north & west of the 62<sup>nd</sup> & Rimrock intersection have all made contributions to the intersection improvements that are independent of the turn land SID. Pierre asked if the City has a mechanism to require major intersection improvement be done prior to development proceeding. Terry noted that unless the improvements are required solely by that development, you can't require that subdivision to pay the full cost of those improvements as a condition of development.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

- Pierre commented that there are two lights in the new roundabout on Grand that are very bright and shine into driver's eyes. Erin reported the lights were installed to illuminate future artwork in the roundabout. The City's project manager has already asked that the lights be turned to point toward the north, since there is currently no street coming into the roundabout from the vacant property to the north. They will be further evaluated after artwork is in place.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.