

TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES
January 25, 2017

APPROVED

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gene Wade

STAFF SUPPORT: Terry Smith, Aaron Lebsack, Erin Claunch, Lora Mattox, Debi Meling, Vern Heisler, Bill Kemp

GUESTS: None

BUSINESS MEETING:

Call to order: Todd Cormier called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

Minutes: Pierre offered several additions and corrections to the December minutes. Motion by Ron Alles for approval of the December 2016 minutes as amended. Seconded by Pierre Jomini. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

- **Grand Ave, 48th St W to 58th St W Reconstruction:** Terry informed the Board on the tentative schedule for the upcoming Grand Ave project. Construction bids will be opened March 14th and a contract will be awarded by the City Council on March 27th. Construction is slated to begin mid-April to early May and will be completed by August 15th.
- **Snow plowing/snow removal policies & practices:** Vern Heisler (Deputy Public Works Director) and Bill Kemp (Street and Traffic Division Manager) gave a presentation to the Board regarding snow plowing and snow removal. See attached.

BOARD REPORTS:

- **Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Billings Project Nominations:** Lora informed the board that the City plans to apply for two TAP projects this year. The first is the Phase I Highway 3 Shared Use Pathway. This project has been applied for before and consists of continuing the trail where it terminates on the west side of North 27th at the bike/pedestrian underpass and continues west for approximately 1.3 miles. This phase would end approximately where the Meyers and Morledge Trails from below the Rims converge at the top. The second project is the proposed Stagecoach Trail that runs roughly parallel to Zimmerman Trail between Highway 3 and Rimrock Road. Lora also noted that MDT is starting a design-build project to install sidewalks along the south side of Laurel Road. This project was previously nominated for TAP funding, but was not selected under the TAP program.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Five non-signalized intersections with most injury/fatal accidents for 2014-2016:** *Nothing to report at this time.*
- **Local Option Gas Tax:** *Report delayed until after the 2017 Legislative session.*

- **Impacts of MDT funding cuts on Billings projects:** *Report delayed until after the 2017 Legislative session.*
- **Central Ave Speed Limit signing west of 32nd St W:** Erin reported that the speed limit signs on Central Ave west of 32nd St W were field inventoried and are all in place based on comparison to available records. Any necessary modifications to the placement of signs will be made with the proposed street widening & reconstruction project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Election of Board Chairperson & Vice Chairperson:** Pierre moved that Todd Cormier continue as Board Chairman and Gene Wade continue as Vice Chairman. Seconded by Jerry Dunning. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- **Billings Bypass Project (Report by Cormier).** This item was postponed until the February meeting.

INQUIRIES FROM THE BOARD:

- Pierre brought up the following items:
 - Crosswalk signing on 9th Avenue North between North 28th & North 29th Streets. Pierre said there are in-street signs indicating “Stop for Pedestrians—State Law.” He noted that is not state law. Terry reminded the Board that as has been previously discussed, this block of street has been vacated and is now owned and controlled by Billings Clinic. Ron asked for clarification on which streets were now Clinic owned. Terry reported that the most recent street vacation included 9th Ave between 28th & 29th; N. 28th between 7th & 9th Avenues; and approximately a half block of N. 28th north of 10th Avenue North. Debi noted that the Engineering Division had opposed the vacation of 9th because it was a collector street, a school walking route, and a principal fire run from the main fire station. Ultimately, Engineering was overruled and the City Council approved the street vacations Terry had noted.
 - **Impacts of the Inner Belt Loop.** Pierre asked if a presentation could be made on the expected impacts of connecting Wicks (the “inner belt loop”) from Alkali Creek Road to Highway 3. Todd noted this connection was part of the final street network modeled with the Transportation Plan update that was recently completed. Debi noted that improvements to Zimmerman Trail/32nd Street West from Rimrock Road south to King Ave West was one of several potential bond projects recently presented to the City Council.
 - **Grand Avenue Project.** Pierre provided a written list of 6 questions/concerns regarding the recently completed project on Grand Avenue between Zimmerman Trail and Shiloh Road. These will be discussed in further detail at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

SNOW REMOVAL

Billings Traffic Control Board
January 25, 2017



Billings Roadway Miles

- Over 500 miles of paved roads
- Nearly 1,400 miles of lanes
- Almost 200 miles of roads plowed
- Over 600 lane miles of roads plowed
- In addition to 300 miles of residential streets

Increase in roadway miles since 2000

- Over 300 lane miles - nearly 40% increase

2

Snow Removal Procedures

Snow Plowing – 2+ inches of Snow

- Snow route roadways (see map)
- Entrances to St. Vincent and Billings Clinic Emergency Rooms
- Fire Stations #1 and #4
- Multi-use trails on arterial and collector streets

Sanding and De-Icing

- De-Icing is used when 15 deg. F or higher
- Downtown
- Hills
- Controlled intersections
- School crossings



Life of a Storm – Weather/Time

- Main arterials are kept open
- Collector streets
- sanding

3

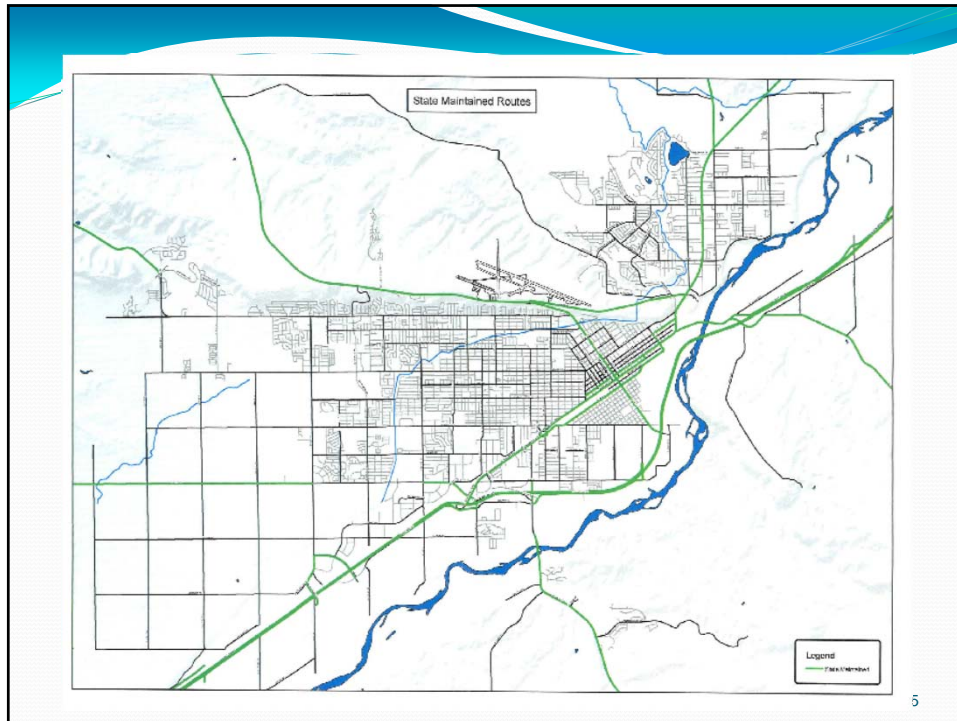
Snow Removal Procedures

Streets where snow is hauled

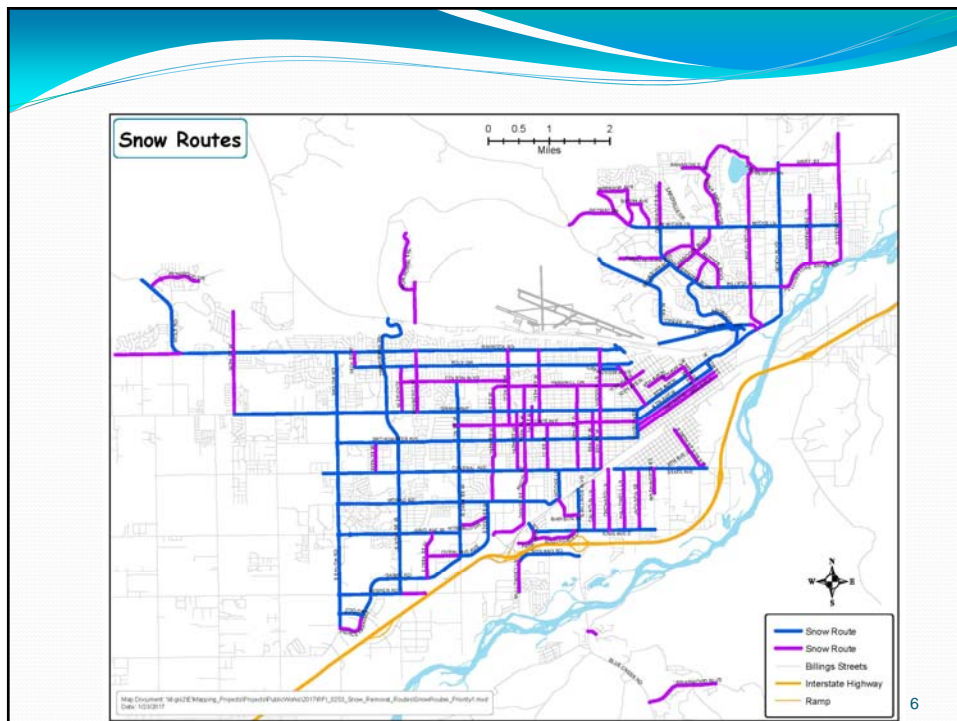
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Grand Ave | 6 th Ave north to 25 th Street West |
| • Broadwater | Division to 28 th Street West |
| • Central | 6 th Street West to 25 th Street West |
| • 24 th | Rosebud to Ave B |
| • Rimrock | Normal to Shiloh |
| • Poly | Virginia to 38 nd Street West |
| • Parkhill | 17 th Street West to Virginia Ln |
| • Colton | 17 th Street West to 32 nd Street West |
| • | |
| • Hilltop | Main Street to Wicks |
| • Aronson | Northside of bridge to Governors |
| • Wicks | Governors to Bench Blvd |
| • Governors | Hilltop to Wicks |
| • Babcock | Wicks to Hilltop |
| • Nutter | Hilltop to Wicks |
| • Bench | Hilltop to Mary |
| • St Andrews | Wicks to Lakewood Ln |
| • | |
| • Orchard | King Ave E to State Ave |
| • State | 1 st Ave S to S27th |



4



5



6

Street Maintenance Resources

Equipment...

- 11 – 5 yard plow/sander combinations
(when these trucks are on sanding operations they do not have plows)
- 7 – 10 yard plows with removable sanders
- 2 – 10 yard plows from Distribution and Collection
- 3 – 2,000 gal liquid deicing trucks
- 2 – frontend loaders with snow blowers
- 4 – one ton four-wheel drive pickups with plows (2 with sanders)
- 3 – graders

Staff...

- Employees – 40 line staff and 4 supervisors
- Supplemental staff from Utilities, Solid Waste, and Parks & Recreation

7

5 – CY Truck, Plow and Sander



8

10 – CY Truck and Plow



9

Loader and Blower



10

Graders



11

Street Maintenance Snow Operations

- Operate 2 - 12 hour shifts during snow and ice events
- 24 hours to plow streets after every storm ends
- Haul snow from downtown area first
- Each snow event will require alterations to the schedule depending upon the length and severity

12

Hey, I always wanted to know....

You said you plow arterial and collector streets. How about residential?

- *City policy is to not plow residential streets.*
- *Public Works proposed an option to plow, but not remove snow and it was not adopted.*
- *Drifts are plowed in residential areas.*

There was no sanding at my stop sign or school crosswalk until long after the storm ended—how come?

- *The 5 cy trucks either sand or plow, but we plow first then sand which may take two shifts. Sanding will then take another two shifts (at least).*

Can my homeowners association/neighborhood hire a contractor to plow our streets?

- *The short answer is “no”.*
- *Bonding and insurance requirements*
- *A lot of things to hit in the right-of-way*
- *Possible damage to road surface*

13

Hey, I always wanted to know....

Are MET and/or school bus routes plowed?

- *If the routes are on arterial or collector streets they are plowed.*
- *If in residential area areas – not in City policy.*
- *Public Works assists SD2 plowing drop off/pickup areas at the schools depending on severity of the storm.*

How do County and MDT crews fit into this?

- *County plows areas outside of the City limits and MDT plows their routes.*

My neighbor is elderly and needs help with removing snow from her sidewalk. I am not always able to help. Is there assistance out there?

- *Family members, other neighbors, and “Snow Buddies” 247-8656.*

14

Hey, I always wanted to know....

How much does the City's snow fighting efforts cost for the City?

- For example during the period from *Dec. 5 to Jan 1*
 - Over \$335,000 for all wages
 - \$110,000 in materials
 - and about \$150,000 in Fleet Services charges.

15

AND
finally

...we are looking forward
to help from three of our
friends....

16



17

