

**Traffic Control Board Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 30, 2007**

Angela Cimmino  
Doug Kary ✓  
Keith Lang ✓  
Walt Willett✓

Capt. T.J. Vladic ✓  
Sondra Baker  
Judge Knisely

✓ = Present

**Staff Support:** Terry Smith, John Gibson, Lora Mattox

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:** By Doug Kary at 12:06 PM in the Large Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Library

**Minutes:** Minutes of the Nov-Dec 2006 meeting were distributed and approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Terry reported on the following items:

24<sup>th</sup> Street West Signal Timing Study: Five proposals were received from both local and national firms. The Consultant selection committee that reviewed the proposals has recommended that staff negotiate a contract with Kittleson & Associates out of Portland. Kittleson has teamed with Engineering, Inc. of Billings to complete the study. The study will focus on traffic signal timing and phasing changes to improve traffic flow on 24<sup>th</sup> Street West. The goal is to maximize efficiency of the current system without street widening for additional traffic lanes. One exception is that the consultant will be asked to make recommendations and prepare cost estimates for geometric changes to the King & 24<sup>th</sup> intersection to better handle left turns from eastbound King Avenue to northbound 24<sup>th</sup> Street.

Railroad Quiet Zone: The DBA initiated this project for the railroad crossings at 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> Streets in the Downtown area. Montana Rail Link estimates the cost to upgrade the existing signal systems at all three crossing at \$693,000. This does not include pedestrian treatment or any roadway modifications. Additional maintenance costs for the quiet zone are estimated at \$33,000 per year. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has agreed to delegate authority to the City of Billings to apply to the Federal Railroad Administration for a quiet zone. (The crossing on 27<sup>th</sup> is under State jurisdiction because 27<sup>th</sup> Street is a primary highway.)

Traffic Signal at Midland Road and South Billings Blvd: The signalization of South Billings Boulevard and Midland Road is a joint project between the City of Billings and MDT. The City will pay for engineering design and construction administration costs. The State will reimburse the City for construction costs, currently estimated at \$210,000. The first plan review meeting with the State and consultant is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Traffic Signal at Central and 6<sup>th</sup> Street West: The new traffic signal at Central Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street West is in operation. The new signal provides fully actuated operation and replaces the

old span wire signal, which operated in a fixed time mode only. There is some concrete and signing work remaining to be done when weather allows.

Grand Avenue 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Street West: This project will widen Grand Avenue between 8<sup>th</sup> Street West and 12<sup>th</sup> Street West for a two-way left turn lane. The City has filed under eminent domain to establish the value for four right-of-way parcels where they have been unable to reach agreement with the property owner on a purchase price. The City hopes to get right of entry while the Court decides property value. If the project is to be completed during this construction season, the City will have to start advertising for bids no later than February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The final set of plans and specs for review by City staff should be received from the consultant by January 31<sup>st</sup>. The estimated construction cost for the project is \$ 2.5 Million, not including right-of-way or engineering costs.

Downtown Way Finding Signage: The DBA has initiated a project for the installation of signs in the downtown area to provide pedestrians & motorists directions to cultural and historic points of interest in the downtown area. The project was originally advertised last fall, but only one bid was received for \$240,000. The project was recently re-bid and five bids were received. Staff has prepared a recommendation for the February 12<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting to award the contract to Epcon Signs for \$129,000. A total of 24 signs will be placed within the downtown area plus 1 monument sign on South 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Handouts pertaining to the signing project were provided to board members.

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

Parking Board: No formal report. Keith Lang commented that he didn't think the contractor had missed a day on the Park II Expansion, despite winter weather.

Planning Board: Lora Mattox reported that the Lockwood transportation study is still on-going. Subdivision activity is slow. Zoning applications are running about normal. Adoption of the Highland Neighborhood Plan is scheduled for City Council action on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. Work continues on the South Side and the North Park Neighborhood Plans.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Billings Events Ad Hoc Committee: Terry distributed information from the Dec. 11 and Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meetings regarding this new committee created by the City Council, including a copy of the Council Resolution creating the committee. A general discussion ensued with a consensus among those present that the Ad Hoc Committee needs to look at more issues than just fees and insurance costs. Doug Kary indicated he would draft a letter to the Mayor and distribute it to Board members via e-mail.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Terry reported on the following items:

Role and membership of the Traffic Control Board: Board members were provided with a copy of information from the City Website addressing the role and make-up of the Traffic Control Board. Terry noted the City's website information had not been updated to reflect new appointments to the Board.

Resignation of Jill Krueger: Terry read Jill Krueger's resignation letter to the Board. Her term runs through the end of 2007. The Mayor will make an appointment to fill her unexpired term. Anyone interested should submit an application to the Mayor.

Traffic Calming Web Seminar Feb 15<sup>th</sup>: Terry distributed information on a Traffic Calming seminar on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm. The City is hosting a site for the web-based seminar and Traffic Control Board members may attend at no charge. Those planning to attend were asked to notify John Gibson.

**OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Keith noted there is a meeting on the Shiloh Road project on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Doug asked when the next Airport Road meeting would be held. Terry said he would check and distribute the information to Board members.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 PM