

TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

December 11, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Cormier, Walt Willett, Brent Krueger, Lt. Cady, Gene Wade, Trina White, Sondra Baker

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF SUPPORT: Terry Smith, Erin Claunch, Zach Heid, Lora Mattox

GUESTS: None

BUSINESS MEETING:

Call to order: Todd Cormier called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

Minutes: Motion for approval of the October minutes by Gene Wade, seconded by Walt Willett. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Open Public Comment: None

STAFF REPORTS:

Terry Smith reported a change in the police representative on the Traffic Control Board. Captain R.D. Harper will replace Captain John Bedford as the police department's representative. Lieutenant Cady is filling in for this meeting. Capt. Harper is taking over as Captain of the Patrol Division.

BOARD REPORTS:

Planning Board: Lora Mattox distributed a list of the 7 projects requesting CTEP money for the current funding cycle. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has recommended that all be funded. The amount of money available this year exceeded the total being requested. The excess (approx. \$57K) will be held in reserve to cover any overruns on projects already funded. Walt Willett asked if the trail that ends at 38th St W, south of Arrowhead School, would ever be built east to Zimmerman Trail. Terry Smith stated the trail is planned to connect into on-street bike lanes when Colton Boulevard is constructed east of 38th. That segment of Colton has been platted for many years, but not constructed. East of Zimmerman Trail the bike lanes will connect into the bus loading lane constructed along the south side of Boulder School. Lora commented there are many missing trail pieces and connections throughout Billings.

Lora said that CTEP is no longer a dedicated funding source under the new federal transportation bill (MAP-21). Several discretionary funding sources, including CTEP, SRTS, and recreational trails, have been combined into a single funding source now called the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Terry noted that the biggest change is in how the funds will be allocated. Under CTEP each city & county received a designated amount of funds per year. Under TAP, projects from all over the state will compete for funding from a single state-wide pot of money.

Lora reported work has started on the Hospitality Corridor Plan. The corridor includes US 87 from the Lockwood Interchange west to Main Street and then north along Main up to Airport Road. The Study will create an access plan for the corridor, including identification of streetscape improvements throughout the corridor, review of impacts of land use on the transportation system, a traffic flow plan and bike/pedestrian amenities along the corridor. Terry stated the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) recently hired Sanderson Stewart to look at traffic flow and potential intersection improvements at the 1st, 4th and 6th Avenue North intersections along Main Street. The MDT study found that grade separations (overpass, underpass or “fly-overs”) at the intersections of 4th & 6th and Main St offered little improvement in traffic flow at a substantial cost. Once the Billings Bypass is completed connecting Lockwood and the north end of the Heights traffic on Main Street will be reduced significantly and all three intersections will operate at acceptable levels of service without additional improvements. Airport Road and Main will still have problems but was not looked at in detail with the MDT study. Traffic flow at 1st & Main could be improved significantly by eliminating one of the three lanes coming off 1st Avenue onto Main so there can be a free movement from westbound US 87 turning north onto Main. The MDT study did not assume any land use changes along the corridor. The Hospitality Corridor Study will use the MDT traffic projections as a base, but will look at the impacts of land use changes along the west side of Main Street proposed with the Exposition Gateway Master Plan being developed for the east end of the EBURD area.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

City Overlay Program: Erin Claunch gave a presentation on the City Overlay projects for 2013. The streets include portions of Aronson Ave, Broadwater Ave, Monad Rd and 19th St W.

The Aronson overlay will run from Governors Blvd. to Camel Place and there will be a lane reconfiguration at Governors in order to move traffic more smoothly. The lanes will change from the existing left/thru and right only to a left only and a thru/right. Broadwater will be overlaid from 24th St W to 28th St W. Monad Rd will be overlaid from 24th St W to 29th St W and from 32nd St W to Shiloh Road. The 19th St W overlay will run from Central Ave on the south to Lewis Ave on the north. Staff is currently reviewing potential striping changes along these segments, including the addition of on-street bike lanes on Monad.

2013 Meeting Schedule: Terry asked if there was any desire to change the meeting day or time for 2013. Consensus was that meeting at noon on the 4th Tuesday of the month works for everyone. The November and December meetings will be combined with the specific date chosen later.

Items for Future Agendas: Annual election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair will be held in January.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 pm.