

## TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

March 25, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Cormier, Gene Wade, Capt. R D Harper, Sondra Baker, Trina White

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF SUPPORT: Terry Smith, Zach Heid, Lora Mattox, Debi Meling

GUESTS: None

BUSINESS MEETING:

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

**Minutes:** Motion for approval of the December minutes by Gene Wade, seconded by Trina White. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STAFF REPORTS:

**Inner Belt Loop:** Terry gave an update on the progress of the Inner Belt Loop. They are currently working on the Alkali Creek crossing which has turned into a bigger endeavor than planned. According to Travis Harris, project manager, we hope to be paving sometime in June and just prior to that we will finish up the connection at Alkali Creek Road and the re-alignment of the intersection at Wicks Lane. Gene asked if construction of the Inner Belt Loop west of Alkali Creek Road was going to happen soon. Debi said that it is not in the 5 year plan.

**New Signal Controllers & Software:** New signal controllers have been installed on 32<sup>nd</sup> St West. Signal timing plans were put on hold over the winter but our signal techs are back working on that project.

**King Ave. West Signal Timing Project:** The state has been working on a signal timing project on King Ave West to go from the interchange out to 32<sup>nd</sup> St West. The signals west of 24<sup>th</sup> St W are the City's and those from 24<sup>th</sup> St W and east are the State's, so we have been cooperatively working with the State on the project. They expect to have the draft timing plans from the consultant sometime in the next 30 days with hopes of implementation in May. New signal controllers (both City & State) and radio communications to the controllers will be installed prior to implementing the new timing plan.

BOARD REPORTS:

**Transportation Plan Update:** Two public meeting were held two weeks ago, one during the noon hour and the other in the evening. Both meetings were well attended. The interactive map on the website has been changed to list all of the potential projects that have been identified. Comments on the projects can be left via the website. See <http://maps.kittelson.com/billingsprojects>. Todd encouraged Board members to visit the webpage and leave comments.

**Highway 3 Corridor Study:** This is a planning study that starts at the N 27<sup>th</sup> St roundabout and goes west to Indian Cliffs subdivision. The study will look at access, parking on the rims, extension of the existing trail system and storm water management. The City Council approved the contract with Sanderson Stewart on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The study will be getting started within the next few weeks.

**Zoo Montana to Riverfront Park Study:** The final planning study that will be conducted this year is a Zoo Montana to Riverfront Park trail feasibility study. One to one and a half years ago the Chamber completed a study that went from Mystic Park to Riverfront Park along Garden Avenue, including linkages to the commercial campgrounds. Alta Planning and Design out of Bozeman has been selected for the Zoo Montana to Riverfront Park study and they hope to start in April.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES: None

OLD BUSINESS:

**Special Events in Public Rights-of-Way:** Debi informed the board that an ad-hoc committee was formed by the City Council in December and have had a couple of meetings. The committee is finding out that it is hard to narrow down criteria for events in the public right-of-way. One of the things the committee discovered is there are currently no guidelines regarding multiple events at the same time. Any input that the Traffic Control Board comes up with will be taken back to the committee and Debi will give the Traffic Control Board updates. She said the committee was currently meeting every month on the third Monday. It will probably be December 2014 before the committee takes anything to City Council. Todd wanted to remind the board to consider this and try to think of some input that we can provide the committee with. Debi mentioned that right now there could potentially be an event on every street downtown at the same time. Debi said she would like to see ideas for requirements such as: no more than two events downtown at a time, separation between events, they can't be on the same street, etc. Ideas from the traffic control standpoint would help the committee. Terry mentioned that he thought Bozeman now limited the number of times Main Street can be closed in a year. Debi mentioned that there are pros and cons to having events, including fun runs and races, using the same routes all the time. On one hand everyone knows what to expect and what is needed for closures. On the other it impacts the same neighborhoods or businesses again and again. Debi mentioned that there are over 80 events using public streets in Billings each year and that number keeps growing.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Election of Board Chair:** Gene Wade made a motion that Todd Cormier continue as Board Chair, seconded by Trina White. Todd made a motion that Gene continues as Board Vice-Chair. Both passed on a voice vote. Terry mentioned that we still have two vacancies on the Traffic Control Board. The openings will be re-advertised in the first of May with an application deadline of May 30<sup>th</sup>. Appointments will be made as part of the mid-year filling of board & commission vacancies by the Council.

**Billings Capital Improvements Program (CIP):** Terry reviewed the street & traffic related projects that are in the draft Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for fiscal years 2015 thru 2019. This includes several major street projects as well as various intersection improvements.

**Board Comments:** Gene asked for an update on the Bypass from Johnson Lane to Main Street. Todd said that the final EIS was signed last week and the next step would be a public information meeting in April. Following the open house meeting a Record of Decision will be signed. At that point it will be a project and MDT can start actual design work. It looks like the project will be split into 5 to 7 phases.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.