

# TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

October 22, 2014

**Approved as Amended**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pierre Jomini, Trina White, Jerry Dunning, Sondra Baker, Capt. Harper

MEMBERS ABSENT: Todd Cormier, Gene Wade

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

GUESTS: None

## BUSINESS MEETING:

**Call to order:** Terry Smith called the meeting to order at 12:13 pm in the conference room of the Public Works Building, 2224 Montana Avenue.

**Minutes:** Motion for approval of the September minutes by Trina White, seconded by Pierre Jomini. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

## STAFF REPORTS:

**Inquiry from the Board:** Pierre inquired about the possibility of widening Lewis between 17<sup>th</sup> St W and 18<sup>th</sup> St W by eliminating the boulevard so dedicated bike lanes can be provided rather than requiring cyclists and motor vehicles to share the traffic lane. Debi noted that the use of sharrows (shared lane markings) is an accepted bicycle treatment and this was intended as a low cost, easy to implement project. The striping was accomplished by City crews and the signing paid for by BikeNet. A more expensive project (moving curbs and widening the street) while technically feasible would likely have meant no project at all because of increased costs and lack of funding.

## BOARD REPORTS:

### Planning Board:

**Highway 3 Corridor Study:** Laura gave an update from the October 15<sup>th</sup> public meeting that was held at the library. The meeting included 18 to 20 polling questions the audience could respond to regarding topics such as trails, landscaping and parking design. It was noted that the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) project on Zimmerman Trail will include a roundabout at the Zimmerman Trail and Highway 3 intersection.

**Zoo Montana to Riverfront Park Trail Study:** Lora stated that the Zoo Montana to Riverfront Park Trail feasibility study is in the adoption process. Both the City Council and the County Commissioners will vote on adopting the study next week. The Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) is scheduled to take final action approving the study on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Transportation Plan:** The Transportation Plan update has received final approval from MDT and FHWA. The adopted plan is posted on the City website.

**Other Studies:** There are three new planning studies slated for next year. One is a West End traffic study which will be a more in depth look at traffic needs in the area west of Shiloh due to growth and development in the area. The study will include the area west of Shiloh Road from King Ave to the Rims. The second study will look at bike-pedestrian access from Highway 3 to Rimrock Road then across to Shiloh Road. This is another link in the

“marathon loop” trail system the Chamber of Commerce is promoting to have a trail system that encircles the entire City. The third planning study will be a downtown railroad corridor study with the idea of applying for a Federal TIGER grant. In addition to looking at improving the existing railroad underpasses in the downtown area, this study will also look at potentially building two bike-pedestrian overpasses. The pedestrian overpasses would include one east of 27<sup>th</sup> Street and another near the west end of downtown toward Division Street. This study will also look at the possibility of improving traffic flow at signalized intersections near the railroad crossings during and following the passage of a train. The study will include a cost benefit analysis in anticipation of applying for a TIGER Grant.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Areas of Interest:** A general discussion was held regarding the prioritization of the updated *Areas of Interest* sheet that Terry sent out following the last meeting. There was general agreement that traffic safety was the top priority. A report on the King Avenue West signal timing project is slated for the December meeting, so a staff presentation regarding traffic safety will be scheduled for the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Asphalt Millings for street surfacing (Board Inquiry):** In response to a Board member inquiry Debi gave a presentation about the potential for using asphalt millings on City streets. In general the use of millings has not proven practical on City streets, except in cases where they have been incorporated into the gravel base when a street is being totally reconstructed. Millings do not provide a durable surface on City streets and once in place cannot be bladed and maintained as readily as a gravel street surface.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.