

# TRAFFIC CONTROL BOARD MINUTES

## July 29th, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pierre Jomini, Gene Wade, Jerry Dunning, Trina White, Sondra Baker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Todd Cormier, Capt. Harper

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

GUESTS: None

### BUSINESS MEETING:

**Call to order:** Gene Wade 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 June minutes by Trina White. Seconded by Pierre Jomini. Motion for approval carried on a voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

### STAFF REPORTS:

Gene asked if Zimmerman Trail was open. Erin reported it was open to north-south traffic at Poly, but still closed to east-west traffic. The segment between Zimmerman and Highway 3 is open as well.

### BOARD REPORTS:

- **West End Traffic Study & Model:** Lora gave an update on the modeling project which will look more in depth at how development is impacting transportation needs in the far west end. The study will look at an area bounded roughly by Shiloh & 62<sup>nd</sup> St. West, and Rimrock Road & Hesper Road. Sanderson Stewart has been hired to complete the study and will be looking at land use, development density and projected traffic volumes. Final contract approval from the City Council is pending, but the project is expected to start soon. Pierre asked if the traffic modeling will use the State computer model. Laura reported that it will, however there will be a bike/ped model incorporated as well.
- **Rims to Valley Bike/Ped Study:** This is a planning study which will focus primarily on Bike-Pedestrian access from the rims into town, or from town up to the rims. Sanderson Stewart is the consultant for this project. This is the last large segment of the "Marathon Loop" that has not been at least studied and a trail corridor identified.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- **62<sup>nd</sup> St W, Molt Rd & Rimrock Rd:** Pierre provided the board with a draft motion regarding the Intersections of Rimrock Rd, Molt Rd and 62<sup>nd</sup> St West. Terry reported that \$78,000 has been contributed by subdivisions in the area toward intersection improvements at this location. The City is currently in preliminary negotiations to acquire the privately owned property within the "triangle" formed by the three roadways. The subdivision impact fees collected so far will be used for the right-of-way acquisition. Pierre made the following motion, seconded by Jerry:

*“ Due to geometric and visibility limitations, due to the 55 mph speed limits at the intersections of Rimrock Road, Molt Road and 62<sup>nd</sup> Street West, the Traffic Control Board moves that the recommended solution of a roundabout (Intersection Study by Engineering Inc. for the City of Billings, January 2009) be included in the Transportation Improvement Program and that the local agencies verify the feasibility of using federal safety funds, noting that through development fees and commitments, the City of Billings can contribute \$ \$78,000 towards right-of-way acquisition for this project.”*

Motion carried on voice vote.

After discussion of how the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is developed it was agreed that the motion would be forwarded to Scott Walker, Transportation Planner with the City-County Planning Department. As the MPO for the Billings area, the Planning Department is responsible for working with MDT to develop updates to the TIP. Once a draft TIP is developed it goes through the local Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for recommendation to the Planning Board, City Council and County Commissioners before being given formal approval by the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC). After approval by PCC the TIP becomes part of the official plan for transportation improvements in the Billings Urban area.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Police Department crash data (presentation by Jon Kristjanson, BPD Public Safety Technician):** Jon gave a presentation to the Board on how crash data is collected and reported by Billings police officers. All data is now entered using Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) mounted in the patrol cars. The on-line system tracks and stores information from the time an officer is dispatched to the crash and includes information on response by other emergency personnel such as Fire and ambulance. Officers are able to pull information from other databases on-line (drivers license, vehicle, etc) rather than having to enter everything by hand. The reports are submitted electronically for a supervisor to review and approve and cannot be submitted unless all required fields are filled in. The report automatically generates a copy of the Highway Patrol "long form" accident report. The reports do not include an accident diagram. Photos and other information can be attached to the crash record. Once filed in the Police Department records systems drivers involved in the crash and their insurance companies can access the information on-line, rather than having to request hard copies of the report.
- Pierre asked that an item regarding traffic signing questions be added to the next agenda.

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