



MEMORANDUM

TO: MRA Board of Commissioners

FROM: Ellen Buchanan, Director *EB*

DATE: Director's Report

SUBJECT: July 15, 2021

West Broadway Master Plan

- Dover Kohl & Partners has conducted lengthy public meetings, received robust input and created the first draft of the proposed plan. The Steering Committee has reviewed the draft and provided comments to Annette. Those comments and suggestions will be reviewed by DKP and incorporated in a “final” version which they will present publicly in late summer or early fall. It is an exciting and dynamic vision for that portion of the West Broadway corridor.

Street Reconfiguration Projects –Front/Main Conversion, Higgins Avenue between Broadway and Brooks & Brooks Street Corridor

- These three projects continue to move forward aggressively. Final engineering of the Front/Main conversion project is underway with public meetings on the horizon. There continues to be inquiries about how access to the area around Kiwanis Park will be handled and those concerns will be given major consideration as the design progresses. The City's Transportation Planning Division has engaged a design team to conduct a public planning process around the possible redesign of Higgins Avenue from Broadway to Brooks. A Steering Committee, including MRA staff, has been formed with the initial meeting with the design team scheduled for the week of 7/19. Work on the transformative project on Brooks Street which will create a transit oriented, high density corridor that will include a bus rapid transit system on Brooks is ongoing. MRA staff and our consultants are working with the State to assure that modifications to that corridor can be supported by MDT. Annette has submitted an application for a Planning Grant under the RAISE (formerly known as TIGER & BUILD) Grant program that, if awarded, will position us to apply for Federal capital funding from multiple sources. We anticipate a lot of interest and public input into decisions around the future of Front, Main, Higgins and Brooks, particularly as they all may

ultimately tie together. This is becoming an increasingly exciting transportation corridor which is attracting transformative redevelopment already.

URD II Water Infrastructure Projects

- Tod is moving forward with issuing an RFP for design of the first phase of building out the missing or undersized water mains in URD II. He is working closely with Missoula Water and other City departments to determine priorities that will incentivize redevelopment of the size and density that we need to meet our growth needs.

Downtown Redevelopment

- Quiet Zone – Tod is working with City engineering staff to bring a proposal forward. The City conducted a demonstration using a directional horn system and it was apparently extremely successful. This solution to eliminate train whistles at Madison is considerably less expensive than modifications of gates and intersection and sidewalk adjustments. This will likely come before the Board at the August meeting.

As always, if you have questions or want information on any other projects not covered here, please contact me at buchanane@ci.missoula.mt.us or 552-6156.