



MEMORANDUM

TO: MRA Board of Commissioners

FROM: Ellen Buchanan, Director *EB*

DATE: October 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Director's Report

West Broadway Master Plan

- After a number of public meetings and online public input, Dover Kohl & Partners created the first draft of the proposed plan. The Steering Committee reviewed the draft and provided comments. There was some concern that there had not been adequate input from the residents north of Broadway; consequently, an additional public input session was held on October 7 in an effort to gain additional input. The Northside-Westside CREW, a community organizing group based in the North Missoula Community Development Corporation, reached out to residents in those neighborhoods and there were between 25 and 30 participants in that public meeting. We will continue to accept comments until October 20, after which all of the comments and suggestions will be reviewed by DKP and incorporated in a "final" version which they will present publicly in November. In order to accommodate the additional public meeting, MEP requested an extension for the submittal of the plan to the Big Sky Trust Fund which provided \$25,000 toward this planning effort. That extension was granted and the Master Plan will be submitted to the State around the first of the year.

Front/Main Conversion

- HDR has met individually with key stakeholders in the Kiwanis Park neighborhood and held a public open house to receive input on the conversion plans. They have finalized 30% design drawings which have been submitted to the City for approval. They are now beginning to work with individual business and property owners along both corridors. This work is being coordinated with the Higgins Avenue planning effort.

Higgins Avenue Planning between Broadway and Brooks

- The Transportation Planning Division of the City's Department of Public Works and Mobility and their consultants, Kittleson & Associates, have been engaged in a public process around the possible redesign of Higgins Ave. They have created a number of scenarios around how to safely accommodate vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and transit in a constrained right of way. The consultants are now in the process of

narrowing down the options in advance of the next public presentation and input session.

Brooks Street Corridor

- Work continues on this transformative project which will create a high-density transit corridor on Brooks Street. Our consultants, HDR, are working on identification of right of way requirements for the currently proposed configuration as well as working with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to make certain that their concerns are addressed. We are eagerly awaiting notification as to whether we will be awarded the RAISE Planning Grant that Annette applied for several months ago. If we receive that grant, we will be in a position to have HDR begin detailed design, initiate right of way acquisition discussions and work even more closely with MDT to assure their approval of the design. We expect to hear about the grant around mid-November.

Water and Sidewalk Infrastructure Projects

- Missoula Water is taking the lead on these projects in coordination with Tod since MRA is providing the funding. This relationship is similar to many projects that MRA has funded over the years in partnership with Public Works and Parks and Rec. The URD II project is under contract with IMEG for design and the URD III design contract is on this agenda for approval.

Communication Plan

- 6 Pony Hitch is working on two graphics pieces that will enable staff, MRA Board and City Council to better communicate how TIF works and how TIF funds have been used to improve the community. The cost of these falls within my approval range, so they are currently being finalized. We will get them to you once they are available.

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.