



MEMORANDUM

TO: MRA Board of Commissioners

FROM: Ellen Buchanan, Director *EB*

DATE: November 14, 2001

SUBJECT: Director's Report

West Broadway Master Plan

- The "final" version of the plan was presented during a public meeting held virtually on the evening of November 4. It was modestly attended, primarily because of the number of opportunities for public input that has already been held; however, there were some attendees who had not been to previous meetings and support for the plan remains strong. With assistance from CREW, Annette and Dover Kohl have done an excellent job generating public involvement from the neighborhood residents in addition to the business and property owners in the planning area. Final comments are being incorporated into the plan with the goal of having it adopted by the City Council as part of the City's Growth Policy in December. This process will entail presentations to the Business Improvement District Board and Planning Board on November 16, after which it will be taken through the City Council adoption process. The plan is for there to be public hearing on December 6 and adoption on December 13, should the Council choose to adopt it as part of the Growth Policy.

Front/Main Conversion

- HDR and MRA staff continue to meet individually with key stakeholders, business owners and property owners. 30% plans are being reviewed by City Public Works & Mobility. As always, there are competing interests between different user groups – drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and business owners concerned about loss of parking - for use of the constrained space available. We have charged our consulting team to look at creative ways to address these conflicting needs and, as always, we will find the compromise that works best. This work is being coordinated with the Higgins Avenue Planning currently underway.

Brooks Street Corridor

- Our consultants with HDR continue work 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 awaiting notification as to whether we will be awarded the RAISE

Planning Grant that Annette applied for several months ago. We expect/hope to hear about award of those funds any time this month. That will help define how we move forward with this project.

Scott Street/Ravara Development Project

- Ravara and the consulting team made a presentation to the City Council Administration & Finance Committee on November 10th and the conceptual plans were very well received as they were by the MRA Board in October. The contract which MRA is funding with Cushing Terrell for concept development and public outreach is nearing completion and Ravara will proceed with the selection process required to move this project forward. The relationship between the development group and City staff has been extremely collaborative and, we believe, will result in a project that can be used as a model going forward and which will create some of the foundational goals as the City embarks on comprehensive code reform.

Absence from the Office

- I will be out of the country from 12/3 – 12/18 and will not be available for the December Board meeting if there is a need to have one. If there are agenda items to be considered, our more than competent staff will be able to carry on.

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.