



MEMORANDUM

TO: MRA Board of Commissioners

FROM: Ellen Buchanan, Director *EB*

DATE: January 13, 2022

SUBJECT: Director's Report

West Broadway Master Plan

- The City Council adopted the Envision West Broadway Community Master Plan as an amendment to the 2019 Downtown Master Plan and, as such, it also becomes an amendment to the Our Missoula Growth Policy. This plan paves the way for a transformation of this important gateway into downtown and improved utilization of property that fronts on a major arterial street and the Clark Fork River. Annette did a great job guiding the development of this important piece of the Downtown Master Plan.

Front/Main Conversion

- HDR and MRA staff continue to meet individually with key stakeholders, business owners and property owners. 30% plans continue to be reviewed by the City and are also under review by MDT. As always, there are competing interests between different user groups – drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and business owners concerned about maximizing on-street parking - for use of the constrained space available. This work is being coordinated with the Higgins Avenue planning project and staff is evaluating funding sources associated with the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Brooks Street Corridor

- HDR has completed identification of right of way requirements for the proposed fixed route transit configuration and continues working with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to make certain that their concerns are addressed. As you are aware, the MRA/City was awarded the RAISE Planning Grant that Annette applied for last fall. We felt like we would be awarded some level of funding due to the degree that this project seems to meet the transportation, sustainability and equity goals of the current administration;

however, we never believed that it would be funded for the full amount requested, almost \$850K. Obviously, we have an excellent grant writer on our staff – Congratulations, Annette. Annette is now working on a Request for Proposals to identify the consultant team that will take us through the next stage of design, cost estimating and application for implementation funding. Once again, the newly passed infrastructure bill appears to provide additional funding sources that could be tapped for this project.

Midtown Master Plan

- As you are aware from the discussion at your last Board meeting, the group leading this process made the decision to separate most of the public outreach needed for a successful planning effort from the traditional master plan development contract. The Request for Proposals for that consultant has been issued and we will have received responses prior to issuance of the RFQ/RFP for a master planning team in February. While a selection will not have been made, we will know that we have a pool of qualified candidates. Fundraising is ongoing and Melanie Brock is confident that they will meet Midtown Association's goals.

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.