



City of Missoula, Montana
Item to be Referred to City Council Committee

Committee: Public Works

Item: Memo of Understanding for the Midtown Master Plan

Date: February 8, 2022

Sponsor(s): Aaron Wilson

Prepared by: Bella Dowell

Ward(s) Affected:

<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 6
<input type="checkbox"/> All Wards	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Action Required:

Approve a Memo of Understanding for the Midtown Master Plan.

Recommended Motion(s):

I move the City Council: Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Midtown Master Plan.

Timeline:

Referral to committee:	February 14, 2022
Committee discussion:	February 23, 2022
Council action (or sets hearing):	February 28, 2022
Public Hearing (if required):	N/A
Deadline:	N/A

Background and Alternatives Explored:

The Missoula Midtown area has seen increasing growth over the last decade, in part due to substantial investments from the Missoula Redevelopment Agency. At the same time, ongoing efforts to redesign the Brooks Street corridor to better provide transportation options such as bus rapid transit. To address the need for a cohesive community vision to guide development in a way that embraces the existing character while fostering new opportunities, the Missoula Midtown Association (MMA) conducted a feasibility study and white paper, identifying the need for a Master Plan to build on existing success.

Due to the importance of transportation infrastructure, the MMA approached the Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning funds to help cover the costs of a master planning process. The MPO considered this request and subsequently allocated up to \$50,000 in the FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program to help with the effort.

While there are many aspects of a master plan that can help guide development and growth of a community, the funding provided by the MPO is restricted to transportation planning activities. In order to guarantee that the funds are committed to only those eligible activities, this MOU establishes the purpose of the Master Plan, how it relates to broader regional transportation planning issues, and the roles and responsibilities of the MMA and MPO staff.

The City of Missoula functions as the administrative and contracting agent for the MPO and is thus responsible for ensuring that PL funds are expended only for eligible activities and will be reimbursing the MMA for those expenses. However, all funding for this project will be drawn from federal PL grants and won't affect the general fund or other department budgets. This MOU also ensures that the City can appropriately document how PL funds were used for federal grant reporting purposes.

Financial Implications:

The funding covered by this MOU is part of the approved FY22 budget for the Transportation Planning Division. The cost of \$50,000 will be funded through federal PL grants programmed by the Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization, and will not affect the City's general fund.

Links to external websites:

<https://missoulamidtown.com/masterplan/>