



MEMORANDUM

TO: MRA Board of Commissioners

FROM: Ellen Buchanan, Director *EB*

DATE: February 11, 2022

SUBJECT: Director's Report

Front/Main Conversion

- HDR and MRA staff continue to meet individually with key stakeholders, business owners and property owners. 30% design plan review has been completed by the City and comments are being incorporated into the documents. The goal is to have 90% design documents completed by this spring. There are still some details to be worked out, particularly around access to and from the Kiwanis neighborhood. This work is being coordinated with the Higgins Avenue planning project and staff continues to evaluate potential funding sources. HDR has been making presentations to various groups such as the Downtown Master Plan Implementation Committee, the MDA Board and the BID Board.

Brooks Street Corridor

- This project is somewhat on hold until the regulations around use of the RAISE Planning Grant funds are released by the Federal agencies. Once the rules are published, we will release a Request for Proposals for the next phase of design, more detailed cost estimating and development of an application for implementation funding. The newly passed infrastructure bill appears to provide additional funding sources that could be tapped for this project which did not exist when the project was conceived.

Sidewalk and Utility Projects

- URD II – Design work on the Montana Idaho Water and Sidewalk Project continues to progress. MRA and IMEG, our consulting engineers, have met with City Engineering to determine the Stage 2 preliminary alignment of the right of way improvements and Tod anticipates the Stage 3, Preliminary Design and Specs will be delivered to the City in the next few weeks. We anticipate having final design and bidding in late spring.

- URD III – Design work is underway on the Southern Sidewalk Project with Stage 3, Preliminary Design and Specs being delivered to City Engineering for review and approval this week. A virtual public open house is planned for February 22 to discuss the design with property owners. As with the URD II project, we anticipate final design and bidding will take place this spring.

Scott Street/Ravara Development

- MRA, City staff and Ravara continue to work through the required entitlements needed to move the project forward. We are well on our way to creating the three lots through dedication of the right of way for Charlo, Shakespeare and possibly Palmer Streets. WGM Group is working on design of the streets and utilities and architectural firms have been engaged to create construction documents for the residential and mixed-use buildings. It will be necessary to rezone one of the tracts in order to accomplish the desired densities.

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.