



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

Committee: Public Works
Item: Revisions to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreements with the Montana Department of Transportation
Date: June 8, 2021
Sponsor(s): Aaron Wilson
Prepared by: Katie Emery
Ward(s) Affected:
 Ward 1 Ward 4
 Ward 2 Ward 5
 Ward 3 Ward 6
 All Wards N/A

Action Required:
Approve revisions to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreements with the Montana Department of Transportation.

Recommended Motion(s):
I move the City Council: **Motion One:** Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Agreement for the Distribution of Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds with the State of Montana – Department of Transportation for the Missoula Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process. **Motion Two:** Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Agreement for Cooperative Performance Based Planning Measures and Targets with the Montana Department of Transportation. **Motion Three:** Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Montana – Department of Transportation for the Missoula Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process.

Timeline:
Referral to committee: June 14, 2021
Committee discussion: June 16, 2021
Council action (or sets hearing): June 21, 2021
Public Hearing: N/A
Deadline: N/A

Background and Alternatives Explored:
The Missoula MPO was formed in 1982 after the 1980 census showed that the Missoula Urbanized Area had reached the 50,000 persons population threshold. Under a 1982 agreement that designated the Missoula Consolidated Planning Board as the MPO, the Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee was also designated by the State, City, County, Planning and Transit Boards as the “official governing body of the Missoula Urban Transportation Planning Process, thus having final local approval of all transportation projects in the Missoula area.” The 1996 supplemental agreement clarifies that TPCC is to “manage the executive business of the Missoula Urban Transportation Planning Process and to develop and keep current urban transportation planning in the Missoula Area.”

The 1982 agreement also recognized that as part of the 3-C agreement (for coordinated, collaborative, continuous planning), the Planning Board, its staff and the staff of other involved agencies are involved in the 3-C planning process. It states that “this interrelationship of funding, of personnel, and line of authority will provide [for] joint studies, joint utilization of resources and joint utilization of common and consistent statistics, projections and assumptions about [the] Missoula area and its future.” Administrative functions, such as staffing, contract administration, and financial management of the MPO at various times has resided with the City and Missoula County.

After City and County reorganizations in 2012 that resulted in the creation of Development Services, the MPO staff and administrative functions were transferred from Missoula County to that new department within the City. At the time, agreements were updated to reflect those changes. In 2018, the MPO adopted an additional agreement that supported the state-wide targets for federal performance measures.

Now, with the most recent reorganization that created two new departments, Public Works & Mobility and Community Planning, Development and Innovation, these various agreements need to be updated to accurately reflect the new organizational structures. The MPO also needs to have an updated agreement in place for the use and management of federal transportation planning funds (PL), which help cover the costs of regional transportation planning for the Missoula region. All changes are minor and do not affect the overall content of the agreements.

Financial Implications:

None. The various agreements do not affect the amount of federal planning dollars available, however the PL funding agreement does establish the terms and conditions for how those funds are managed.

Links to external websites:

N/A