

## **Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes**

**February 15, 2023, 10:00 am**

**Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)**

**Attend in person: City Council Chambers, 140 W Pine, Missoula MT**

**Members present:** Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra (chair), Daniel Carlino, John P. Contos, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West

**Members absent:** Jennifer Savage

### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

#### **1.1 Roll Call**

#### **1.2 Approval of the Minutes**

##### **1.2.1 PWM Committee Minutes from February 8, 2023**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Dedicating Two City Parcels as Public Right-of-Way**

Mark Todorovich presenting,

The City is dedicating two City parcels as public right-of-way. The parcels are located on South 2nd West and South California Street. The Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) completed a sidewalk project in 2020, and as a follow-up action, the City is seeking to dedicate right of way in this area to provide better connectivity along South 2nd West between River Street and Inez Street. These two parcels will create a wide public corridor. Therefore, the City Public Works and Mobility staff believes the City's interest will be best served by dedicating these parcels as a public right of way.

Mr. Carlino asked how the land parcels would be used and if this would have to be presented to City Council. Mr. Todorovich said he is not sure how the land will be used at this time, but it will go through City Council for approval.

Ms. Jones asked if the property was owned by the City of Missoula utilities or just general City property. Mr. Todorovich replied that they belonged to the general City. Ms. Jones commented that this neighborhood has been a focus of the MRA and the City for a long time to build better infrastructure and connectivity. She added that this is a good step forward.

**Moved by:** Amber Sherrill

Adopt a resolution to dedicate two City parcels on S. 2nd St. W. and S. California Street as public right-of-way.

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, John Contos, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Jennifer Savage, and Heidi West

**Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)**

### **3.2 Resolution supporting the City of Missoula's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant 2023 Application (Higgins Corridor)**

Aaron Wilson and Deborah Postma presenting,

There are several Federal Grant opportunities, approaching nearly one trillion in federal funding that was passed as part of the Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Act. The Long-Range Transportation Plan priority projects and opportunities is framing how the City is pursuing all of the federal grant opportunities. The grant the City is asking for support of today is the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. The minimum requirement is one million, and the maximum award is twenty-five million with no local match requirement.

The project elements that will be included in this grant are the Higgins Corridor, Front/Main Two-Way Restoration, and Downtown and Riverfront Trail connections. It makes sense to apply these together because they complement and intersect one another. The overall goals of this grant are safety, housing, and improved traffic circulation and efficiency.

The Higgins Corridor Multimodal Improvements include a 4-to-3 lane conversion, dedicated left turn lane, facility separation of bicyclists and vehicles, reduced pedestrian crossing distance, and placemaking.

The Front/Main Two-Way Restoration project converts Front Street and Main Street into two-way operations. These benefits are safety, multimodal connectivity activates Front/Main from Higgins, and supporting economic development. This would update the intersections at Orange, Ryman, Higgins, Pattee, and Madison. In addition, it would add a signal at Front and Madison and protect bicycle facilities.

The Downtown Parks and Trails Connections will add an ADA Ramp from the bridge to Caras Park to improve accessibility. The Riverfront Trail Improvements will create access points at Ryman Street, Pattee Street, and Kiwanis Park. In addition, the trail will be widened from Orange to Levasseur to make the trail size more consistent.

The anticipated budget of this project will be around 22-23 million. The City is proposing 1.1 million in local funds as a match to be more competitive.

Mr. Carlino asked how many parking spaces on the Front and Main conversion would be exchanged for the protected bike lanes. Mr. Wilson did not have the exact number but felt that the design provided a good balance of parking and bike lanes. There will be a slight

loss of parking, but it is minimal. That is why the design has a unidirectional bike lane, one on Front and one on Main. The parking loss is mostly due to the curb extensions but they provide a lot of safety for the pedestrian.

Ms. West added that the Lennox Flats housing development on Woddy needed to be added to the map.

Ms. Jones commented that having one bike lane in each direction made sense to have a balance on the Front and Main conversion.

Ms. Sherrill added that the curb extensions also encourage drivers to slow down. She also said that she likes the idea of the ADA access down to Caras Park.

**Moved by:** Gwen Jones

Adopt a resolution to support the intent of and project contained in the 2023 RAISE grant application, and commit to providing \$\_\_\_\_\_ in local funds as match.

AYES: (9): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Daniel Carlino, Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, and Heidi West

NAYS: (2): John Contos, and Sandra Vasecka

ABSENT: (1): Jennifer Savage

**Vote results: Approved (9 to 2)**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**