

Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

June 21, 2023, 9:15 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, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill, Heidi West

Members absent: John P. Contos, Sierra Farmer, Sandra Vasecka

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from June 14, 2023

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Interlocal Agreement with Missoula County for Missoula Development Park and contract with Herrera for regional stormwater system condition assessment

Tracy Campbell presenting,

This is an interlocal agreement between the City of Missoula and Missoula County to provide a condition assessment analysis and improvements to the regional stormwater system at the Missoula Development Park. The agreement also addresses the intent of the County to transfer ownership of the park and stormwater parcels to the City. The City is also asking to approve a contract with Herrera Environmental Engineering to complete the condition assessment of the stormwater system at the Missoula Development Park.

The Missoula Development Park was annexed into the City in 2000. Before 2000 a neighborhood organization was maintaining the park. That organization has dissolved, and the park has not been maintained since. The County intends to transfer ownership and maintenance responsibility to the City through this interlocal agreement. The County has agreed to pay for the assessment of the stormwater system and the work that needs to be done.

Moved by: Gwen Jones

Motion 1: Approve the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and Missoula County for providing a condition assessment, alternatives analysis, and improvements to the regional stormwater system at the Missoula Development Park.

Motion 2: Per the Interlocal Agreement, approve the Mayor to sign a contract with Herrera Environmental Engineering Consultants to complete a condition assessment of the regional stormwater system at the Missoula Development Park.

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

ABSENT: (3): John Contos, Sierra Farmer, and Sandra Vasecka

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

3.2 Downtown Safety Access Mobility (SAM) Public Outreach Summary

Jeremy Keene presenting,

This presentation is a follow-up about additional outreach conducted for the Downtown Safety, Accessibility, and Mobility Project (SAM).

The Downtown SAM project combines three different elements into a RAISE Grant. These projects include the Higgins Ave corridor, Front and Main conversion, and Riverfront Trail connections. The four main goals of this project are to focus on safer streets, improve access and circulation, create an inviting streetscape, and support economic health and investment downtown. The reason for the timing of this project is the City had an opportunity to apply for a grant, and the deadline is February 28, 2023. The City has spent a lot of time conducting public outreach. They have sat down with many businesses to listen to concerns. The first key issue that came up was parking. Parking is essential for both people commuting downtown and working. The parking commission is working on a parking plan to help manage the parking spaces. A parking assessment is currently being done to evaluate how many parking spaces will be affected by the SAM project and what can be done to mitigate those losses. The loss of parking spaces on Front and Main will be around thirty spots, and the City hopes to absorb those on another street.

Safety was another issue of concern, and there is a lot of support for making our streets safer for all modes of transportation. There are a lot of conflicts between bikes, pedestrians, and cars. Safety will continue to be a priority for the SAM project.

The public was adamant in the outreach that improved access to the downtown must include vehicles. Many visitors rely on cars to access downtown and trucks for deliveries. The City will prepare a Truck Circulation Emergency Plan to help determine where trucks and emergency vehicles need access. The support for the 4 to 3-lane conversion is mixed. However, most support the two-way conversion on Front and Main. Many people expressed concern about more construction going on downtown after a long bridge project.

The Engage Missoula website has more information on this project.

Mr. Carlino expressed interest in being on the advisory committee.

Ms. Jones asked if the Parking Commission was involved in the decisions. Mr. Keene said the Parking Commission has been at all the meetings and is a valuable partner in this project.

Mr. Nugent wondered how a project like this could be funded without the City's rant. Mr. Keene said the City would have to look for other funding options.

Ms. Savage thanked the City for conducting all the outreach and listening to the public. She attended the meeting at the Wilma and was pleased to see how many people

attended.

Jim Saier, a Missoula resident, spoke about how pleased he was to see the amount of outreach the City has done. He also thanked Council for supporting this project. He said most of the City supports the project, which should be considered.

John Wolverton, a Missoula resident, urged the Council to support this project and reminded everyone that the Front Street parking lot added a lot of parking and the ROME building.

Informational Only

3.3 Presentation and Resolution supporting the City of Missoula's Safe Streets for All Grant 2023 Application

Deborah Postma presenting,

The City will apply for a grant to improve the safety of Reserve Street. The required local match for this grant is twenty percent, and because this is a Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) route, the City is coordinating with them.

Reserve Street is an essential corridor in the City, serving multiple purposes. It is a regional highway connecting Highway 93 to I-90 and serving as a regional commerce hub, providing access to local businesses. Reserve Street is a heavily traveled regional highway with a high concentration of crashes. The City would like to address these crashes and improve safety.

There is no financial impact on the City to apply for the grant. The City and MDT are still finalizing the budget and funding for the match.

Ms. Jones asked how competitive this grant would be. Ms. Postma said it is hard to tell, but they needed help using all the funding last year.

Mr. Carlino is in support of this as Reserve Street is very dangerous. He appreciates the City taking on this street and looking for grant opportunities.

Ms. Becerra says improving Reserve St's safety will benefit the City.

Moved by: Stacie Anderson

Adopt and authorize the Mayor to sign a Resolution to support the intent of and study contained in the 2023 SS4A grant application.

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

ABSENT: (3): John Contos, Sierra Farmer, and Sandra Vasecka

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT