



City of Missoula, Montana
City Council Committee Agenda Item

Committee: Public Works and Mobility
Item: Memo of Understanding for the Wye Infrastructure Plan
Date: August 17, 2023
Sponsor(s): Aaron Wilson
Prepared by: Sara Hart
Ward(s) Affected:
 Ward 1 Ward 4
 Ward 2 Ward 5
 Ward 3 Ward 6
 All Wards N/A

Action Required:
Approve a Memo of Understanding for the Wye Infrastructure Plan.

Recommended Motion(s):
I move the City Council: Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Wye Infrastructure Plan.

Timeline:
Committee discussion: August 21, 2023
Council action (or sets hearing): August 23, 2023
Public Hearing (if required): August 28, 2023
Final Consideration [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
Deadline: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Background and Alternatives Explored:
Missoula County has begun an infrastructure planning process in a portion of Missoula County known as the Wye. The City and County have significant interest in a comprehensive sustainable transportation infrastructure network. WGM Group, a consulting firm specializing in civil engineering has been selected to lead planning efforts and produce the Master Plan and deliverables under contract with the County. Among other things, this plan will prioritize planning for transportation infrastructure outside Missoula’s urban core within the Wye neighborhood. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) details how the MPO and Missoula County will manage the MPO portion of funds that will be used to pay the consultant for specific planning tasks.

Due to the importance of transportation infrastructure in the Wye area, Missoula County approached the Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning funds to help cover the costs of the infrastructure plan. The MPO considered this request and subsequently allocated up to \$50,000 in the FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program to help with the effort.

While there are many aspects of an infrastructure plan that can help guide development and growth of a community, the funding provided by the MPO is restricted to transportation planning activities. To guarantee that the funds are committed to only those eligible activities, this MOU establishes the purpose of the Infrastructure Plan, how it relates to broader regional

transportation planning issues, and the roles and responsibilities of Missoula County 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 Missoula County 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 FY24 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: