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Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee Minutes

October 20, 2020, 1:30 PM

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Live call in phone numbers: 1 (253) 215-8782 1 (888) 475-4499 (landlines only) Meeting ID: 960 049 3694

Voting members present: Mirtha Becerra, City Council (vice-chair), Peter Bensen Planning Board, John Engen, Mayor, Don MacArthur, MUTD, Lucia Olivera, Josh Slotnick, Missoula Co. Commissioner, Dave Strohmaier, Missoula Co. Commissioner (chair), Bob Vosen, MDT-Missoula

Non-Voter(s) present: Debbie Johnston, MCCHD

1. Roll Call and Introduction of Audience

Dave Strohmaier called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. New Business

4.1 Update on the Long Range Transportation Plan scenario development and metrics (Aaron Wilson/Jennifer Wieland)

Aaron Wilson, and Jennifer Wieland presented on update on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Scenario development and metrics. For details please find presentation available online.

Aaron Wilson, City of Missoula, emphasized the need to link transportation and land use because they have an impact on each other.

A committee member commented that the enhanced connection is inspiring. The level of connectivity it provides will serve Missoula in the future.

Jennifer Wieland, Nelson/ Nygaard consulting, clarified which LRTP projects have

overlap between scenarios. For example, Brooks Street is a complete street and it overlaps different scenarios. For now, the list of overlapping projects is provided but an illustrative map of these projects does not exist yet.

Ms. Wieland clarified that cost constraint was used when developing scenarios. As projects are being evaluated, she recommended considering cost/benefit. As the projects are going to be evaluated and more refined, there will be benefit cost done.

Mr. Wilson explained the maintenance cost in the plan. He stated that because of a conservative projection in available revenue, we are not considering federal funding. A large part of the gas tax goes toward roadway maintenance. A Montana Department of Transportation representative added that their first focus is maintaining; they recommend considering maintenance cost in future analysis. Mr. Wilson added that the city is also interested in comparing different growth scenarios in terms of cost and revenue.

A committee member showed support of strategic growth. He added that instead of responding to arising needs, there is merit in focusing on strategic growth. The committee recommended considering possible growth even if it does not happen.

Ms. Weiland mentioned that the goals will be measured against a handful of metrics. They are measured against metrics such as safety, transit, vehicle miles traveled etc.

Aaron Wilson clarified that existing development, including Community Hospital, Big Sky High School, and all the future growth thirty years from now is projected in the land use growth scenarios. The memo model describes how jobs are forecasted in 2050. The jobs are allocated based on underlying land use.

Mr. Wilson pointed out that improved transportation and walkable routes will benefit even the out of town residents in not having to rent a car when they are in Missoula.

Ms. Weiland clarified that part of the equity analysis may not directly address the housing equity in the city. However, the county and the city as a whole can benefit from it.

5. Old Business

None

6. Announcements and Closing Comments

1. Around five hundred people participated in the Passenger rail summit last month. The recording of it is available at <https://montanapassengerrailsummit.org>.
2. A committee member brought up Smart America Champions institute. Strategies can be learned from them for non-motorized transportation projects.
3. Announcement: There will be a public meeting for the East Missoula Highway 200 Corridor Study online on October 22nd, 7pm. Public can register on the Metropolitan Planning Organization's website: www.missoulampo.org.

7. Adjournment

Dave Strohmaier adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.