

Minutes -BTCC

October 18, 2022

MINUTES OF THE
BUTTE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (BTCC)
October 18, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER**- Dylan Pipinich called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM, October 18, 2022.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Dylan Pipinich, BSB Planning Director; John Ries, Mayor Walkerville; Mark Neary, BSB Public Works Director; Mitch Buthod, Transportation Planner MDT; William Fogarty, MDT Butte District Administrator; Dave Gates Butte District Preconstruction Engineer MD; Jeremy Whitlock, Butte School District Transportation/Maintenance Director

Members Absent: Karen Byrnes, BSB Director of Community Development; Jeremy Salle, Member Planning Board; Jim Pesanti, Butte Maintenance Chief for MDT (Joe Walsh sitting in, District Manager for MDT); John Gallagher, Chief Executive; Joe McClafferty, MT Tech; Jeff Patton Federal Highway Admin.

Others Attending: Robyn Smith, BSB Planning Administrative Assistant; JoElla Thomas, Planning Technician; Lila Osborn, Senior Planner; Tom Loggins BSB Roads Supervisor; Anita Matthews.

3. **Approval of Minutes from July 19, 2022:** Jeremy Whitlock motioned to approve minutes; Mark Neary seconded the motion.
Dylan called a vote and the minutes for July 19, 2022, were approved unanimously.

4. **Old Business**

A. Next Urban Project

Dylan talked about where the meeting had left off last time and there was going to be some items in the recommendations list out of the Transportation Plan to be marked off as already done. Dylan said that was done and printed out a new list for everyone. MDT also brought a map for everyone. Dylan guided everyone to see what projects can be chosen based on the list. The first section is committed projects, projects that were already in works when the Transportation Plan was adopted in 2016. There are several categories and can open discussions on some of those projects. Another thing that we have an availability for is to amend the list. If there is something the committee would like to see happen that is not on the list, there are some local processes to make recommendations to the Planning Board

that would make a recommendation to the Council of Commissioners to amend the list. It would have to have data from the Transportation Plan that shows it is a needed project and must be an Urban Route to be considered for funding.

Dylan said his personal preference is they look at the amendment route. We had gone through the remaining projects and their proposed details and Transportation Plan and believes the money can be better used elsewhere.

Jeremey Whitlock asked if a lot of the recommendations on there are studies.

Dylan said some of them are and the ones highlighted in yellow are ones that are already done. Howard and Elizabeth Warren area needs work and the project that's on the list is a study and not work.

Bill Fogarty asked if it's worth mentioning the annual allocation so we have an idea of how long it might take?

Mitch Buthod said the fiscal year '23 balance is \$3.8 million, maximum borrowed (up to five years of allocation) is \$3.3 million and annual allocation is \$667,000.

Dylan said that if we are going to amend the plan, it will take at least six months for our processes, probably more and we have some time for it to build up to a \$6 million dollar project range.

The question was asked of when that allocation is distributed.

Mitch said at the beginning of the Federal Fiscal Year, it's October 1st.

Joe Walsh asked if Dylan has a list of suggestions for the group.

Dylan said yes, and his suggestion would be to come back on the next agenda with everyone having a list but would also like to hear from Public Works to see what projects they were thinking that could be added.

Mark Neary said the top of Main was one of them, between Daly to Mulldoone, but it's a total reconstruct. But, if we do that, do we have to do curb, water, and sidewalk? So, it would take a bit of planning because you have a guard rail on both sides of Mulldoone closest to Daly and don't know if you have room to do curb and sidewalk.

Dylan asked Mark on a timeline to be able to work this project, would it be a few years out?

Mark said yes, if we were going to amend it, that would be one of them. The other one was east of Hayes by the Alpine Bar, from there to the Hillcrest School turnoff.

Dylan asked if it was on Continental.

Mark said yes and don't think it would be a total reconstruct.

Dave Gates asked if it already has the ADA through there.

Joe said no, it has a couple locations that have been upgraded for school crossings right around the Crest Nursing Home and around Hillcrest but other than that, no.

Mark asked if the gas station did it or not?

Joe said yes, one side.

Dylan asked what an estimate of cost for a block or mile or however you look at it? Full Reconstruct.

Joe said \$2.25 million per mile.

Dylan asked if we are in agreement to amend the Plan to add something or is there anything on this list we should be targeting?

John asked if there was a different plan for Excelsior to Caledonia.

Tom said we're going to take care of that because Excel is too far gone, we can't wait the six or seven years for that so we're going to try to start doing that over the next three.

Mark said it's being designed right now and will probably be three phased. We're using our BaRSAA funds and will be a phased approach because it will be expensive.

Mitch asked Dylan if he was going to get the map out to the remaining members that are not present and tell them to come back with a list from the roads that are gold on the map?

Dylan said yes, his thought is that we come back with a project you would like to be added with justification from the Transportation Plan and then this committee would bring it forward to the Planning Board and then ultimately the Council of Commissioners and whatever we would need to with MDT as well, hopefully simultaneously.

Mark asked what the amendment process is.

Mitch said after the last meeting, he sent Dylan an example of how other communities have done it, basically it is a one-page explanation and then essentially gratified by your Commission. If you want to do a whole reconstruct of the entire plan, it's a different story but don't think we're going down that road.

Dylan said no, looking to add a project. There's a lot of traffic studies in the plan but if they are not specific to the location being looked at, maybe we'll have to do some traffic counts or something like that.

Mitch asked if there are things that can be removed because they aren't necessary anymore for some reason, is there stuff we can amend, besides adding a project to this list, is there stuff that can be taken off for future consideration? Obviously, there was some thought put into this list at one point, just wondering how things have changed over time.

Dylan said we're getting to the point where this draft plan is getting to be six years old, we're going to want to do another one before too long.

Dylan said where we're at he'll ask that for the next agenda, submit your projects and justification for a recommendation and we'll pick something we'd like to add and start the process.

Mark said on this design modification, Elizabeth Warren, and Howard Ave, it was proposing a traffic control study but don't think we can use that money on Howard Ave.

Joe said not on Howard, you can use it for the intersection. The problem area is on Elizabeth Warren, between Town Pump and the Bank. Joe said a study there could be valuable.

Dylan said his question is to pick a project that is considerably less than our allocation.

Joe asked if Dylan is asking if there could be multiple studies and use some of the funding up front?

Dylan said he's wondering if we could do the study on that intersection now, while we're still picking a construction project?

Mark said the study is for Elizabeth Warren and Howard, not for the intersection at Harrison and Elizabeth Warren.

Joe said he thinks what you're going to need to do is look a little further to the west as you do the study on Howard. You have some other intersecting approaches like the Ford dealership. Coming out, it's kind of a mess right there. As you look at the intersection of Elizabeth Warren and Howard, you'd have to expand those limits to see what the actual solution is.

Jeremy asked if that is an amendment to the Plan?

Joe said that one is actually on here.

Dylan said that it's something to think of that there's some areas, especially with these studies, that aren't full blown construction projects.

Mark asked Dave if it would be under eighty.

Dave said he believes so, between just looking at that intersection, it isn't enough, as Joe pointed to, so it's going to include upstream, downstream which would have to have the same magnitude of study as just the one intersection. Looking at likely three to four intersections that contribute as well. The scope of the analysis would just grow so by scale, it feels by looking at it, that would be a little low and don't think it would be eighty but it's going to be more than nine so scale wise, probably two times more, maybe.

Mark said if we go for the study and it says it's only \$9,000, do we have an open checkbook to do this study?

Mitch said the way the Urban Program works is you select a road that is your priority for spending these funds, so you say our priority is Main Street from Park to Daly. It doesn't matter what the project is, but our next priority for Urban Funding is this road. I don't think you can select Elizabeth Warren and Main Street at the same time. Our policy is one at a time until that need is met with those urban dollars.

Dylan said if we selected this and the study comes back and says there's a need for improvement, we'd be locked into that improvement.

Dave said he thought we couldn't use STPU dollars for Planning.

Mitch said the way that federal regulations are set for this program is that it is a very broad scope, you can do a lot of different things with this Urban Funding from sidewalks and shared use paths to full reconstruction of roadways but there are things that you can't do. To Dave's point about a planning study, he thinks analysis is allowed but will double check.

Dylan asked if we could use some of the funding to write the plan?

Mitch said no, that would have been our state research funds, so that's a different funding source. That is called the SPR program.

Dylan said getting back to Elizabeth Warren and Howard, we have some development coming up that's going to do some improvements on Howard and thinks we should wait on that.

Mark agreed and said he thinks Mulldoone should be done before this.

Joe asked Dylan if he will be sending the list and map and give the members that are not present some direction?

Dylan said yes, and if someone will make a motion and the suggestion for a motion would be that we hold this until the next meeting and ask if the committee have any suggestions that they come forward. The goal for this recommendation list isn't just for this funding, that's its primary use is that you have to pick, but there's a lot of projects on here that are just local finance tools.

Mark said that even on Main Street we have some areas that the asphalt is falling away, and it is probably time to do a fill in again which we could prioritize some of this stuff.

Joe said that might be a good suggestion to get that summary and mail it out with these and they would have an opportunity to visit some of those sites prior to the next meeting and think it would help your case.

Mitch asked if the goal of the next meeting would be to make an amendment to the projects list and then a following meeting select the priority or to do that at the same time?

Dylan said our Transportation Plan is adopted by our Council so to amend it we would have to go to Council who is recommended from our Planning Board to our Council so we would follow that same step. The goal for our next meeting would be a recommendation to our Planning Board who would then make a recommendation to Council to amend.

Mark made a motion to hold this pending some recommendations and John seconded the motion.

B. Lighting

Dylan said this was carried over from last time on street lighting and who owns what. We never really resolved anything and don't think there's anything to resolve but wants to keep it on everyone's radar. Our GIS is making a map of every streetlight in town and who owns it. That's just a coordination thing with us, MDT and more Northwestern Energy than anything. Does anyone have any questions on that topic?

Joe told Mark that the Montana Street lights are working now.

Dylan said that if anybody has any agenda items for next time other than what we are talking about, let everybody know before next meeting. An email will be sent a couple weeks in advance to see if anybody wants to add something to the agenda.

5. Adjourn

Jeremy Whitlock motioned to adjourn and Mark Neary Seconded.

Meeting adjourn 8:41 AM.