

Transportation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 6, 2019

8:00 A.M. City Hall – Second Floor – Engineering Conference Room

1.Attendance & Receipt of Minutes:

Commissioners Present: Robert Gavrell; Roger Poirier; and John Stephens

City Staff: Terri Partch, City Engineer

City Council: Charlie Willman, Liaison

Other: Steve Smith

The meeting was a continuation of the previous meeting on Tuesday, June 4th. The meeting commenced at 8:00 A.M.

2.Integration of the Large Capital Projects List and Street Reconstruction List – Cont'd Discussion.

- Terri discussed the 2020 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) continued from the June 4th meeting. The discussion from Tuesday, June 4th also included asking the Transportation Commission to include recommendations to the City Council for funding of Street Reconstruction Projects and adding these projects to the 2020 LRTP. Street reconstruction is funded by the Street Tax Fund which comes from a \$.05 street tax and generates approximately \$2.5 M going toward street maintenance. There are various levels of spending of the street tax fund with about \$1 M - \$1.5 M generated to basic street maintenance like basic crack seal and small roadway repairs. The reconstruction projects are huge with the reconstruction project on Red Mountain costing approximately \$2 M to complete. Also, Cedar Crest's costs will be approximately \$2 M - \$2.5 M to reconstruct the streets. The total costs of the street reconstruction projects are approximately \$40 M.
- One of the discussions from the previous meeting on June 4th was whether the Transportation Commission should make a recommendation to look for additional funding sources for transportation. The conclusion was the Transportation Commission shouldn't make a recommendation to City Council which source they take money.
- The Transportation Commission discussed the powers and duties of the commission as outlined in the City Municipal Code 020.020.2030 (i) – *Powers and duties of Transportation Commission.*

The powers and duties of the Transportation Commission shall be:

(1) To investigate, study, and report to the City Council any and all matters concerning transportation issues which directly affect the City.

(2) To investigate, study and report to the City Council on other intergovernmental committees, boards or commissions working on transportation issues in the Tri-County (Pitkin, Garfield and Eagle) area.

(3) To meet with the City Council on an annual basis to identify which transportation issues require priority attention.

(4) To investigate, study and report to the City Council on grants, donations and other

forms of funding to assist in meeting the transportation needs of the City.

(5) To perform functions concerning oversight of transportation issues or functions as delegated by the City Council.

(6) To appoint subcommittees as necessary to carry out the foregoing functions subject to the approval of the City Council.

- The Transportation Commission's need to decide what the top priorities are on the LRTP and send a representative of the Transportation Commission to report the Transportation Commission's recommendations of those priorities to the City Council on July 2nd.
- There was discussion of the maintenance of existing roads and where the maintenance of roadway should this go on the 2020 LRTP list.
- The A & I tax measure, which was passed in 2016, was discussed. It allowed bonding up to \$52 M, but the Chief Financial Officer said the City should only bond to \$40 M instead because the A & I tax can pay back only \$40 M. There is a \$22 M bond allocated to the 27th Street Bridge and South Midland. Of these two projects Terri feels that \$14 M will be spent, even though South Midland hasn't gone out for bid. Out of the \$40 M there is approximately \$26 M left, with approximately \$17 M - \$20 M left-over that could go to build South Bridge with RFTA putting approximately \$4 M for the intersection on SH 82 and possible funding coming from Garfield County. The cost of the road reconstruction, which includes utility reconstruction is approximately \$56 M and the approximate cost of South Bridge is \$40 M. The South Midland Project was removed from the priorities list since the project is scheduled to be built with the funding already approved.

*The Transportation Commission decided Item #1 and Item #2 are equally important projects and feel both items need to be considered equally.

The top five large projects on the 2020 LRTP were re-ranked as follows:

1. and 2. South Bridge and Cedar Crest/ Red Mountain Street Reconstruction Projects
3. Grade Separated & Pedestrian Crossing of SH-82 & 27th Street
4. 6th Street Reconstruction
5. Highway 6 Corridor Shared Use Path from Linden to Donegan; or

The Transportation Commission will send the revised top five priorities list as well as items #6 thru #10 below for the Transportation Commission members to review:

6. LoVa Trail
7. 8th Street Extension – Reconstruction
8. 14th Street Multi-Modal Bridge
9. Midland Avenue On-street Bike Facilities (8th Street to 27th Street) – adding paving and Sharrows.
10. 12th Street Ditch Underpass – Full Construction

Robert Gavrell volunteered to represent the Transportation Commission at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, July 2, 2109 and present the top five priorities of the 2020 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

3.Small Projects List - Discussion.

- Steve Smith discussed the priorities of the Bicycle Advocates and was part of the discussion of the LRTP's Small Projects List. Steve briefly discussed making improvements on the path at Coach Miller Drive and the Highway 6 & 24 Corridor Shared Use Bike Path. Projects Steve feels the initial work on Coach Miller should be able to fit into the schedule to be completed soon as well as the narrow Blake Avenue

Bike Lane and Highway 6 & 24 Bike Path, 12th Street, which has a steep section and should be paved all the way to the trail. Some of these projects are in discussion with RFTA. Steve volunteered to contact RFTA about some of the projects that are in the rail corridor.

- The Street Department will work with Tanya for these improvements. \$1.9 M Linden to Donegan Road to Exit 114 make a thru corridor – North side of Donegan to Linden access to the Middle School and residents’ safer route to go on Donegan is a connection with the hazard being the narrow road.

The Small Projects List includes:

1. Highway 6 Bike Path - Interim Improvements to improve surface, signage, and separation of existing bike path on Highway 6 between Donegan Road and Laurel Street.
2. 12th Street at Pitkin and 12th Street Ditch at Cooper – Harden the connection between 12th Street and the Rio Grande Trail. Interim improvements to improve grading and/or surface, lighting, signage, curb cuts or grinding.
3. 10th Street Improvements with Sharrows - Connections between the Rio Grande rail to Blake –Bike Lanes will be added on 10th Street to Blake Avenue. In general, improving all the school street project on 10th to Blake. Jessica and Jake are working on a striping plan before placing actual islands to control traffic. This might include striping all the along 10th to Blake Avenue. The Safe Routes to Schools Plan should include improvements from the GSES on 10th Street all the way to Blake.
4. City-Wide Wayfinding – This is an on-going project with suggestion to circulate wayfinding maps, routes, and trails are identified by the City’s GIS system. Ways to incorporate wayfinding included suggestions using wayfinding technology where you scan a barcode and find the trails and maps in the city with the website being updated as needed. A map could also be made available for those who wish to have a hard copy of a map. There are two tri-fold signs to use for maps in the downtown area once one is developed. Tanya has the trails identified and could make hard copies of these now.
5. Rectangle Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) – The RRFBs were install at Exit 114 and two locations on Midland Avenue. The bike advocates would like to add another RRFB on the left side, for better visuals of bicycle or pedestrians there. The flashing beacons cannot be seen on the west side of the off ramp. CDOT will not absorb the cost of the RRFBs. The City’s cost will be approximately \$10,000 and to place and maintain the beacons.
6. Rio Grande Trail Connections – RFTA approved a new access control plan in 2018 which includes a mechanism for creating desired crossings.
7. Blake Avenue Sidewalk Improvements and the Coach Miller Drive sidewalk which is a great trail connection and may be able to work with RFTA for this connection.
8. South Blake Avenue Improvements and Facilities– Opening Blake Gate to coincide with development of Bell Rippy property.
9. Donegan Road – (GarCo) pedestrian sidewalk and bicycle lanes improvements – This is a high priority but is outside the City limits, which is by Soccer Field Road where the GSMS and the Two Rivers Community School is located. There has been discussion about adding this project with the Safe Routes to Schools. This would be a good project for Steve Smith and the Bicycle Advocates to be involved in since this project is in Garfield County.
10. Atkinson Trail Connection to Glenwood Park – Completing the link would allow

residents of Park West area to safely access the trail network without traveling on Midland Avenue. The estimates cost in 2017 was \$108 K and included in the Garfield County Built Environment Needs assessment. There is a consultant evaluating this project. There is a public meeting coming up soon to discuss the improvement of the trail connection through the park/and discuss the erosion control protection.

11. Midland Avenue On-Street Bike facilities (8th Street to 27th Street) – This is a high-volume road with over 7,000 vehicles a day traveling through this area and is probably not a safe way to have shared use lanes and make unsafe for bicyclists. There is a possibility of using the River Trail System along the river, which was the original design on the 1998 Trail Plan. Brian is interested in trying to revise it. The Midland connection along the right-of-way also needs to be negotiated with the City having an old ditch Right-of-Way along the river. There was another connection possible at Iron Mountain Hot Springs to the Whitewater Park. Along with this there is a possibility of a separated pedestrian bridge at 27th.
12. Wulfsohn Trail and West Midland – This will be taken care of in August. The ramps are out of alignment and the idea is to re-align these, so you do not have to take sharp 90 degree turns.
13. Devereux Road Connection to Highway 6 – The existing sidewalk ends with a steep drop off onto the gravel shoulder as the path transitions from the City to UP property. Terri said she would have to change the sidewalk from the City's property. They would like Sharrows on Devereux. Terri will check the volume out there before she adds Sharrows. They will work on a transition for where the sidewalk ends. There are pedestrian issues on Devereux by Iron Mtn Hot Springs and they will probably add a trail on Centennial through iron Mountain Hot Springs which will cross the Colorado River and onto Devereux to the Whitewater Park. In the future this would also make a hard connection with LoVa Trail on Devereux Road.
 - Terri will refine and the new ideas for the Small Projects lists and the TC members will send her pictures of the areas that need construction.
 - Terri said as she gets more information regarding specific small projects she needs to recognize the need and then can have the projects completed within a few weeks.

4.Other - Discussion.

- Bike to Work Day is Wednesday, June 26th – Locations will be set-up at City Hall, Valley View Hospital, Roaring Fork Anglers, and the Community Center.
- On Demand Transit Study will start soon. Terri will ask the all TC members if anyone will be interested in being involved with the study. Terri will add the new ideas and refine the new ideas to send to the TC and they will take pictures of some of the small projects, so Terri can see what works needs to be completed.

3.Adjourn.

The Transportation Commission meeting adjourned at 9:50 A.M. The next meeting of the Transportation Commission will be Tuesday, July 9th at 7:40 am – City Hall – Council Chambers.