

*REGIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 17, 2008
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION*



****MINUTES****

- ATTENDEES:**
- Mary Barker, Valley Regional Transit
 - Clair Bowman, City of Nampa
 - Sabrina Bowman, Ada County Highway District
 - Jon Cecil, Capital City Development Corporation
 - Phil Choate, Idaho Transportation Department-District 3
 - Matt Ellsworth, City of Meridian, *Chair*
 - Jim Farrens, Ada County Development Services
 - Stephen Freiburger, Nampa Highway District #1 (*for Jim Buffington*)
 - Rob Howarth, Central District Health Department (*Ex-Officio*)
 - Wendy Howell, City of Middleton
 - Ryan McDaniel, City of Boise
 - Brent Orton, City of Caldwell
 - Tim Richard, Canyon Highway District #4, *Vice Chair*
 - Christian Samples, City of Garden City (*for Jenah Thornborrow*)
 - Deanna Smith, Public Participation Committee
 - Sarah Stobaugh, Boise Independent School District
 - Toni Tisdale, COMPASS (*Ex-Officio*)
 - Jarom Wagoner, Canyon County Development Services
- MEMBERS ABSENT:**
- Brad Broker, Department of Environmental Quality
 - LeAnn Carlsen, Joint School District #2
 - Jared Everett, Boise State University
 - Steve Hasson, City of Kuna
 - Anne Horn, Mayor, City of Notus
 - Mary Shaw Taylor, City of Star
 - Margie Watson, Mayor, City of Parma
- OTHERS PRESENT:**
- Keith Holmes, COMPASS
 - Caleb Hood, City of Meridian
 - Jessica Johnson, COMPASS
 - Amy Luft, COMPASS
 - Don Matson, COMPASS
 - Carl Miller, COMPASS
 - Sherri Pillow, Ada County Development Services
 - Leslie Toombs, Ada County Highway District
 - Charles Trainor, COMPASS
 - Debbie Winchar, COMPASS

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CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ellsworth called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Introductions were made of all attendees.

Toni Tisdale introduced Amy Luft, COMPASS' new Communication Coordinator.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

None.

OPEN DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Ellsworth introduced Caleb Hood, Transportation Planner for the City of Meridian. Matt and Caleb are tag-teaming the long-range planning for the City of Meridian and Caleb will be working on the transportation coordination issues that Matt has handled in the past.

Toni Tisdale stated that with regard to the pending economic stimulus package, not many details have been forthcoming; however, staff requests that all pedestrian/bike projects be presented to staff as soon as possible.

Ryan McDaniel distributed a map of Ada County auto versus bike accidents for the committee's review.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. *Approve October 22, 2008 Meeting Minutes*
- B. *Approve Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2009*

Jon Cecil moved and Tim Richard seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. *Recommend Approval of the Transportation Improvement Program Project Prioritization Process*

Toni Tisdale presented the proposed Project Prioritization Process.

Toni stated that staff's recommendation regarding the shift in policy would be either - Option 3: Remove the split and prioritize funds based on need with an emphasis on safety and maintenance; Option 4: Remove the split altogether and prioritize funds based on need with an emphasis on maintenance and the ITS; Option 5: Remove the split altogether and prioritize funds based on need with an emphasis on maintenance and alternative transportation; or an additional Option 6: Remove the split altogether and prioritize funds based on the need at the time.

Discussion:

- Page 12 – the jurisdictions that want to participate need to have adopted *Communities in Motion*. (CIM) Some jurisdictions have not adopted CIM.
- Page 12 – in the point scoring table, the Development Corporation reference should be changed to "Master Plan" or "Development Corporation Master Plan." Capital City Development Corporation has three specific master plans for its downtown core. In order to be consistent, this change should be made.

- Page 14, Bicycle Modes – the scoring of the levels of Bicycle accommodations does not make sense. It seems odd to have 2 points potentially missing.
- When an Option is recommended, how often is the Option reviewed?

Toni replied that if there is an issue when going through scoring the first time, it will then be revisited. If there was no issue, it would not be reviewed. The policy could change every year depending on the preference of the COMPASS Board.

Ryan McDaniel commented that some of the levels of distinction were eliminated: either there's pedestrian or bike facilities, or there is not. If it's kept more generic, staff will prioritize and make recommendations in the future. It allows much more flexibility and less involvement by the decision makers. Ryan stated that he would approve the Option recommended by staff.

- Page 14 – Bicycle Modes – “buffering” or “physically separated from traffic” is confusing. If they are separated by a greenbelt it would make more sense. Bicycles are not physically separated from traffic. The language and scoring should be changed.

Ryan suggested striking:

- Comprehensive facilities (includes buffering) (3)
- (bicyclists physically separated from traffic) but keep Adequate facilities (3)
- Inadequate facilities (1)

Toni stated that No Pedestrian facilities would be changed to No **Bicycle** facilities.

Clair Bowman commented that the City of Nampa is comfortable with any one of these Options; the policy will be adopted and over time modifications will be made. Do not negotiate the details at this time.

Ryan McDaniel moved and Clair Bowman seconded to recommend the Transportation Improvement Program Project Prioritization Process as amended and with the understanding that minor changes can be made at staff's discretion. The motion was unanimously approved.

After further discussion, Stephen Freiburger moved and Jarom Wagoner seconded to adopt staff's recommendation of an Option 6: Remove the split altogether and prioritize funds based on need. Motion passes with one nay.

Stephen Freiburger suggested that in the future the subcommittee presented a recommendation to RTAC.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review FY2009 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget (UPWP)

Keith Holmes presented the FY2009 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget.

B. Review Population Forecast

Carl Miller presented an update to the Population Forecast as recommended by the Demographic Advisory Committee.

C. *Review New Projects and Prioritization for FY2010-2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Program*

Toni Tisdale reviewed new projects and prioritization for the FY2010-2014 TIP. RTAC will be requested to approve these projects and ranking order at the January 28, 2009 meeting.

Discussion:

- When looking at the scoring, the projects are scored under different scenarios and ranking them against each other does not make sense. Clarification is needed: overlays are seen in *Communities in Motion* (CIM) as 50% of project funding that goes toward maintenance projects but that is not reflected in the scoring.

Toni replied that CIM includes all funding sources not just federal.

- Regarding clarification on the overlays; this particular application was over and above the overlay money that was pulled off at the top. Either rank the projects or do not rank them and explain why they were not ranked. The explanation needs to clarify that the reason the projects did not score well was not because of the project itself but because of the flawed review process.
- A recommendation should not be forwarded with the ranking as presented.
- From committee discussions, the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) and COMPASS projects were recommended as being higher ranked than any of the other traffic management area projects. The decision was to pull out the projects because they are more important than the others. The language: "The scoring subcommittee recommends these projects as a priority because...." is correct.

Toni summarized the discussion: leave ranking as is but drop the ranking starting with VRT as #1 and place an asterisk next to ACHD and COMPASS indicating that this is what the committee recommended.

After further discussion, a suggestion was made that in order to minimize this debate, offload the discussion of the recommendation as to what goes into preliminary development to a subcommittee and have the subcommittee bring a formal recommendation back to RTAC.

Toni suggested that a subcommittee convene by January 10th to the 15th and asked for volunteers.

Brent Orton suggested that the subcommittee that previously prioritized be reconvened.

There was a consensus of the subcommittee to reconvene.

D. *Update on Mobility Corridors*

Tim Richard presented the mobility corridor descriptions. The map developed to identify preservation needs for a coordinated future regional mobility roadway system, along with proposed alignments along the western arterial, will go out for public comment on January 14, 2008 at the Canyon County Courthouse. Adjustments will be made to the map after public comment.

Mary Barker suggested there should be a review of the use of the word "mobility." Mobility has a different meaning that insinuates multi-modal. The classification is good if looking only at roadway. The public and various agencies may interpret it differently.

Sabrina Bowman stated that ACHD has preliminary model runs for the Lake Hazel/Amity corridor.

E. Review Functional Classification Update Protocol

Toni Tisdale reviewed the protocol for updates to the Functional Classification System.

Clair Bowman commented that as the City of Nampa is kicking off a transportation master plan, two sets of functional classification designations have to be rectified that do not necessarily overlap at all points. The model runs need to be done by the end of January 2009. Nampa's submittal may not be ready for RTAC's January meeting packet.

Brent Orton stated that the City of Caldwell has many changes to the functional classification and is in the process of up-classing a road to a collector. It is Caldwell's desire to take a hard look at their functional classification and are working towards a cooperative effort with all agencies in Canyon County.

Toni replied that it is staff's hope to do the major updates in the September-November timeframe. This item will be brought back to RTAC in January 2009 for approval of the protocol.

F. Discussion on Complete Streets

Charles Trainor presented a brief review of the committee's discussion on Complete Streets.

Discussion:

- The City of Nampa will try and incorporate some of the language into its transportation plan.
- A subcommittee should be created to craft a policy that would be acceptable to both Ada County and Canyon County and could be presented to the COMPASS Board for their consideration. Other metropolitan planning organizations across the country have adopted a Complete Streets Policy so we would not have to reinvent the wheel.

Chair Ellsworth stated that ACHD and the City of Nampa have similar efforts underway. The notion of Complete Streets is consistent with CIM. The question to consider is whether it would be depictive to try and develop an additional policy for consideration jointly as a region.

Jon Cecil replied that this could be an overarching vision of Complete Streets that compliments CIM as well as a support for multi-modal mobility access.

Stephen Freiburger stated he would not recommend this go any further unless it went through a subcommittee.

After further discussion, the following members volunteered to sit on the subcommittee:

Mary Barker, Valley Regional Transit
Deanna Smith, Public Participation Committee
Phil Choate, Idaho Transportation Department
Ryan McDaniel, City of Boise
Jon Cecil, Capital City Development Corporation
Stephen Freiburger, Paragon Consulting, Inc.
Brent Orton, City of Caldwell
Justin Lucas, Ada County Highway District

Jon Cecil suggested a draft policy be ready for RTAC's review by March 2009.

G. Review RTAC Survey Results

Chair Ellsworth reviewed the results of RTAC's survey regarding various aspects of the RTAC meetings.

H. Discussion on Effectiveness of RTAC Meetings

Ryan McDaniel stated that he had previously asked for a follow-up on progress made in implementing the Traffic Impact Studies Recommended Best Practices and Access Management Toolkit. Ryan commented that the City of Boise is rewriting their parking ordinance and what is being done through this committee is being implemented into that ordinance.

Clair Bowman commented that creating subcommittees who are expected to bring back an action item to RTAC and the tolerance level of the committee to make an up or down decision without a lot of discussion are some good things coming out of today's meeting.

I. Set the January 2009 Agenda

- Election of Officers
- Follow-up to the January 14th public comment of the Mobility Corridors
- Overland Mobility Corridor Study
- Future Agenda: On a regional level, updating state and local roadways: city limit signs, population estimates, frequency of updates; what numbers should be used; and, the creation of a regional recommendation to forward to the COMPASS Board on how these issues should be handled.

OTHER

A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 28, 9:00 a.m., at COMPASS.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.