



## Hamilton Area Transportation Plan 2009 Update

### Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Notes

#### April 15, 2009 – Meeting Number 1

##### Introduction

The first Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting for the Hamilton Area Transportation Plan (2009 Update) project was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the members of the CAC to the project, hear from CAC members about their expectations and interest in the project, and review the general scope of work for the project's development. The following CAC members were present for this first meeting:

- Ann Harding
- Ron Ehli (Chief, Hamilton Fire Department)
- Chip Pigman (Pigman Builders)
- Dan Rothlisberger
- Kathleen Driscoll (Ravalli County Commissioner)
- Steve Powell
- Al Mitchell (City of Hamilton Councilor)
- Dennis Stranger (Project Manager City of Hamilton)
- Joanne Verwolf (Ravalli County Coordinator Summit Independent Living Center)

CAC members that were not able to attend due to previously scheduled commitments were Lance Pysher, Robin Pruitt (Bitter Root Land Trust), and Kelly Hudson (Rocky Mountain Laboratories).

In addition, representatives of the Montana Department of Transportation in attendance included Sheila Ludlow (Helena) and Shane Stack (Missoula). Keith Smith, City of Hamilton Public Works Director, was also in attendance. The meeting was facilitated by Jeff Key, CDM's project manager.

##### Discussion Items

The CAC attendees were asked what their hopes were for the Transportation Plan effort, along with any special areas of concern. The results of this discussion are presented below:

#### Ann Harding

- Desires the plan to address community mobility issues, especially as they apply to bicycle and pedestrian travel.

#### Ron Ehli

- Concerned with congestion issues, and also with ensuring good response times for the Fire Department.
- Desires the plan to address bicycle and pedestrian travel issues.

#### Chip Pigman

- Concerned with overall pedestrian and traffic activity.
- Especially interested in impact fees and how this plan will be structured to satisfy and/or comply with the 2005 impact fee legislation.

#### Dan Rothlisberger

- Is concerned with the influence transportation has on the “character” of the community, and would like the community’s transportation system to develop carefully in context with this character.

#### Kathleen Driscoll

- Very concerned with US Highway 93 and just being able to get across it - from both a motor vehicle perspective as well as a pedestrian/bicycle perspective.

#### Steve Powell

- Interested in recognizing and addressing the needs of the elderly and home-bound citizens in the community, and would like to explore the transportation management agency (TMA) concept similar to the Missoula model (MRTMA).

#### Al Mitchell

- Very concerned with the US 93 corridor and the merging/turning issues on the highway.
- Overall interest in pedestrian issues including safety and general walkability in the community.
- Interested in impact fees and how this plan will be structured to satisfy and/or comply with the 2005 impact fee legislation.
- Also hopeful that emergency routes will be evaluated to ensure adequate public emergency response times are met as the transportation system develops.

#### Dennis Stranger

- Would like the plan to be an integral component and in harmony with the recent Growth Policy Update and the other planning that will occur in the near future.

- Very interested in impact fees and making sure this plan is structured to satisfy and/or comply with the 2005 impact fee legislation.

#### Joanne Verwolf

- Very interested in advocating transit in the plan and recognizing/addressing the needs of people with disabilities within the community. This includes overall safety and infrastructure recommendations for not only people with disabilities, but also all pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Would like some assessment of the needs of individuals in wheelchairs/motorized wheelchairs, and how they can be accommodated on the transportation system safely.
- Overall transit funding is a serious issue.
- Desires to have a good discussion of transit history, needs, opportunities, constraints and recommendations in this Plan.
- Commented that the last plan had virtually nothing in it pertinent to transit.

#### Sheila Ludlow

- Desires that the community will be able to use the plan when it is completed and that it will not sit on the shelf.

#### Keith Smith

- Would like an honest discussion about funding opportunities and constraints, and hopes that some innovative funding strategies may be identified and presented in the plan.
- Desires the plan to account for land use changes and growth impacts that are occurring and will continue to occur outside of the city limits.
- Would like the plan to address/document traffic flow and congestion issues on US Highway 93 through town.
- Curious as to whether a “bypass” of US Highway 93 in town is feasible and/or beneficial to overall traffic flow.
- Special attention to the Old Corvallis Road area.

#### Shane Stack

- Desires that the resulting plan does not conflict with pressing need for adequate corridor operations.
- Enhance the transportation system already in place.
- Would like a strong look/ development of access management principles in the plan.
- Traffic control in residential areas – is it working or could it be modified?
- Bicycle paths/bicycle lanes – opportunity for connectivity north and south of Hamilton.

#### **Conclusion & Action Items**

It was requested that as part of the public outreach efforts contact should be made with the Ravalli County Council on Aging and also any senior citizen centers within the planning area.

It was requested that a copy of the last Transportation Plan be provided to the CAC members. Jeff agreed to provide this before the next meeting in electronic format contained on an individual CD.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of logistics and scheduling of the next meeting. Everybody agrees it will be difficult to find a day/time that will work for all 12 CAC members, however an evening time was generally identified as preferable.

It was requested that materials be provided in hard copy format 7 to 10 days before the actual meeting. While electronic files are a more “sustainable” transmittal practice, the file sizes are too large for some computer internet connections. Jeff agreed to send hard copies of all materials from now on.