



Hamilton Area Transportation Plan 2009 Update

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Notes November 16, 2009 – Meeting Number 5

Introduction

The fifth Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting for the Hamilton Area Transportation Plan (2009 Update) project was held on Monday, November 16, 2009, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the preliminary recommendations, developed by CDM, for the transportation plan effort. The preliminary recommendations consisted of major street network (MSN) projects, transportation system management (TSM) projects, non-motorized recommendations, and policy & procedural recommendations. The preliminary recommendations were framed as a “first cut” at developing projects for both the existing and future transportation system. Jeff Key, CDM project manager, made it clear that the recommendations have not been endorsed, nor accepted, by local elected officials, the project’s technical advisory committee (TAC), or the project’s Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

The following CAC members were present for this fifth meeting:

- Ron Ehli (Chief, Hamilton Fire Department)
- Kathleen Driscoll (Ravalli County Commissioner)
- Chip Pigman (Pigman Builders)
- Al Mitchell (City of Hamilton Councilor)
- Kelly Hudson (Rocky Mountain Laboratories)
- Dennis Stranger (Project Manager City of Hamilton)
- Ann Harding (Interested Citizen)
- Dan Rothlisberger (Interested Citizen)
- Steve Powell (Interested Citizen)
- 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 and Robin Pruitt.

In addition, the following non-CAC members were in attendance:

- Mary Miller (Interested Citizen)
- Sheila Ludlow (Montana Department of Transportation - Helena)
- Shane Stack (Montana Department of Transportation – Missoula)

The meeting was facilitated by Jeff Key, CDM’s project manager.

Discussion Items

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the preliminary recommendations, developed by CDM, for the transportation plan effort. The preliminary recommendations consisted of major street network (MSN) projects, transportation system management (TSM) projects, non-motorized recommendations, and policy & procedural recommendations.

The following bullets contain specific items that were discussed during the meeting.

- Somewhere in the plan it will be important to develop a prioritization of the project recommendations. At a minimum maybe a “top ten” list can be developed. Jeff agreed and stated that he typically will set forth the “top ten” projects at the beginning of the document in the Executive Summary section. It must be acknowledged, though, that as elected officials change that the priorities can correspondingly change from that presented in the transportation plan document.
- Would like to see some kind of project recommendation for the intersection of Blood Lane and U.S. Highway 93. Whether it’s an access re-configuration, signal, or other, the experience of the CAC members is this intersection is problematic. Jeff stated he will see what type of recommendation can be developed for this location.
- There is some concern that the width on 4th Street is too narrow to support on-street bicycle lanes. Jeff stated that he thought there was adequate room to fit in the travel lanes, bicycle lanes, and parking lanes. Jeff agreed to measure the width next time he was in town for meetings to field verify.
- The draft non-motorized network shown on Figure 5-5 and Figure 5-6 should have the terminology modified from “proposed” routes to “potential” or “possible” routes. The reasoning for this is that lines on a map can make people nervous, especially private landowners, as it implies a level of detail and finality that really isn’t known at this time via the transportation planning document. This is a good idea, and changes to the graphics and text will be made.
- Some of the information in the Public Transportation chapter is outdated. For example, Ravalli County Transit is now known as Bitterroot Bus, M/S Transportation is now Majestic Transportation, and Valley Taxi is actually Bitterroot Taxi. Other changes are that Community and Rural Transportation (C.A.R.T.) no longer exists, and Montana Medicab does not provide service to the area. The information contained in the draft Public Transportation chapter was obtained via the most recent Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update completed for the community. Joanne Verwolf agreed to assist Jeff in making final modifications to this chapter .

Conclusion & Action Items

After brainstorming about possible ways to elevate attendance for the next public meeting, it was generally agreed that hosting a meeting during the holidays was not the best idea. As such, the next public meeting will be held after the first of the year.

The next, and final, meeting of the CAC (meeting number 6) is scheduled for Monday, January 11th, 2010 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The location will be at City Hall.