



**Missoula Urban Transportation District
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2022**

Approved May 18, 2022

Members Present

Don MacArthur, Chair
Andrea Davis
Amy Cilimburg
Sebastian Strauss
Anna-Margaret Goldman

Members Absent

Staff

Corey Aldridge, General Manager
Mary Hanson, Director of Finance
Colin Woodrow, Planning and
Projects Manager
Dan Stone, Transit Planner
Shanti Johnson, Communications
Jennifer Sweten, Director, Operations
Ashley Rosas, Admin. Assist.
Jason Struppler, Operator

Call to Order and Roll Call

11:02 AM

Changes or Additions to Agenda

None.

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

Action Items

4.1 Minutes of February 9, 2022

Strauss requested the minutes be revised to include more of the discussion that took place before they are approved. Staff agreed to revise for approval at the next Planning Committee meeting.

Discussion Items

**5.1 Special Presentation on the Higgins Ave Corridor Project- Aaron Wilson,
City of Missoula Infrastructure & Mobility Planning**

Wilson gave a presentation on masterplan concepts for Higgins Design Project. A technical advisory committee, which includes Mountain Line, has helped develop the concepts. Beartracks Bridge is scheduled to open in June 2022, highlighting deficiencies north and south of the bridge, creating the need to determine continuity needs for the Hip Strip. The project team is soliciting feedback from the public and partner organizations on which alternatives are most supported while also seeking ideas or thoughts needing

consideration in the final concept relating to public transit. Envisioned outcomes for Higgins Avenue are improved safety, making it a destination and gateway, and increased economic activity. Several draft concepts were presented. Aldridge said the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) concept ties into the Brooks Street BRT Project. Discussion followed. The committee was not unanimous in support of one of the concepts.

5.2 Facilities Master Plan

Woodrow presented an update on the Facilities Master Plan. Work continues on potential Rodgers Street property. We continue to work with the City to negotiate for a parcel of land. A process overview was given, including Needs Analysis and Project Scope, Discovery Phase, FTA Approval, Negotiations, Contract, Funding, and Construction. MUTD is still currently in the Discovery Phase, pushing toward FTA approval. Application is feasible without site control. Bi-weekly meetings are taking place with FTA. The Rodgers location concept presented to the City includes terms required by the City. The concept presented accommodates the 2060 plan yet doesn't provide scalability.

A second option currently being considered is the Dougherty Ranch area along West Broadway. One of the challenging components of this property is that it resides on a flood plain. There are plans by the City and County to change the flow of Grant Creek, which will mitigate this issue. Deadhead analysis is another aspect to be taken into consideration with this location. Stone provided deadhead analysis to show the increased costs of each site.

Aldridge concluded the presentation, stating the original goal for a new facility is to find Property that meets current growth needs while also allowing future growth. The City is offering less than what would be necessary to fulfill these goals. The Rodgers site is tight and allows little space for future growth. The Dougherty property provides room for future growth. Other factors were compared for both locations, including property costs and employee well-being. Presentations were discussion items only. The committee was not unanimous in support of a particular option.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 01:42 PM.
Submitted by Ashley Rosas