

MINUTES

Urban System Advisory Committee Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Due to Covid-19 Pandemic no in-person meeting held. Meeting held via phone and Zoom meeting platform

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Lord called the meeting 11:09 a.m.

Members Present: Joe Lord, Tom DeHoff, Harold Colby, Joe Shumway, Jim McGrath, Julian Monahan, Heber Richardson, Jayne Pearce, Matt Newman, Alan Frank, Rob Fisher

Absent: Bryan Shuster

Staff Present: Todd Feezer (City), Derek Teini (City), Eric Jaap(City), Randy Griesbach (WYDOT), Tim Morton (WYDOT), David Gertsch (Albany County), Shane Johnson, Sarah Dickey (WYDOT), Bill Gorman (County), Brooks Webb (City of Laramie), Matt Cox (City of Laramie), William Winkler (City)

1.I **MOTION BY McGrath seconded by Colby**, to approve the appointment of the Urban Systems Advisory Committee Chairperson, Joe Lord.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

1.II **MOTION BY Fisher seconded by Colby**, to approve the appointment of the Urban Systems Advisory Committee Vice Chairperson, Alan Frank.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

1.III The motion to approve the appointment of the Urban Systems Advisory Committee Secretary or Recording Secretary, moved to item 5.II.vi, following the by-laws discussion.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

2.I. Changes and Approval of Agenda

MOTION BY Colby seconded by Richardson, to approve the Agenda.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

2.II USAC Meeting Minutes

2.II.i March 26, 2019 USAC Minutes

MOTION BY Colby seconded by Fisher, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2019.

Aye: 10
Nay: 0
Motion carried.

3. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None.

4. DISCLOSURES – Ex-Parte Communications; Potential Conflicts of Interest

None

5. CURRENT PROJECTS

5.I. OLD BUSINESS

5.I.i. None

5.II. NEW BUSINESS

5.II.i Bill Nye Avenue Update

Tim Morton provided an update on the Bill Nye Avenue construction. Timeline for the project moved from a 2022 to a 2024 construction project and WYDOT and the City are working on a new cooperative agreement to reflect the timeline changes and estimated project cost. Right-of-way and Engineering plan sets are being worked on and the grading plan set is complete. Eric Jaap provided drainage updates and looking at possible future drainage areas and basins. Water and sewer design work is underway.

5.II.ii USAC Priorities Discussion and Approval of 2020 Priority List

Derek Teini presented the memorandum detailing our current Urban Systems Priority list. Rob Fisher provided discussion related to the item recommended from the county. Rob Fisher noted higher traffic counts/increase in traffic along Bluebird Lane, impacts to the bus stop in area, and sight lines due to trees planted in the right-of-way at Vista and Bluebird Lane. Consideration of just widening the road and adding a drainage ditch was examined and that it may not need a full curb and guttered section. Rob Fisher noted it was the desired of the Count to have this item moved to priority #1. Bill Gorman provided a cost estimate of 1 million dollars for just widening, with a curb and gutter cross section estimated in the 2.5 million dollar range. Gorman noted that it may be good to have sidewalk, curb and gutter for more separation due to increased bike traffic. Gorman also noted safety improvements would be beneficial for the road.

Discussion summary:

Jim McGrath asked if the road was anticipated to be 2 or 4 lanes for Bluebird Lane. Bill Gorman responded that it would be 2 lanes as there is not enough right-of-way for more.

Jim McGrath asked how bike lanes and that transition would be handled? Bill Gorman recognized the difficulty of the transition, especially due to the intersection at Vista Drive and Bill Nye Avenue.

Joe Lord asked if any in area had commented about the road. Rob Fisher responded that parents and area residents have, specifically related to school traffic. Heber Richardson also added that people have called him about the traffic on Bluebird Lane. Comments about mailboxes and sight lines were also brought up to him. Heber Richardson also noted that with no shoulder pedestrians and bikes have to cross into oncoming lane.

Jim McGrath asked about financial match from County. Heber Richardson noted money was earmarked as part of the Special Purpose Tax and with the County budget.

Tom DeHoff cautioned moving this item to priority #1. Being so far into the process on Bill Nye and if we put on hold Bill Nye a 10 expiration date would come into play. If it expired the City may have to reimburse funds spent to date on the project. Currently USAC gets about \$500,000 a year for funding. As funding is being cut the Transportation Commission is considering looking at USAC as a possible cut? Technically there are enough funds, if Bill Nye is bumped down, which would result in an estimated 2 or 3 year design timeframe.

Matt Newman noted that he drives that area frequently and the trees and traffic are bad and something needs done. Gas station is the main issue and safety around how it is accessed should be examined. Fisher noted that curb and gutter would help at fueling station.

Mcgrath recommended removal of the trees and adding sharrows to Bluebird. Richardson responded that the road is too narrow and not really good for bikes or pedestrians right now.

Eric Jaap questioned the impacts of 30th being pushed out if this item is moved higher in the priority list. Richardson says reprioritizing is a good idea and that it will increase traffic and would make 30th Street ready after Bluebird Lane was reconstructed.

Randy Griesbach indicated support for Bluebird moving ahead of 30th Street.

Derek Teini asked about the estimated timeframe if Bluebird is moved to Priority #2. Tom DeHoff responded that with an estimated 2024 timeline for Bill Nye, 2.5 million dollar project for Bluebird would put it out around 2030 at current funding rate.

Jayne Pierce recommended postponement for more time to consider this discussion.

MOTION BY Colby seconded by Frank, to amend Bluebird Lane, between Vista Drive and Grand Avenue as Priority #2 and shift other items accordingly.

Aye: 9

Nay: 1

Motion approved.

The Committee discussed the priority list and a new priority list was arranged as follows:

| 2020 Urban System Project Priority List | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Priority | Description | Approximate Length (miles) | Required Urban Systems Funds (Estimated) |
| 1 | Corthell Road from Whitman Street to future Bill Nye, and Bill Nye from the extension of Corthell Road to the extension of Boulder Drive; Bill Nye from Corthell Road to 15 th Street | 0.85 | 4,200,000 (2016 dollars) |
| 2 | Bluebird Lane, between Vista Drive and Grand Avenue | 0.37 | 2,500,000 (2020 dollars, County Estimate) |
| 3 | 30 th Street, south to where it intersects with Bill Nye | 0.84 | 5,600,000 (2016 dollars) |
| 4 | Pierce Street, Snowy Range Road north to Madison Street | 0.59 | ? |
| 5 | 45 th St, South from Crow Dr. to Grand Ave. | 1.17 | ? |

MOTION BY Colby seconded by Frank, to adopt the 2020 Priority List as amended.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

Julian Monahan provided an overview and presentation on the balance of funds, \$564,972 is yearly amount we receive. The balance shown in the packet is just over 2.8 Million dollars, with a more recent amount closer to 2.4 million left in the account. There are no anticipated changes to program at this time.

5.II.iii Consideration of Functional Classification Map

MOTION BY Colby seconded by DeHoff, to accept the three recommended changes as presented by WYDOT for the Functional Classification Map.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

5.II.iv Consideration of Updated USAC By-Laws

Derek Teini and Julian Monahan provided an overview of the By-Laws and items which needed to be addressed by the Committee to finalize the by-laws which included; written resignations, 2/3 voting requirements and quorum, appointment of a Secretary or Recording secretary and timeframe for when minutes are provided to the Committee.

MOTION BY Colby seconded by Fisher, within section 4.0 have “written” resignation remain and that the resignation be submitted to the recording secretary.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

MOTION BY Fisher seconded by Colby, keep the 2/3 voting membership in section 4.0 and adjust quorum to 8 in section 5.0.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

MOTION BY Colby seconded by Fisher, to appoint a Recording Secretary from staff.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

MOTION BY Colby seconded by McGrath, to modify section 5.0 to allow members to be both present physically or virtually.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

MOTION BY Colby seconded by Fisher, remove last sentence of last paragraph in section 5.0

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

MOTION BY Richardson seconded by McGrath, replace the work absents & abstains with the word recuse in section 5.0 of the second to last paragraph.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

MOTION BY Colby seconded by Fisher, to approve the USAC By-laws as amended and presented to the committee.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

5.II.v Consideration of Updated Cooperative Agreement

MOTION BY Colby seconded by Fisher, to recommend that that City Council and County Commissioners approve the updated Cooperative Agreement, as recommended by the Urban Systems Advisory Committee.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

5.II.vi **MOTION BY Fisher seconded by Colby**, to approve the appointment of the Urban Systems Advisory Committee Recording Secretary, City Planning Manager or designee.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

6. DISCUSSION

Jim McGrath wanted discussion on a long term concept related to I-80 and Grand Avenue and I-80 and 30th Street. With the Grand Avenue interchange being located over the Casper Aquifer and not being well aligned, having the Grand Avenue interchange remain in this location stimulates development over the aquifer. When future I-80 and 30th Street Interchange is built consideration should be given to retiring/eliminating the I-80 and Grand Interchange and only have 30th Street.

Heber Richardson discussed the impacts of the future WYDOT 3rd Street reconstruction project, impacts of the truck route on Grand Avenue and what that would look like if the truck route moved to 30th Street, then down Harney Street and out to Snowy Range Road and not through downtown.

Harold Colby asked about WYDOT thoughts on Grand Avenue Interchange removal. Tom DeHoff expressed that this was good discussion, noted that the Grand Avenue interchange is not great, but not a bad location, with existing development. Any progress on this topic would require public input. The Grand Avenue Interchange lifespan is nearing its end so this topic and future 30th Street Interchange will be important.

Randy Griesbach noted that the 30th Street and Grand Avenue intersection is near capacity and any changed to the Interchanges would be interesting and impacts would need to be evaluated. If Grand Avenue Interchange was removed, business along Grand Avenue, which is an I-80 business route might not be happy. This concept is something to consider.

Jayne Pierce asked additional questions about the designated truck route. WYDOT responded.

Joe Lord noted that Grand Avenue Interchange and 30th Street Interchange will need to be a joint discussion.

Heber Richardson expressed that prohibited uses restrict commercial development in this area and any future development will mostly be residential.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be scheduled in upcoming months by recording secretary in March.

8. ADJOURN

MOTION BY Richardson seconded by Frank, to adjourn the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Aye: 10

Nay: 0

Motion carried.