



Hamilton Area Transportation Plan 2009 Update

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Notes April 15, 2009 – Meeting Number 1

Introduction

The first Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting for the Hamilton Area Transportation Plan (2009 Update) project was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the members of the TAC to the project, hear from TAC members about their expectations and interest in the project, and review the general scope of work for the project's development. The following TAC members were present for this first meeting:

- Keith Smith (City of Hamilton)
- Dave Ohnstad (Ravalli County)
- Sheila Ludlow (Montana Department of Transportation – Helena)
- Shane Stack (Montana Department of Transportation – Missoula)
- Ron Uemura (RAM Engineering)

John Lavey, Ravalli County Planning Department, was unable to attend due to a previously scheduled work commitment. The meeting was facilitated by CDM's project manager, Jeff Key.

Discussion Items

The TAC 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:

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.

Dave Ohnstad

- Would like roadway design standards addressed, especially regarding the interface of a rural and urban standard as applicable to future development patterns and a theoretical urban growth boundary.
- Would like to see an access management policy and/or guidance that could be used going forward.
- Concerned about special intersections such as: East Side Highway /Fairground Road (safety & not necessarily function); US Highway 93/Fairground Road/Old Corvallis Road; Mill Road and Railroad (potential for conflict).

(Note: Mike Nichols from the County can field recon with Jeff at appropriate time – 363-2733)

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.

Ron Uemura

- Should be an education component in the plan addressing signage and overall transportation system characteristics.
- Reference to signage/pavement markings as per MUTCD. Some signs/markings in town might be outdated when checked against current MUTCD.

- 4th Street and Main Street may be a location/opportunity for some improvement.
- 4th Street and State Street may be a location/opportunity for some improvement.

The meeting concluded by discussing the known committed projects within the study area boundary. Committed projects are defined as those likely to be completed within five years, and those for which a funding source has been identified and is available. To that end, the following committed projects were identified:

MDT

Black Lane/Bass Lane – intersection improvement project to include left turn bays, alignment changes, and approach leg profile changes (beyond year 2013).

City of Hamilton

Fairground Road (Kurtz Lane to US Highway 93) - to include an urban road section with curb and gutter, drainage improvements, turning bay(s), etc.

Ravalli County/MDT

Westside Highway improvements to include culvert and bridge improvements.