

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT
January 27, 2010, 8:00 AM
City Council Chambers

Members Present: Jason Wiener (chair), Ed Childers, Dick Haines, Lyn Hellegaard, Roy Houseman, Bob Jaffe, Marilyn Marler, Renee Mitchell, Dave Strohmaier, Pam Walzer, Jon Wilkins

Members Absent:

Others Present: Doug Harby, Gregg Wood, Kevin Slovarp, Steve King, Dave Prescott, Bob Giordano, Mark Bancala

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the minutes of [January 13, 2010](#) and [January 20, 2010](#) – Approved as submitted.
- B. Announcements – None.
- C. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items – None.

II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Approve the agreement for engineering services for SID 548 – 5th / 6th / Arthur Intersection safety improvements ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Gregg Wood) (Referred to committee: 12/14/09) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Motion: The Committee recommends the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Engineering Services Agreement with (name of firm to be determined) in an amount not to exceed (to be determined) for SID 548 – 5th / 6th/ Arthur Intersection Safety Improvements project.

Gregg Wood, Project Development Coordinator, stated that SID 548 was created on November 9, 2009 and was being primarily assess through the University. Two firms responded to the Request for Proposals (RFP) and WGM was selected as the most qualified for the project. The contract amount is within the budget for engineering for the SID.

Mr. Strohmaier made the motion to approve the agreement.

Mr. Wiener asked when the committee would see information about the project again. Mr. Wood stated that it would come back to committee for approval of the construction award. Steve King, Public Works Director, stated that the interlocal agreements between the City, the University, and MDT had been approved by Council and include public participation provisions. The SID was created by resolution in November.

The motion passed unanimously.

Marler, Walzer, Jaffe, and Mitchell arrived.

III. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Review Public Works and EIS Peer Review subcommittee referrals. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 01/11/10) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Mr. Wiener stated that they needed to look at committee referrals in held items for Public Works Committee and the EIS Subcommittee. He has submitted a referral to discuss the results of the EIS Peer Review in Public Works Committee. The other referrals in held items were discussed previously and will remain on the list.

- 2. Information item to present the City's Master Sidewalk Plan. ([memo](#)) ([presentation](#))—Regular Agenda (Doug Harby) (Referred to committee: 01/12/09) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Mr. Harby stated that the Master Sidewalk Plan was a tool for the systematic completion, repair, and upgrade of the city sidewalk system. It looks at pedestrian generators and barriers to establish a priority system for sidewalk installation. Other issues such as street reconstruction, major utility work, neighborhood initiation, staff and council requests are also considered when determining where to construct new sidewalks. Staff time is the biggest limit on the amount of sidewalk projects they can do. Property assessments take up about half of the staff time on projects. Property owner assessments are the major source of funding, but they have also Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) and Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) money, and occasionally, SIDs. Developers are also required to install sidewalks for certain projects. Missoula has

approximately 258 miles of streets, which equates to 516 potential miles of sidewalk. Approximately 345 miles of sidewalk exist at this time. At current prices, it would cost about 100 million dollars to complete the sidewalk system.

Mr. Wiener asked how the miles of sidewalk was broken down into primary versus secondary streets. Mr. Harby replied that the network system was about 80% complete now.

Mr. Jaffe asked about the statement that 50% of staff time on projects is associated with financing. He asked how much of each dollar spent on the project goes to the City for services. Mr. Harby stated that they charge a 19% flat fee for projects, which covers the engineering and permits, so only about 8% of the project goes to staff cost. They are not covering city costs through assessments. Mr. Jaffe asked what portion of the stimulus money would go to the city budget. Mr. Harby stated that the city did not have a direct cost recapture. It will receive some money for curb ramp designs and right-of-way (ROW) permits. The North Higgins project is approximately 1.4 million dollars, and about two thousand of that will come to the City. The City will receive the 19% fee for the curb ramp project. The projects take considerable staff time to manage. The City also has an application in for a TIGER grant, which would bring two million dollars to the City for administration if it was awarded.

Ms. Marler asked if there were maps showing where sidewalks were planned for the next few years, and whether any were in Ward 6 other than the MRA projects. Mr. Harby stated that they would present the annual project list to Council once it was completed. They were concentrating on stimulus projects this year, but there would be some replacements in the slant streets and University area, as well as the ADA ramps. They will be doing pieces of Catlin next year. If neighborhoods want projects next year, they need to get it in the planning soon.

Ms. Walzer stated that the calculation of existing miles of sidewalk did not sound right. She asked if the Master Sidewalk Plan was available on the website. Mr. Harby stated that the percentage of sidewalk was increasing. New subdivisions have sidewalks, and there are large areas of complete sidewalk systems. There are still 170 miles of missing sidewalks, mostly in the old city limits. The plan is still in draft form, and it should be finalized in the spring and available online at that time.

Mr. Haines asked Mr. Harby to elaborate on the statement that they could increase production if they cut a portion of the work. He asked whether they could reduce costs by cutting back on the number of letters. Mr. Harby stated that the assessment system takes up one full-time person, as well as some half-time in assessments. They meet with property owners one-on-one in the field and send up to seven letters for the process. There is also considerable staff time working with the public and attending meetings. If they did not have to assess property owners, they could take that staff time to double the amount of projects they could do. The law requires two letters. The current letter process came about after a project in the Hickory Street area and Council wanted to give people another chance to weigh in on it.

Mr. Haines stated that he would like to see the draft Master Sidewalk Plan on the website so the public could comment on it.

Bob Giordano of the Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation stated that the plan could be better with citizen input and that he did not realize all the intricacies for sidewalk planning in the city. He stated that the primary sidewalk network should be completed.

Mark Bancale asked if transportation impact fees could be used to fund sidewalks. Mr. Harby replied that they do use impact fees to assist with concrete where they are doing capacity increases, and use some for pedestrian improvements at intersections, but because those fees pay to increase the capacity of streets, he did not think they could use them just for sidewalks.

Mr. Strohmaier stated he would also like to have the draft available for public comment, and that it would be worth having a full public hearing to solicit additional public comment, even though it was not an action item for the full council.

Mr. Houseman asked that the plan be emailed to the Council and posted for the public. Mr. Harby stated it would be.

Ms. Walzer stated that it would be helpful for them to understand how sidewalk can go in and still use the assessment process. The homeowners can request the city to do all the contracting. She asked if there were different levels of letters and costs to the City for that. Mr. Harby stated that it takes as much time to do five properties as 40 when it comes to the assessment process. They want to make it a big project if they are putting the time in. If someone is ordered to fix a hazardous sidewalk and they do not do it, the City will select a contractor and will assess the property, and would probably have to charge 19%.

IV. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion on the sizes of grease interceptors for the restaurant industry ([Grease Interceptor PowerPoint](#)) ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Stacy Rye and Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 04/21/08)
2. Consider restructuring the city's Sewer Loan Program along the lines of the recently approved change to the Sidewalk & Curb Loan Fund.—Regular Agenda ([Chapter 3.16 – Sidewalk & Curb Loan](#)) ([Chapter 3.18 Sewer Loan](#)) ([Ordinance 3344](#)) (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 06/26/06)
3. A [regular](#) ordinance amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 12, and enacting a new chapter, entitled "Parking." ([memo](#)) ([PW](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 11/23/09)
4. Approve the agreement between the City of Missoula and Lloyd A. Twite Family Partnership related to sanitary sewer extension and upsizing for the South Missoula Area ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Monte Sipe) (Referred to committee: 11/09/09)
5. Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and the County of Missoula related to the Reserve Street / Mullan Road Intersection Improvements Project. ([memo](#)) Regular Agenda (Gregg Wood) (Referred to committee: 01/11/10)
6. Review infrastructure conditions at the locations of serious and fatal traffic accidents: 2007-2009 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 01/25/10)
7. Review the findings of the Russell Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Peer Review and the implications of the findings for the project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 01/25/10)

V. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica S. Miller
Office Manager
City Public Works Department