

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

September 23, 2009, 10:05 AM

City Council Chambers

Members Present: Jason Wiener (Chair), Ed Childers, Dick Haines, John Hendrickson, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Pam Walzer, Jon Wilkins

Members Absent: Dave Strohmaier

Others Present: Lyn Hellegaard, Steve King, Jack Stucky, Phil Smith, Doug Harby, Ethel MacDonald, Greg Oliver

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the minutes of [September 16, 2009](#) – Approved as submitted
- B. Announcements
- C. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items

Ethel MacDonald, a member of the Bike/Walk Alliance of Missoula but not speaking on their behalf, stated that she would like to thank the Public Works Department for a number of bike and pedestrian improvements this summer. She stated that 6th Street to the University would be a good place to put sharrows because there is no room for a bike lane but lots of people bike on that road. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board is supposed to serve as an avenue to keep the bicycle and pedestrian community informed of traffic changes and prevent things like the outcry on Spruce Street changes. She stated that the public will holler when they don't know about things.

II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Purchase of one (1) 2010 Dodge Dakota crew cab pickup from Ronan Dodge of Ronan, Montana for a total of \$20,732 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Jack Stucky) (Referred to committee: 09/14/09) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Motion: The committee recommends the City Council return all bid bonds and award the purchase of one (1) 2010 Dodge Dakota Crew Cab Pickup from Ronan Dodge of Ronan, Montana for a total of \$20,732.

Jack Stucky, Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor, state that Ronan Dodge was the low bidder on the item and the pickup was requested so they could haul bikes.

Mr. Childers stated that in accident investigations, they take people into the van to talk to them, and asked how they would do that with a pickup. Mr. Stucky stated that was why they requested a crew cab with four doors.

Mr. Childers made the motion to approve the purchase.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation to receive \$49,742 for a Safe Routes to School project at Paxson School. ([memo](#)) ([Location Maps](#)).—Regular Agenda (Phil Smith) (Referred to committee: 09/21/09) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Motion: The committee recommends the Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation to receive \$49,742 for a Safe Routes to School project at Paxson School.

Phil Smith, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator, stated that less than half of children who live within walking distance to school actually walk, and the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program helps encourage walking. Parents are often afraid of letting their kids cross streets when walking to school. SRTS has received over \$200,000 over three years for infrastructure and other programs. This project will install curb ramps and bulb-outs around Paxson School on the east side, on all four corners of Gerald and Hastings and on Benton and Park. There are no bike lanes for the bulb-outs to intrude into.

Mr. Wiener asked if the Bicycle and Pedestrian board contributes input on specific projects. He stated that he had heard a desire from them to be involved in reviewing bulb-outs and that proceeding with the project failed to acknowledge their input. Mr. Smith stated that they have a lot of influence on project locations but typically do not review plans. This grant application was submitted last fall, and the bulb-outs in this plan do not interfere with any

existing bike lanes. In the future, they will involve the board in the design stage of the process, but they are already past that now. The board is also not in agreement on what level of detailed input they want to have.

Mr. Childers asked who was involved in designs of curb extensions and traffic constructions, and asked whether the sign shop was involved. He expressed concerns about the costs of maintaining and replacing markers. Mr. Smith stated that they determine whether bulb-outs should be in a certain location, and Doug Harby did the design. Steve King, Public Works Director, stated that they have worked to correct any errors as quickly as possible and the problems were remedied with paint and delineators. Replacing delineators is part of the job, and if they have an area where it becomes very common, they may look into the possibility of making physical changes. Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, stated it would be helpful in certain cases to have the sign shop involved in the design, and that they were working to get them more actively involved in the process. Mr. King added that they meet weekly to discuss upcoming projects and look at what works and what doesn't.

Mr. Wilkins stated that he lives by Lewis & Clark School, and was aware of what goes on with kids trying to get to school. He stated that he saw more kids on Park Street than any other, but the south side of Livingston has a 12-inch curb with no handicap access, so kids ride in the street with the traffic. The streets in this contract have fewer people and less traffic than in other corridors. He asked whether there was money to paint curbs to prevent parking at the corners on Livingston, because people block the handicap access, and stated he didn't know why the priority was Mary and Agnes instead of Park Street. He asked for a map showing locations of the proposed improvements. Mr. Smith stated this was the first time he had heard concerns about Livingston. The locations were determined based on input as they were developing the project two or three years ago. He stated they would look at Livingstone for future projects.

Mr. Jaffe asked what the process was for determining priorities. Mr. Smith stated that they put the concepts together four or five years ago by contacting schools and receiving requests from some principals. The deadline for the grant application is in December each year, and this year they plan to have a different process and will involve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the City Council.

Mr. Jaffe made the motion to approve the contract.

Mr. Wiener asked if the design was complete. Mr. Smith stated that the general concept was complete, but the detail designs were not done. He stated he would have an aerial photo with locations for Monday.

Ms. Mitchell stated that she would like them to install handicap accessible ramps before pouring cement for bulb-outs, and stated they were a distraction to drivers.

Mr. Wilkins stated he would also rather see ramps put in first and bulb-outs afterward. He appreciated that Council would be asked for their input.

Mr. Wilkins called the question. The motion to end debate carried.

Ethel MacDonald stated that she wanted to see kids walk and bike to school, and although Gerald Avenue had no bike lanes, the bulb-outs still push bikes farther into the driving lane, creating a hazard. Beckwith is the busiest street, so why was there no bulb-out proposed there. She stated that bulb-outs were a waste of money and a distraction in most places, as well as an embarrassment to the City.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approve right-of-way encroachment permit for Garlington, Lohn and Robinson (GLR) building located at 138 West Broadway. (Doug Harby) ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Doug Harby) (Referred to committee: 09/21/09) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Motion: The committee recommends the City Council approve a right-of-way encroachment permit for 138 West Broadway.

Mr. Harby stated that the encroachment was for the new GLR building and had a few features extending over the sidewalk such as awnings and sunshades.

Mr. Jaffe made the motion to approve the permit.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

4. Confirm the appointment of Ryan Sudbury to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board for a term commencing September 16, 2009 and ending September 15, 2012 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen) (Referred to committee: 09/21/09) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Motion: The committee recommends the City Council Confirm the appointment of Ryan Sudbury to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board for a term commencing September 16, 2009 and ending September 15, 2012.

Mr. Jaffe made the motion.

The motion passed with eight ayes and one nay (Hendrickson).

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. Information item to present the City's Master Sidewalk Plan. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Doug Harby)

V. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica S. Miller
Office Manager
City Public Works Department