

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**March 28, 2012 2:05 – 3:00 PM**  
**City Council Chambers**

**Members Present:** Jason Wiener (chair), Ed Childers, Dick Haines, Marilyn Marler (came in at 2:10pm), Jon Wilkins, Adam Hertz, Alex Taft, Caitlin Copple, Mike O'Herron

**Members Absent:** Bob Jaffe, Dave Strohmaier

**Others Present:** Kevin Slovarp, Brian Hensel, Sgt Greg Amundsen

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of the minutes of – March 21, 2012 – Approved as submitted
- B. Announcements – None
- C. Public Comment on Non-Agenda items – None

**II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Appoint a Council representative to the Transportation Demand Management steering committee. (memo)—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 03/26/12) **(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)**

**Motion:** The committee recommends the City Council appoint Adam Hertz as Council representative to the Transportation Demand Management steering committee.

Adam Hertz, Alex Taft and Dick Haines volunteered for nomination.

The committee held discussion regarding the various qualifications and viewpoints of the nominees. Mr. Wiener went around the table and gave each committee member a chance to voice their preference. The majority preference was for Adam Hertz. Mr. Wiener and Mr. Childers expressed a preference for a unanimous vote so the item would be on the consent agenda.

Alex Taft made the motion. Committee agreed.

2. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for the City of Missoula Street Maintenance Division to perform a large scale paving project on the State Route as described on the attached Appendix C, and in accordance with our state route maintenance contract. (memo)—Regular Agenda (Brian Hensel) (Referred to committee: 03/26/12) **(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)**

**Motion:** The committee recommends the City Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for the City of Missoula Street Maintenance Division to perform a large scale paving project on the State Route as described on the attached Appendix C, and in accordance with our state route maintenance contract.

Brian Hensel, Streets Dept. Supervisor, requested approval of the motion. He stated these projects give the city an opportunity to generate revenue through labor and equipment charges that is reimbursed by MDT. Some of the areas in the project would include a chip and seal on 5<sup>th</sup> St. from Higgins to Arthur, a chip and seal on 6<sup>th</sup> St from Higgins to Arthur, E. Broadway would include some milling and paving and Van Buren to Easy St would have a full width chip seal.

Ms. Marler made the motion to approve the contract.

Discussion included:

- How will the lines get painted, and could there be assurance on those lines being painted.
- Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, stated that on the project at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> between Arthur and Higgins the plan is to put back what is essentially already there. On East Broadway there is a plan to narrow the lanes and make uniform bike lanes out to Easy street. The lanes will shift and become a little narrower than they are now, they will also be defined with a curb and sidewalk project that Doug Harby is working on. The road will be reconfigured and will be painted as such.
- Committee wants to make sure that the State is aware of the opportunity to place a bike lane on 6<sup>th</sup> after the chip seal. Kevin Slovarp said we could make the State aware of this opportunity.

Public Comment: None

The motion passed unanimously.

### **III. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Direct Public Works staff to begin the process necessary to reduce the speed limit on Hillview Way from 35 to 25 mph (limited to the section north of Chief Charlo School). ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Caitlin Copple) (Referred to committee: 03/19/12) ( **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**)

**Discussion**

- Ms. Copple has had Hillview Way residents contact her regarding safety issues with the road. She would like to initiate the process to reduce the speed limit. She clarified that the discussion is the area below Chief Charlo.
- Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, discussed the process of how speed limits are reduced and how council is brought into it.
- Mr. Wilkins said that he had also talked to residents and not all of them agree that dropping the speed limit would help issues or slow people down. There is a piece of the road that has a dip in it and that is where a majority of the accidents have occurred. When doing chip and seal this year it needs to be repaired. The face of the road has not changed in many years.
- Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, explained how the study on Duncan Drive in 2008 worked. Research was done on area, traffic volumes, traffic rates, growth rate and what it would do to traffic. The study looked at crash history, and rates of crashes, speed profiles, and counters were placed. Other considerations included environmental, lack of curb and gutter and sidewalks. The conclusion on this study was that it would be better to make the speed limit uniform, instead of raising and lowering of speed limit.
- How much time and added expense is in these studies? Kevin Slovarp stated it is mostly staff time, not difficult, just takes time to do it and currently there are four other studies ahead of this.
- Ms. Copple stated she and Mike O'Herron and Dick Haines, had met with Steve King, Public Works Director, and he was going to draw up a new SID and some other options for changing Hillview Way and that he would have that to them in the next 6 weeks.
- Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, stated if we do agree to reconstruct the roadway as a council we would not have to do the speed limit study.
- Ms. Copple commented Steve King had said it might be possible to grind down the grade break when doing maintenance this summer. Kevin Slovarp stated he thought Mr. King had said we would like to correct the dip at the time of the bigger reconstruction project, but if he had subsequently said something different that we could grind it down or that we would do something else he would defer to him.
- Mr. Childers said that he was unaware of any new attempt at an SID to reconstruct on Hillview Way and aren't the plans still on the shelf for the last SID.

- Kevin Slovarp stated those plans are on the shelf waiting to be constructed, they are waiting for a funding mechanism.
- Mr. Wiener reminded everyone that this discussion is on a speed limit study on Hillview Way, and to confine discussion to the speed study.
- Speed studies are very time consuming and take a long time to get results. The process might take too long, when in the meantime they could decide what else they could do with Hillview Way.
- Sgt. Greg Amundsen of the Missoula Police Department commented that he has responded to multiple crashes on Hillview Way and typically the cars have been traveling twice the speed limit and the drivers are impaired. He was not certain that changing speed limit would alter that behavior at all. He did ask that if residents call committee members with speeding issues on Hillview Way to have the residents contact him so he can address their issues as well as direct the traffic unit officers to work the problem areas.
- Mr. Haines commented that it would be more reasonable to try to expect to make changes to portions of the road and not change the whole thing at one time which would obviously be very expensive. More feasible to break a project up into something, they could work on over several years and that's something perhaps an SID that would support more easily and economically.
- Committee is not interested in changing the speed limit just to change the speed limit, if they need to focus on the bigger picture.
- Mr. Wiener commented he was not sensing real strong desire to take action on this referral, and it may be better to freshen up the referral, so we do not have an item on our agenda to reduce the speed limit on Hillview Way when that is not the direction we are headed in at this time.

Ms. Copple moved to withdraw this referral from agenda.

Mr. Wiener asked if there was any objection. None

Referral removed from agenda without objection.

#### **IV. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Resolution to change the speed limit on Reserve Street between Brooks and 39<sup>th</sup> Street. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Wayne Gravatt) (Referred to committee: 01/24/2011)
2. Discuss the timing of various traffic lights around the city. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 09/26/2011)
3. Discuss the school speed zones. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 09/26/11)

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Jane Plummer  
 City Public Works Department