

Flathead County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting
March 19, 2009 - **7:00 pm**
Solid Waste District Board Room-County Landfill

1 Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Charles Lapp-Chairman, Karl Schrade, Tom Sands, Dave Hilde, Mike Schlegel

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Administrative Assistant Mike Pence, Commissioner Dale Lauman, Recording Secretaries Patti Vernarsky & Karen Rogers

Public Present: Gabe Gluth, Tom McKay

2. Introductory Remarks

Karl Schrade asked about the stimulus money and if Flathead County would be receiving any of it. Mike Pence replied the Health Department is getting \$1.3 million, which is basically money we get back from the state. Mike Pence stated that Jim Atkinson of Eagle Transit wants to fund another bus barn with a five year plan especially with the extra buses for Glacier Park.

Mike Pence explained the legislature figured a way to distribute the money. He continued that MDOT will get the majority, while \$10 million will be for all 56 counties in the state. Distribution of the money would be that every county in the state would receive \$100,000 initially, then the remainder would be distributed by using the gas tax formula, which would basically give Flathead County an additional \$430,000. MACO and the legislature wanted specific projects submitted, which Flathead County did such as a new library, a gymnasium for Parks & Recreation, and several road projects.

Mike Pence stated the request was that Flathead County pick the project on the list that is shovel ready. He stated the best project is the Mennonite Church/Creston Road RSID that is shovel ready. He explained the engineer figured approximately 38 percent of traffic was through traffic from Foothills area and the county would fund that portion, coming to approximately \$611,000. He stated the county hopefully would get the engineering and surveying done in the next two months.

Mike Pence stated his recommendation to the Commissioners would be for more road work. He stated he is still working to get more funding. Charles Lapp asked why a bus barn is needed when the buses already traveling throughout the county

are empty. Karl Schrade asked about the \$4 million plus for the North Fork Road. He feels there needs to be some agreement with the other organizations and government entities for help on the North Fork Road. Mike Schlegel asked why the county would have that road paved. Dave Prunty replied MDOT would take over the maintenance of the road up to Camas as that is a state secondary.

3. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes – **Action Required**

Dave Hilde moves to approve the minutes from February 12, 2009 meeting, Mike Schlegel seconds the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.

4. Action Agenda

a. Discussion and Approval of Amended Committee By-Laws

Dave Prunty gave the second reading of the committee by-laws according to the County Attorney, noting the changes are to hold meetings once a month and Tom Sands signature for District #2.

Karl Schrade moves to approve the amended committee by-laws, Dave Hilde seconds the motion. All in favor; motion passed, amended committee by-laws approved.

Dave Prunty stated a copy of the signed by-laws will be next month's packet.

5. Directors Report

a. Commissioners Response to RAC Recommendations

5. *Internal Auditing System*

A. *Committee, staff and engineering consultants evaluate gravel and paved roads randomly.*

Dave Prunty stated the Commissioner's feels the county should continue to use the PASER system and work on surveying of the gravel roads. He stated Ryan from Peccia is working on a 2 year plan but the plan would be to work into a 5 yr plan.

B. *Using outside sources for annual road evaluations, i.e. retired Forest Service Engineers or engineer consultants*

Dave Prunty commented on continue to use Ryan and possibly Steve Monlux.

C. *Assign personnel for quality assurance of maintenance and projects being performed.*

Dave Prunty stated this is part of what the county is doing to continue with the foreman training. He stated slope meters have been installed in the graders plus being installed in the foreman's pickups to be able to see the crown in the gravel roads. He stated the ditching will be next on the system to look at for water movement.

D. More training for foreman on evaluating roads for prioritization of projects.

Dave Prunty agreed for more training for the foreman, such as LTAP program with Steve Jenkins. Also having Ovila and Ryan going out and evaluating more roads. Dave felt Ovila is getting a lot benefit out of the trips with Ryan.

6. Budget

A. Cost system allocations for each cost center

Dave stated the Commissioners are very much in favor of breaking up the budget to the different cost centers to actually see where the money is being spent.

Mike Schlegel asked if the committee can take another bus tour this spring, as he felt it would be beneficial for all to view the roads, especially with spring break up. Dale Lauman felt this road trip would be good on a day that the Commissioners can also attend. Dave Hilde would like to view projects that were accomplished last year. Dale suggested calling Elaine at the commissioners and blocking out a day for the road trip.

8. Road Standards Book Revision

Dave Hilde made a motion for road standards book to be reviewed, Charles Lapp seconded. All in favor; motion passed, road standards review approved.

Dave Hilde felt an engineer's stamp for a road to be functional would be sufficient. Dave Prunty would like to form a committee of engineers' developer's staff and maybe the public of 5 to 6 people to review the road standards book. Dave Hilde and Tom Sands volunteered to be on the committee.

Dave Prunty would ask Jeff Harris if he would like to be involved to protect himself and the subdivision regulations. He commented that he would like to have Ryan from Peccia for the committee but the concern is if Ryan would volunteer his time. Tom Sands stated he knows several engineers that would come down and give their opinion.

Tom Sands questioned the RSID program. He feels this is a county wide problem, and the county should be supplying the materials for the roads. He

doesn't think its right for the people within the RSID is paying for something the entire public will enjoy. Mike Pence asked if Tom is suggesting the county build the road bases so the roads will be ready for asphalt. Tom Sands agreed stating the county should build the roads.

Dave Prunty stated the goal is to have a set standard, which is why the book needs to be reviewed.

Dave Hilde would like a list of the subdivisions that the county maintains. Dave Prunty stated the county hasn't taken on any new roads since 1983. He stated maps can be pulled for subdivisions such as Troutbeck, Pleasant Hills, etc. The request was placed for the mileage for roads in subdivisions the county is maintaining.

Karl Schrade moves to use this committee to address subdivision road issue maintenance, Dave Hilde seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, committee to address road maintenance in subdivisions.

b. Equipment Purchase Program from MDOT

Dave Prunty explained the MDOT program to purchase equipment for air quality purposes. In the equipment purchase program the state would pay 86.58%, the county would cover the remaining 13.42%. The state allowed for the purchase of six kinds of equipment, i.e. sweepers, water trucks, brooms. Dave explained that the county has spoken with Janet Kenny of MDOT and the plan is to award the contracts by early fall. He continued that if the county can get seven water trucks, that would give the county a water truck with every grader.

Dave Prunty explained the sander combo purchases and working with MDOT to see if the county can purchase their saline solution in which their saline could be used on some of the roads. MDT said okay here but had to go to Helena.

Dave Prunty explained the applications for the dust cost share are due a week from Friday. He felt that most everyone is positive on this program. He stated the miles of roadway submitted will be available at next month's meeting. Tom Sands voiced his concerns on the guarantee to keep the dust down. He asked if the public chose the black oil would the contractor come back and apply another coat. Dave Prunty stated he will ask about the mag chloride and applying a second coat. Mike Schlegel stated he will not guarantee certain roads will hold up anymore. Dave Prunty explained that after the bids are received from the contractors the county will know what the price for the applications will be. He continued that next year these prices will be used to work from.

6. Comments from Committee Members

7. Comments from Public (15 Minutes)

Tom McKay, Badrock – He voiced his concerns about the meeting that was held about the proposed RSID for a double chip seal on Badrock Drive. He stated the meeting was conducted by a land owner who wants this RSID. The landowners that attended on short notice were told the RSID is going to happen. He feels the how the RSID is calculated is unfair, especially when one landowner owns several lots that are agricultural, when one landowner has a business that generates the majority of the traffic but both landowners are paying the same per lot. His main concern was the way the meeting had been conducted and would like to see the county and engineers attend to explain the process to the landowners.

8. Adjournment

Mike Schlegel made a motion to adjourn, Karl Schrade seconded. All in favor; motion passed, meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.