

**WORK SESSION
CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
POLSON CITY HALL – CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008, 1:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE: City Commissioners: Bruce Agrella, Jim Sohm, Elsa Duford. Commissioners Jules Clavadetscher and Fred Funke absent. Mayor Lou Marchello presiding. Interim City Manager Mike Lies present. City Attorney James Raymond present.

Mayor Marchello called the meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA: Motion made by Commissioner Sohm, seconded by Commissioner Agrella, to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – DUANE KAILEY: Mayor Marchello noted that this work session was requested by MDOT to present their plan to refurbish the Armed Forces Memorial Bridge and to present options for traffic flow during the construction. MDOT will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 19th at 6:00 p.m. at the KwaTaqNuk Best Western Resort where public comments will be heard.

Duane Kailey, Missoula District Administrator for the Montana Department of Transportation, thanked the city commissioners for giving them the opportunity to present this information to them. He explained that they would welcome comments from the commissioners and the public. At this meeting they want to explain what the construction project entails and present their proposals for the traffic flow and ask the city commissioners, emergency services and the public for their comments, ideas and suggestions. They welcome any comments regarding potential problems that they would perceive after looking at the traffic flow projections they will present to them at this meeting. One lane of traffic will be closed for construction at one time and one lane of traffic will be maintained at all times, with alternating traffic flow in either direction. They will close the bridge only in minor instances when construction vehicles require access, with five to ten minute delays possible. Nigel Mends, Bridge Engineer out of Helena will be presenting the details of the construction to refurbish the bridge. Stan Brieland, Traffic Engineer out of Helena, will present the anticipated traffic flow projections.

Nigel Mends noted that they made a presentation in Polson regarding this project last year. He explained that the rebar on the bridge had too little concrete cover and eroded due to chlorides applied to the road surface. This project involves removing the concrete recovering or replacing the rebar and removing the chloride from the concrete at the same time and replacing it with a thicker layer of concrete, which will last for a longer period of time. They recognize how vital to transportation this bridge is to the community and want to make the bridge last a long time and complete the construction with as little disruption as possible. They will reduce the traffic to one lane and install concrete barriers separating the traffic from the work. Signal lights and flaggers at each end of the bridge will control the lights to minimize the backup in the traffic. The concrete removal will be done by a hydro demolition, which is a high pressure water process which shreds the concrete that will be removed. It will take twelve days to do that process for each quarter of the bridge then another five days to complete the concrete work for each quarter. It was clear at the meeting last year that the community did not want the construction during June, July and August, so they configured the work to be done in

April and May and September and October when traffic significantly decreases in the area. Although these months are not ideal for the community it is the best they can do and this timing significantly increased the cost of the project. The project is estimated to take 29 workdays to complete each side of the bridge and they estimate that the single lane would be in effect for five weeks for the construction on each side of the bridge. If all things work well they would do one side of the bridge in April and May and the other side in September and October. Weather or some other unexpected factor could delay the project so that they would need to complete the project the following year in April and May. Dwane Kailey noted that they will offer incentives for early completion and will also offer penalties for delays to try and keep the contractor within the time frame. There is a potential that because of weather or other situations could occur that will require the contractor to encroach into June. They will set up incentives to encourage them to go as fast as they can but they are only providing time estimates to get the work done.

Mayor Marchello asked if they plan to do any improvements to the south sidewalk path. Nigel Mends replied that they will replace the expansion joints and will close the walk path to pedestrians when they are working on that side of the bridge. He clarified that semi trucks will be able to use the bridge. Dwane Kailey stated that wide loads have to be permitted by MDOT and they will control the permits during the construction period and if need be they will re route that traffic to other roads. Nigel Mends noted that they will not allow the water to go into the river and will require it to be filtered. Mayor Marchello asked if the guardrail will be painted. Nigel Mends replied that prep work would be done by hand tools and over painted. Commissioner Sohm asked if moisture or temperature is the reason they can't go into November with the construction. Nigel Mends replied that they can't lay concrete below a 50 degree temperature and they need to do the work during the warm part of the year. The cost of the project is already expected to be higher because it of its restricted time frame that does not include June, July and August. Steve Stanley suggested that part of the contract include making the flaggers' radio frequency be made available to the emergency responders so they could talk directly to them and there would be no surprises. They did that during the Highway 35 construction, and they had no delays for emergency vehicles. Nigel Mends replied that is a good idea. He suggested they look at the computer simulation of the traffic flow, which will show how the traffic backs up and their plan to allow blocks of cars to cross the bridge in either direction. He felt that there should be no more than a minute delay for emergency vehicles on either side of the bridge.

Stan Brieland, said he was asked to put together a simulation animation of what the traffic would look like on the east and west side of the bridge with traffic signals controlling the one way flow. He was made aware that they need to minimize the backup from the bridge from the traffic signal at the intersections of Main Street and First Street. They want to see what the impacts are to that area and the west side. He explained their assumptions in preparing the animation and presented the simulation. They propose that Riverside Park access be blocked off and talked about blocking off the streets on both sides of Highway 93 to First Street East. Dwane Kailey said they need input from the city and residents with ideas and concerns because they know the traffic flows better than anyone. They considered blocking off all streets except one and designating it for making turns. The public mentioned the need to advertise the restricted access roads and the need for additional flaggers and traffic control would be needed several blocks from the bridge. It was mentioned that First Street East is the access for fire and police emergency vehicles. Access to the gas station facing Highway 93 at the intersection of Main Street would be a concern. It was suggested to reduce the speed on Highway 93 at Rocky Point Road where cars are going 65 miles per hour. To monitor the project, it was

clarified that Jim Mitchell of MDOT, who is familiar with the area, will be the project manager and the contractor will also have a project manager on site. It was requested that there be some flow of traffic on Main Street, at least a right turn heading south, or the businesses will suffer. The access to Shoreline Drive near the bridge will be blocked off with the only access at the other end.

Mayor Marchello complimented MDOT representatives on their efforts to work with the community on this project. He asked that there be plenty of notice educating the public of the proposed access restrictions during the construction project. Dwane Kailey noted that after the public hearing on November 19 at KwaTaqNuk, a Transportation Management Plan will be developed and will include a detail of traffic control and public awareness plan. They will publicize in the Polson area including Kailspell and Missoula about the bridge construction project and encourage motorists to use alternate routes. Mayor Marchello asked the MDOT representatives to meet with the Polson City Commissioners to discuss alternatives prior to the November 19th meeting. It was noted that the traffic on Highway 35 will most likely increase during the bridge construction project. Dwane Kailey stated that MDOT has an agreement with the Highway Patrol to provide overtime compensation to their officers to monitor the impact of construction projects statewide. It was mentioned that Buffalo Bridge Road and Irvine Flats Road could be used as alternate roads. Dwane Kailey replied that they would not encourage use of an alternate road having lesser conditions. Highway 28 was also suggested. They felt that overall the delays crossing the bridge would be no more than a couple of minutes and possibly greater in the afternoons.

Interim City Manager Mike Lies asked about the proposed earth berm on Highway 93 and Memory Lane as mentioned in Dwane Kailey's letter to the mayor dated October 15, 2008. Dwane Kailey replied that the landowner asked for the berm to mitigate the noise impact of the highway. They do not believe that the berm will provide a noise barrier but would provide an aesthetic treatment to hide the highway, and merely provide a visual impact. Commissioner Sohm stated that it would affect the future Wal Mart development. Dwane Kailey stated that Lake County and MDOT is not in favor of the proposal.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC
NOT ON THE AGENDA : No public comments were made.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Lou Marchello, Mayor

**ATTEST: _____
Aggi G. Loeser, City Clerk**