

**Meeting Minutes Arthur Avenue, Missoula, MT
CM 7-2(36)94 CN 4611
July 22, 2002**

Attendance:

*Ed Larson, MDT-Consulting Design, 444-9191
Susan Kilcrease, MDT-Environmental, 523-5842
Dwane Kailey, MDT -Maintenance, 523-5846
Jean Riley, MDT-Environmental, 444-9456
Steve King, City of Missoula, 523-4620
Jameel Chaudhiy, U of M, 543-5576
Tony Gendusa, CDM, 626-2570
Jeff Jones, CDM, 449-2121
Randy Huffsmith, CDM, 449-2121
Nancy Podolinsky, CDM, 449-2121
Don Steinhoff, Quality Assurance, 443-0085*

Via Phone:

*Kevin Johnson, CDM
Ed Davis, CDM
Fiona Tranquada, CDM*

Introductions and Schedule

On July 22, 2002 the Department of Transportation (MDT), City of Missoula, University of Montana (U of M), and CDM met at the MDT Missoula district office in Missoula, Montana. This meeting for the Arthur Avenue-Missoula Project (CN-4611) was designated a kickoff meeting to update all major stakeholders on the status of the project. Below are the minutes from the Arthur Avenue project kickoff meeting.

- Randy: Review of items that have been completed and the meeting agenda.
Items Completed:
Fly over
Preliminary Survey (some problems with tree cover have slowed the GPS correction process but our surveyor is working with Dave Davis of MDT to correct the problem)
We need approval from MDT before we can use the county survey control points.
- Steve: The county control points will be important to use. If you find any conflicts we need to know.
- Don: We are working on the railroad right of way at this time. We still have more work to do.

Steve: The City has been buying land from the railroad over the past year. You will find various ownerships.

Don: ROW issues: I found a land use agreement on the Jeanette Rankin park between MDT and the City.

Steve: I will advise the parks department.

Jameel: Jeanette Rankin Park belongs to the State and the City of Missoula maintains it.

Don: That is correct. I have the copies of the land use permit.

Traffic

Randy: First we should talk about the roundabout. We have Kevin Johnson from our office to discuss this issue.

Kevin: We have looked at the two roundabout vs. the single lane roundabout. The double lane roundabout is what you find in Europe. I do not recommend these since people are not familiar with the two lane roundabouts. The single lane roundabout would be better but there could be traffic issues.

Steve: Maybe a free right turn would help out with the roundabout between Maurice and Arthur on Sixth.

Kevin: We need to get traffic out of the roundabout. First we need to get the traffic counts.

Jeff: We also need to put the pedestrian and bike paths in the design.

Kevin: At Arthur and Sixth was the original area for the roundabout. We are concerned about the horizontal and vertical alignment and the speed of vehicles coming off the bridge.

Jameel: Need to review the area by the park.

Group: (Reviews the overlays on the aerial photo showing the roundabouts).

Jameel: We need to link up to the campus and make 5th avenue a two-lane street.

Jeff: One concern with the roundabout is truck traffic.

Tony: There will be the loss of the park in certain areas.

- Jameel: Fifth Avenue could be an exit.
- Kevin: The horizontal and vertical alignment coming off the bridge is a concern. We also need to look at the bike and pedestrian lane safety issues.
- Dwane: Visually impaired people and other ADA individuals are a concern when crossing a roundabout. If we put in a signal we lose the purpose of the roundabout.
- Randy: We need the traffic count analysis during peak traffic flows.
- Kevin: We need the am and pm traffic flows as well as event traffic flow.
- Jeff: Pedestrians could go down and around the roundabout if the roundabout was a three-way system, or if the trail system was connected to Arthur.
- Kevin: The underpass at the bridge level to the trail level is steep and maybe a concern for ADA. We need a connection from the bridge to the trail system.
- Kevin: Do we use the WB-50 standards for tractor-trailers or WB-60 for trucks? We would need larger dimensions if we use WB-60.
- Dwane: We should see what truck traffic we have first and then decide.
- Kevin: We need the counts and classifications from the count that we will be due in September.
- Ed Larson: We can't preclude any class of vehicle. The larger than standard vehicles, I would guess are using another route.
- Steve: We should consider using the WB-50. The larger trucks will go to Hwy 93.
- Ed Larson: We could designate Hwy 93 as a truck route. This would not be mandatory route but a recommendation for truck traffic to use Hwy 93 instead of Hwy 12.
- Steve: We would support that but this is still a highway (Hwy 12) and the most direct route east.
- Jameel: Would the single lane roundabout accommodate truck traffic?
- Kevin: Yes. The design would have a truck apron on the inside diameter of the roundabout.
- Jameel: With the current configuration the truck trailers would not make the turn.

- Steve: We need to consider emergency services. We need to consult with the fire department and get their concerns.
- Kevin: I have literature and videos to submit to the fire chief.
- Steve: We would like to take the fire chief to Golden, Colorado to view their roundabout. The fire chief's concerns are hydrant locations, delay times, etc.
- Jameel: The University is not married to the roundabout design; the University just needs something that works.
- Randy: We need the traffic counts analysis and then purpose layouts.
- Kevin: We should do these counts after school starts but before the snow.
- Jameel: The first day of school will take place after labor day (September 3rd) there will be a high volume of traffic at that time. After the first month the traffic slows down. The second week in September would be the ideal time to take traffic counts and during the first football game.
- Randy: After we analyze the counts we need to layout the air photo overlays and discuss options.
- Jameel: There will be other groups that will want to attend the meetings. We need to keep these groups advised during the process and get their views and reactions.
- Randy: We should plan our first meeting as a group and then pull in the other groups.
- Kevin: We need to set a small group of alternatives first and present them during a preliminary meeting and then present them to the public.
- Randy: Would the end of September be a good timeframe for this meeting?
- Kevin: Early October would be a more realistic time since it will take sometime to do the traffic analysis once we receive the data.
- Randy: We need to do this before the snow.
- Steve: We should keep these groups advised of what is happening.
- Randy: We will put together a draft letter and email this to the group next week. This letter will contain information on the project and the schedule.

- Jameel: We need to add on the U of M facility and staff senates and University transportation group.
- Steve: We also need to add Beach Transportation (bus service), City Fire Department, City Administration, and City Council.
- Randy: We need a public meeting. What would be a good time for a public meeting?
- Jameel: We should also meet with smaller groups.
- Randy: Possibly a public meeting in later October or early November?
- Dwane: We will need to advertise one month ahead of time for this public meeting.
- Jameel: Homecoming will be in October and there will be lots of activity on campus.
- Steve: Does the University have a master plan that we can dovetail this project with?
- Jameel: Yes. We need to blend this project in with the master plan. Everything will work from this project.
- Randy: Is there a conceptual report?
- Jameel: Not at this time. There have been some suggestions. This is the only block of land that the campus has left. There are parking needs for large events, planning issues, and finance issues (area between 5th and 6th, and Arthur and Maurice).
- Randy: We need to blend the projects together from Arthur to 5th and 6th streets.
- Steve: Acknowledge to the public the traffic and university modifications.

Website Development

- Randy: What would you like to see in this website? Links to the City? Links to U of M?
- Jeff: Ed Davis created a website that I would like to pass around.
- Ed Davis: Who do we need to talk to and what should we say? If this site is well done then the public will come back to the site. The most important is the content and links.
- Randy: The project website should link to the City and University and they should link to us. We should have the following items: Questions to answer, email addresses, photos, drawings, and alternatives.

- Ed L.: First we need a purpose and need statement. We need to have all of the information on one site.
- Randy: We should link to the City, U of M and have an email address for questions.
- Ed L.: Route all questions to CDM so we have consistent answers.
- Jean: We also need a frequently asked questions.
- Susan: A tentative schedule.
- Jean: Last update date.
- Jameel: I wouldn't present any designs to the public at this time.
- Steve: Front page should have the purpose (what, where, why) and graphic of the site.
- Randy: How should we present the website to the group?
- Jean: Can you place it on a CD before it goes to the website?
- Randy: We need to get the errors out and review the website before it is hooked up to the web.
- Ed Davis: I will put together an outline first for the group to review.
- Ed L.: Create business cards with the name of the project, website address, email contact, and purpose statement for public meetings
- Kevin: Another item we could put in the website are questionnaires along with meeting minutes.

Summary

Website will contain:

- Purpose and need statement
- Links back and forth between CDM, City, and University
- Comments/Input section to CDM
- Contacts section email and letter mail
- Frequently asked questions (FAQ) page
- Tentative schedule as it develops
- Last updated date stamp
- Graphics (sight limits etc.)

Right of Way

Don: Virginia is working on the old railroad alignment and we are still working on who owns what. Does a certificate of survey (COS) need to be done?

Ed L.: Yes.

Environmental

Tony: Mountain water well - need to protect. I haven't found any underground storage tanks (UST's).

Steve: The public water well is next to the sewer lift station.

Randy: Should pull the DNRC report on the water well and DEQ data on sewer.

Tony: Do we know the project boundaries at this time?

Jeff: We need to go through the alignment and grade review before we will know the exact boundaries.

Randy: We should check the environmental issues from the bridge and the bike path.

Tony: There were eight occurrences of threatened and endangered species (T&E), some issues of bull trout for the Clark Fork River and a 100-meter buffer zone. We should mention this buffer zone in the environmental assessment (EA). There is also some riparian habitat.

Don: Is the city the owner of the practice field? Yes

Jean: Did the park receive conservation funding?

Steve: The city will find out on funding for the park to determine if there will be 6-F issues.
There is a feasibility plan for a three-lane project near U of M. I will put together a list of project that will take place.

Steve and Tony will coordinate on this list.

Jameel and Tony will work on on-campus projects.

- Jean and Susan: Need to look at the environmental impacts on neighborhoods. (lights, noise pollutions, air pollution)
- Steve: Need to make a note that this plan is for beautification.
- Jameel: There will be air quality issues if traffic gets backed up.
- Tony: There are different levels of EAs. What does this group anticipate is the level effort for this document?
- Jean: MDT will be giving a training in September to keep these documents consistent.
- Steve: This may be a controversial project depending on the impacts. We need to state the enhancement of the University.
- Jean: There are Federal requirements language change between the use of will and would.

Cultural Resource

- Randy: Dan Hall in Missoula is doing the Cultural Resource work. This should be a straight forward report. There are some historic homes and the Janette Rankin Park will be a historic issue.
- Jean: If we need to move the Janette Rankin memorial, what will happen?
- Jameel: The U of M may assist with funding for rehabilitation of the monument.
- Jean: 4-2 lanes need transition limits and this should be included in the environmental document.
- Steve: The design speed limits are not resolved at this time.
- Jeff: From the original scoping meeting, it was decided to use the existing design speed limits?
- Steve: We should figure out what the existing design speed limits are first.
- Dwane: We should be careful how we tell the public the design speed limits since they may interpret this as posted speed limits.
- Steve: We need to accelerate this project to be completed in 2004.

Randy: We have run this through MDT and it will be completed by 2004.

Steve: All utility upgrades will be done before this project starts.