



**Arthur Avenue-Missoula, MT (MDT)
CM 7-2(36)94 CN 4611
Rev. Scoping Meeting Minutes
12/10/01**

*Attendance: Don Dusek, MDT-Traffic Engineer (406) 444-6217
Loran Frazier, MDT-Missoula District Administrator (406) 523-5800
Dennis Foy, MDT- Eng. Services Supervisor (406) 523-5824
Ed Larson, MDT-Consultant Design (406) 444-9191
Susan Kilcrease, MDT-Environmental Services (406) 523-5842
Bruce Bender, City of Missoula, DPU (406) 523-4621
Joe Oliphant, City of Missoula, Proj. Coord. (406) 523-2877
Steve King, City of Missoula, PL (406) 523-4620
Jameel Chaudhry, University of Montana (406) 243-5576
Jim VanFossen, Missoula Parks Dept. (406) 523-2755
Donna Gaukler, Missoula Parks Dept. (406) 523-2754
Randy Huffsmith, CDM (406) 449-2121
Tony Gendusa, CDM (406) 626-4166
Jeff Jones, CDM (406) 449-2121
Dan Hall, CDM Sub Consultant (406) 721-7273
David Cameron, CDM Sub Consultant (406) 522-7131
Don Steinhoff, CDM Sub Consultant (406) 458-0204*

On December 12, 2001, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), the City of Missoula, the University of Montana (U of M) and CDM met at the Montana Department of Transportation's Missoula field office to discuss scoping for the Arthur Avenue project located near the University of Montana campus. At the beginning of the scoping meeting the City of Missoula and the University of Montana had concerns regarding the consultant selection process. They were also unfamiliar with CDM's capabilities and firm background. Randy Huffsmith of CDM explained CDM's background and described past projects. Projects included extensive roundabout experience in the eastern part of the country and previous work experience with MDT. Loran, Bruce and Jameel discussed consultant selection and their disappointment for not being involved. The City and University also voiced their concerns of being overlooked during the design and construction of the Arthur Ave. project. Loran reassured the University and City that they will be an integral part of the design.

During the meeting it was determined by MDT, the City of Missoula, U of M and CDM that an advisory committee should be formed and interested parties should have project input. In addition, a web based project information page would be required for the project. The committee and interested parties would include at least the following:

- University Neighborhood Counsel
- Local Homeowners Association
- City Parks Department
- U of M Administration
- U of M Students
- Bike Pedestrian Advisory Board
- Missoulean's on Bicycles
- Mountain Line
- Parking Commission
- Chamber of Commerce

The web based project information page will consist of basic design drawings, examples and a comment section. The web site will also have links to the MDT, University of Montana and the City of Missoula. All comments will be answered by CDM with assistance by MDT as required.

In addition to the advisory committee, there will be a project team created to review deliverables. The design review team will consist of Dennis Foy and Ed Larson of MDT, Hugh Jessie of the University of Montana and Steve King from the City of Missoula, with additional agencies and staff added as needed. The U of M is open to all options, including roundabouts and conventional signaling, as long as the facility will handle all types of traffic loads and is aesthetically pleasing since this is the gateway to the University.

The City of Missoula and the University of Montana would like to have three, and possibly four, public meetings for the Arthur Avenue project. The first meeting would be a scoping meeting, the second and third meetings will be to discuss alternatives and obtain public input, and the final meeting will answer any questions and describe project updates and findings. In addition to the public meetings, CDM will attend several of the local interest group meetings to explain the project and get input from the community for possible options.

Janet Rankin Park will be of considerable concern during the Arthur Avenue project. Research will need to be performed to determine if the park is 4F or enhanced right-of-way. Because of open spaces acts it will probably be very difficult to convert a portion of the park into roadway. The Missoula City Parks Department is open to upgrading the image of the park. This could, in effect make the park more welcoming and useable. Alternate park options could also be considered with roundabouts or adjacent right-of-way. Currently the park has accessibility problems. This issue should be evaluated to maximize usability.

The project will be bound to the north by the bridge over the Clark Fork River. The eastern project limits will most likely be to the right-of-way limits along Maurice Avenue, and the western project limits will most likely be to the right-of-way limits along Madison Street and Arthur Avenue. The southern limit of the project will be south of 5th Avenue a distance adequate to connect back into the existing Arthur Avenue alignment. CDM will perform traffic studies to determine lane configurations as well as intersection treatments. Geometric alignment will also be analyzed by CDM to ensure that the roadway will meet FHWA and MDT standards. It was noted by Don Dusek that this project would not consider future level of service, but instead, the current safety and level of service demands. The design will evaluate vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle characteristics and determine a solution that will allow all modes of transportation adequate access to the University and adjacent neighborhoods as well as allowing highway 12 traffic access through Missoula in a safe manner. Design speed will be dependent on the overall project functionality.

Loran Frazier and the City of Missoula discussed a potential design completion date of 2004 and the possibility of construction during the summer of 2004. All parties would like an aggressive design schedule with a letting date during early spring so that construction can be completed during the time when the University has a minimal student attendance. The University will need at least one semester lead time to move any houses that may be within project limits. MDT will work closely with the University so that the Arthur Avenue project can key into the Universities master plan.

cc: Arthur Ave. Meeting Minutes