



4th Floor Library
510 Broadway

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Billings, MT 59101
406-657-8246

Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council
Cc: Tina Volek, City Administrator
From: Candi Beaudry, Director
Date: 11/23/2011
Re: MAP-21, Letter to Senator Baucus Requesting Amendment

On Monday night, November 21, City Council agreed that City Administrator Tina Volek could sign the letter from the Billings, Missoula and Great Falls Metropolitan Planning Organizations to Senator Max Baucus requesting amendments to the transportation reauthorization bill, MAP-21. The letter, which is attached, informs the Senator of how concerned the Montana MPOs are of potentially losing their status. It requests that the Senator carry an amendment to the bill that would do one of three options:

1. Remove the requirement for governor's approval of the MPO; or
2. Grandfather previously designated smaller MPOs in rural states; or
3. Guarantee existing MPOs continued existence by defining eligibility by percentage of state population or by service to a discreet (non-adjacent) metropolitan planning area.

On Tuesday evening, November 22, the Yellowstone County Board of Planning, which serves as the designated MPO, also approved the signing of the letter by its President, Dennis Cook. The signed letter, which included signatures from the Missoula Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee and the Great Falls City Administrator, was forwarded to Dave Lewis, Senator Baucus' State Representative, by email on Wednesday.

I have been told by an organization closely following this bill that it will go to the Senate Banking Committee for a markup of the transit portion of the bill (Senator Tester is on that Committee) soon after Thanksgiving. Then it will go to the Commerce Committee for a markup on the freight and rail portion. This will put it on the main Senate floor after the holidays and early next year.

Candi Beaudry, AICP
Director, Planning and Community Services Department
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November 10, 2011

The Honorable Max Baucus
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus;

On behalf of the Cities of Billings, Great Falls, Missoula and our Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), we wish to thank you for your thoughtful work on MAP-21, the Senate's two-year transportation authorization bill. The bill contains many worthwhile reforms to the way we build and maintain our transportation system, yet we are also gravely concerned about certain changes to the metropolitan planning program and MPO designation requirements.

As the bill is currently written, metropolitan planning areas with fewer than 200,000 people will no longer be eligible for MPO status. This rule would make all three of Montana's MPOs ineligible, despite the fact that our metro areas are independent regional centers with the same transportation challenges as larger metro areas across the country.

Our Metropolitan Planning Organizations represent Montana's largest communities—regional centers of commerce and employment. Each community possesses its own character and set of land use and transportation challenges that local planners and engineers are uniquely equipped to address. Continuing to coordinate transportation planning between our cities, the surrounding counties, transit agencies and the Montana Department of Transportation through the metropolitan planning process is crucial for making transportation investments that make sense for and are supported by our citizens.

While we are confident that our MPOs have the technical capacity to function as Tier II or even Tier I MPOs and could seek such a designation from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, we request that you guarantee our eligibility by offering an amendment to MAP-21 that removes the requirement for approval by a state governor, or recognizes MPOs in more rural states for the important regional centers that they are. We suggest an amendment that either:

1. Removes the requirement for governor's approval; or
2. Grandfathers previously designated smaller MPOs in rural states; or
3. Guarantees existing MPOs continued existence by defining eligibility by percentage of state population or by service to a discreet (non-adjacent) metropolitan planning area.

Thank you for your support for our communities and the great State of Montana on Capitol Hill. Please do not hesitate to contact us or our staff if we can be of assistance in the refinement of MAP-21.

Regular City Council Meeting

Meeting

Date: 11/28/2011

Date:

TITLE: Award of the Upgrades for the Airport's West End Office Building Project

PRESENTED Tom Binford

BY:

Department: Airport

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) leases a portion of the Airport's West End Office Building and has been negotiating with Airport staff to add office space to their operations. To meet the TSA's requirements for the additional office areas, the new space must be upgraded. This construction upgrade is part of a new Lease agreement with the TSA that is being presented to City Council in a separate action. Airport staff has worked with TSA staff to develop a scope of work for this upgrade project, which includes installing sound dampening insulation in the walls and ceilings, new entry doors with high security locks, new data cabling, and new paint throughout the entire office area. TSA will reimburse the City for these improvement costs. The project was advertised in the Billings Times and on the City's Web Site on October 13 and 20. The following bids were received on October 25, 2011:

- High Tech Construction & Properties, Inc. \$45,400
- Hardy Construction Co. \$48,300 DPS Company, LLC \$52,312
- General Contractors Construction, Inc. \$55,189
- Fisher Construction, Inc. \$55,220

This item was delayed from the November 14, 2011 meeting.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED

The City Council may:

- Approve the award of the Upgrades for the Airport's West End Office Building Project; or
- Decline to approve the award of the Upgrades for the Airport's West End Office Office Building Project, reject all bids and not complete the project at this time, and subsequently not enter into a five-year lease for the space with the TSA.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total cost of this project is \$45,400. The Airport will be fully reimbursed for these costs by the TSA upon the completion of the project. Subsequently, there is no financial impact to the Airport from this project.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council award the contract for the Upgrades for the Airport's West End Office Building to the low bidder, High Tech Construction & Properties, Inc., for the amount of \$45,400 and authorize the Mayor to sign any Supplemental Agreements required by the TSA in connection with this project.

APPROVED BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR
