

**Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission
Minutes
November 7, 2014**

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Jon Wilkins (City Council), Caitlin Copple (City Council), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador) and Melanie Brock

Commission Members Absent: Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Michele Landquist (County Commissioner), Barbara Wickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney), Melinda Mason (Word), Jason Wiener (City Council), Bryan Von Lossberg (City Council), Tara Moss (Montgomery Distillery), Melissa Gordon (Grants) and Jenny Montgomery (Montgomery Distillery)

Others in Attendance: Bob Giordano and Heidi Bakula (City of Missoula)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of October 7, 2014 are approved as corrected.

1. Public Comment

Bob Giordano of the Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation (MIST) came to discuss his handout on the Higgins-Broadway 3-lane conversion and why it should be the preferred alternative. He asked that the commission look at his handout and email him comments about the project. He stated that former City Engineer, Steve King, supported the 3-lane conversion since a center turn lane would benefit pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicle turning. Bob felt it was relevant to MDAC as a quality of life issue.

Ginny Merriam said she would look into the project since it had not been discussed in quite some time.

2. Special Presentations – None.

3. Committee Updates

➤ Crime and Prevention – Keithi Worthington and Rob Scheben

Packaged Liquor Sales Project – Keithi Worthington discussed the following

- Most of the problems related to homeless people downtown are due to the sale of alcohol.
- Two ideas being considered are to restrict single servings and to develop a list of the worst offenders who purchase alcohol and to not sell to them.

Restricting Single Serve Sales

- She was informed that single serve sales represent 2/3 of Worden's business.
- The brands of single serve alcohol that are purchased the most are Steel Reserve (24oz. \$1.89 – 8% alcohol content – very high) (24oz. Blackberry \$.69 at Orange Street Food Farm), Colt 45 and pint servings of vodka. All of these brands are inexpensive. It may be just a matter of removing these brands from the shelves since they are easy to come by.
- One thought was to ask businesses to sell these brands in four-packs and not single serve. Another thought was to remove any single serve alcohol that sells for \$3.99 or less.

Creating a “No Sell” List

- After an individual receives seven or more citations for an alcohol offense they would be added to the list. Citations may carry a little more weight if this list is instituted.
- After six months the individual gets a clean slate for good behavior.
- This may encourage those who choose this lifestyle to move to a different area of the city, or another town.
- Would ask businesses to try this for nine months to a year to see what happens.
- The next step will be to meet with businesses near the downtown such as Worden’s, Grizzly Liquor, Oles on north Orange Street, Albertsons Eastgate, Eastgate Liquor, the Safeway on West Broadway and the Holiday on North Higgins.
- Free bus trips from Mountain Line may encourage individuals to travel to other businesses outside the downtown area. Will worry about that if it happens.

Keithi asked if the commission would support these two recommendations and all agreed to move forward. Even if there was a business that will not participate, the committee would still move forward. It may be a good idea to approach local bars about people who come in and guzzle a drink and then leave, or if they are selling the single serve alcohol brands mentioned earlier.

Keithi will approach the Business Improvement District (BID) first, which includes Tim France, the owner of Wordens, and Dan Cederberg who is also on MDAC.

Keithi will work to formalize the “No Sell” list and have Mike Brady, the Chief of Police, and the Mayor review it. The downtown businesses must be part of the solution to be successful. Rob Scheben will be the face of the police department for implementing these rules. There was further discussion on including Reserve Street businesses and others around Missoula. Those businesses may want to get involved and be on board. Participating businesses could have a sticker on their window.

Camping Ordinance and Dog Licensing Laws – Keithi Worthington discussed the following

Andy Roy approached Keithi about this topic. Currently when you move to the city of Missoula or Missoula County you have 60 days to get your dog licensed. This makes it difficult to require the homeless population to license their dogs in a timely manner. Maybe this requirement could be changed to 30 days. It would not apply to people just visiting or passing through the area. Keithi will discuss this with Jeff Darrah of Animal Control.

➤ Real Change Promotion – Ginny Merriam

University Student Education Project

Ginny Merriam and Melanie Brock are working on a program to hire a marketing intern from the university about panhandling. The intern would be housed at United Way. A college student could easily work towards targeting their peers. One thought was to put a message about panhandling on coasters at bars. Paige Livingston will look into this. The university also recommended that the intern be paid a stipend. Another suggestion was for the intern to be housed at BID. Laurie Johnson could help the intern. Melanie Brock offered to look into finding money for the intern for one semester. They are hoping to have an intern before the November 18th BID meeting.

- Built Environment – Margaret Borg

Art Park Update

The city received a \$50,000 TIP grant from the Department of Commerce for the art park. The city and the Missoula Art Museum will need to fundraise for additional funds but first the subcommittee will need to acquire support from the City Parks Department to maintain the art park, parking will need to be discussed and public safety issues will need to be discussed.

- Human Services – Jason Wiener and Susan Hay Patrick – Nothing new to report.
- Updates on other projects

Second Downtown Police Officer Update – Jon Wilkins

Jon met with Nancy Rittel in the Grants Department in order to look at grants for another police officer. It would take at least \$90,000 to fund a new position. The BID might be able to help but the mayor wants to fund it without BID or the police department's help. It may or may not be a full time position. City Council supports an additional officer and may ask for it to be included in a future budget request.

Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) Vehicle – Jon Wilkins

Jack Stucky of the City Vehicle Maintenance Department is looking into how the city could donate, sell, or lease a vehicle to the HOT team. Keithi Worthington said she would look into the legality of the three options. A lease may create some city liability issues and a vehicle cannot be sold without a public process.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi J. Bakula
Executive Assistant

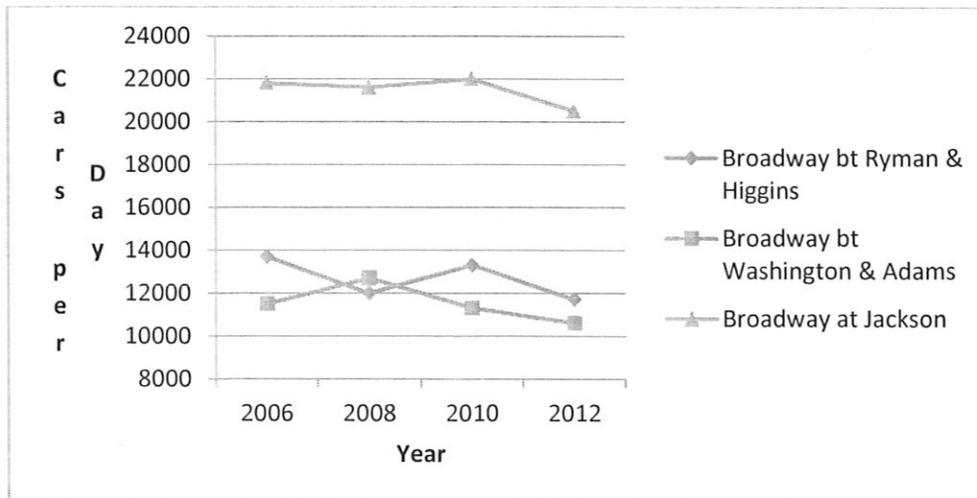
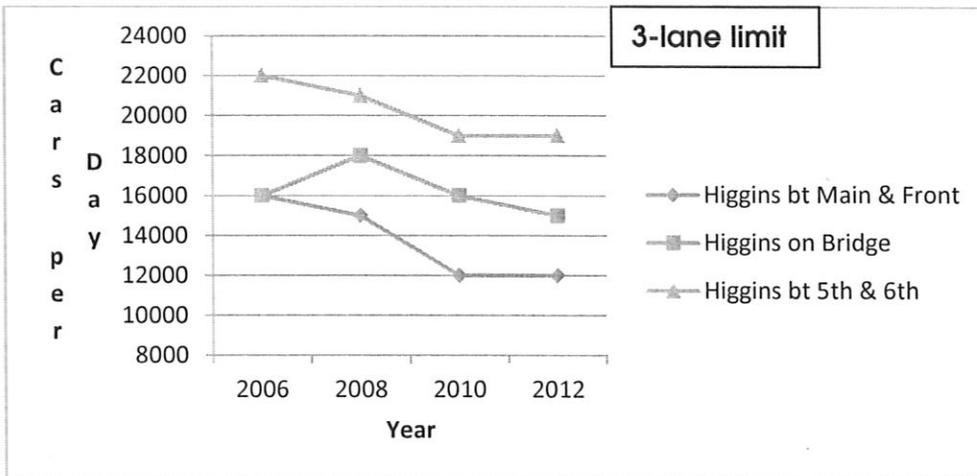
Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
December 2, 2014

Proposal for 3-lane Higgins (Brooks to Railroad) and 3-lane Broadway (Orange to Madison)

Downtown has a high rate of crashes with motor vehicles hitting other motor vehicles, pedestrians and people on bicycles. A 4-lane to 3-lane conversion is a solution to solve crashes while also calming traffic and allowing optimum traffic flow. Two successful 4-lane to 3-lane conversions have already been implemented in Missoula, with very good results in safety and flow. Please send comments to mist@strans.org



Pedestrian crashes in Missoula from 2012 Long Range Trans Plan



"City Public Works supports the extension of a 3-lane Broadway from Orange to Madison Street and 3-lane Higgins from S. 5th Street to Railroad Street." -Steve King, Public Works Director, email on August 28, 2008

