

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 29, 2005

TO: Executive Policy Committee (EPC)
Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

FROM: Marcia Elkins, Director of Growth Management
Everett Bacon, LSA Associates

SUBJECT: Rapid City Area 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan - Update

Work is continuing on the development of the Rapid City Area 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Several LRTP related items are attached for your consideration and discussion at the July 6 meeting. In addition, we have added an additional Public Forum to the schedule to increase visibility for the LRTP and to provide the public with an opportunity to review the Draft LRTP. The overall schedule to complete and approve the LRTP by August 18th has not changed.

Public Forum

The Public Forum is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, July 17 and Monday, July 18. It will include a series of events aimed at going to the public rather than have them come to us. For example, on Sunday afternoon we are planning to set up a manned display at Rushmore Mall to talk to those who stop by, provide them with information, and record their comments for the LRTP. We are also planning on an Open House type event previous to the City Council meeting on the 18th and possibly something in the middle of the day with the business community. The Forum is still in the planning stages. We will discuss more details at your meeting on July 6.

To date we have conducted three series of public forums for a total of four public meetings. The most recent public meeting was held on June 27th at the City School Administration Building.

Growth in the Rapid City Region

Attachment 1 discusses existing demographic conditions and household and employment growth forecasts for the region. Demographic activity provides the basis for trip-making throughout the region and is used to estimate future transportation needs. Attachment 1 will form the basis for the socioeconomic data/growth chapter in the draft LRTP. No specific input is sought from the Committees on this topic, although we will be happy to discuss the information and address your questions.

Bicycle Facilities Plan

The Bicycle Facilities Plan chapter for the draft LRTP will evolve from Attachment 2, which discusses the existing bicycle system, alternatives analysis, and recommended priorities. We are still receiving comments from the public and others regarding the bike plan, so additional changes are expected but should be relatively minor. We would appreciate the opportunity to address any additional changes, suggestions, and questions from Committee members and will discuss Attachment 2 at your July 6 meeting.

Transit Services Plan

Attachment 3 contains the draft LRTP chapter on the Transit Services Plan. It discusses the existing system, the alternatives analysis conducted for other potential bus route locations, and bus ridership potential for existing and suggested routes. Additional analysis remains to be conducted for a suggested route to the Box Elder/Ellsworth Air Force Base area and possibly others. In addition, several issues and recommendations from the *2004-2008 Transit Development Plan* remain to be addressed. We will discuss these issues in more detail and be available for your questions and comments at the July 6 meeting.

Roadway Alternatives

The identification and analysis of roadway alternatives is continuing. Attachment 4 identifies the list of alternatives we are evaluating, sorted by the project number. Attachment 4a is the same list sorted in alphabetical order. Each project is identified on the map included as Attachment 5. We plan to present preliminary results of the roadway alternatives analysis at your July 6th meeting and will be available to address any questions, comments, or changes to the roadway alternatives list and analysis. The preliminary text for the roadway chapter of the draft LRTP has not yet been written, but we will forward it to the Committee members as soon as it is available.

Schedule

An updated schedule is included as Attachment 6. Specific milestone dates are as follows:

- July 6 – MPO Committee Meetings to review the alternatives analysis and draft recommendations
- July 7 – Rapid City Planning Commission to review the alternatives analysis and draft recommendation
- July 12 – Rapid City Public Works to review alternatives analysis and draft recommendations
- July 17/18 – Final Public Forum to review the draft LRTP recommendations
- July 18 – City Council to review draft LRTP recommendations
- August 18 – MPO Committee Meetings to approve the draft LRTP

In addition to the transportation alternatives and analysis issues, we will try to provide preliminary financial information for implementing the LRTP at your July 6 meeting. As you know, the 2030 LRTP must be financially constrained to the transportation funding that is expected to be available to the region through the year 2030.

At your June 16 meeting, we will provide a brief presentation, conduct a discussion of the issues and questions identified above, and be available for your questions.