

STAFF REPORT
September 20, 2007

No. 07CA041 - Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to revise the Rapid City Area 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan **ITEM 25**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

APPLICANT/ AGENT	City of Rapid City
REQUEST	No. 07CA041 - Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to revise the Rapid City Area 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan
DATE OF APPLICATION	8/24/2007
REVIEWED BY	Monica Heller / Mary Bosworth

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Amendment to the Adopted Comprehensive Plan to revise the Rapid City Area 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan be approved.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) transportation funding authorization bill was signed into law in August of 2005. This federal legislation provides funding for transportation improvements for six years and details what all levels of government must achieve in their transportation planning processes. The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (known as ISTEA), and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (known as TEA-21), predecessors to SAFETEA-LU, affirmed the tenets established for transportation planning at the regional level. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has maintained compliance with these mandates by completing documents such as the Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Unified Planning Work Program, and the Participation Plan. With every reauthorization bill, however, new rules and practices are adopted which require Metropolitan Planning Organizations and other government agencies to review their existing documents and make changes that renew compliance.

STAFF REVIEW:

The adopted Comprehensive Plan is a framework within which development rezoning, and transportation proposals are measured and evaluated. The plan is intended to guide the orderly growth of the community. In order for the plans to remain viable and to keep pace with a changing market place, periodic adjustments to reflect changing conditions will be required.

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization develops the Long Range Transportation Plan document on a five-year cycle, with the next one being due in 2010. To be in compliance with SAFETEA-LU, some aspects of the Long Range Transportation Plan have to be revisited and revised. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization staff researched the SAFETEA-LU legislation and related documents distributed by agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to determine which elements are insufficiently covered in the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan according to the new regulations. A gap analysis was prepared and identified five areas in the existing Rapid City Area 2030 Long Range

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Transportation Plan that required further elaboration. The amendment addresses each of the five areas and will bring the Rapid City Area 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan into SAFETEA-LU compliance

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