

STAFF REPORT
October 7, 2010

No. 10CA041 - Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to adopt RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan **ITEM 26**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

APPLICANT/AGENT	City of Rapid City
REQUEST	No. 10CA041 - Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to adopt RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan
LOCATION	Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Area
DATE OF APPLICATION	9/10/2010
REVIEWED BY	Monica Heller

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan adopting RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan be approved.

GENERAL COMMENTS: The Draft RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan was approved on July 22, 2010 by the Planning Commission and on August 2, 2010 by the Rapid City Council. Public meetings were held during the development of the plan in May 2009, October 2009 and April 2010 and extensive public comment was received.

The Rapid City Area Long Range Transportation Plan is developed to guide transportation planning activities and transportation facility development for the next 25 years. The goal of the Long Range Transportation Plan is to plan an efficient intermodal transportation system which maximizes the movement of goods and people, and minimizes hazards, costs, energy consumption, and pollution. This document is a requirement of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and must be updated every 5 years. The Long Range Transportation Plan for the Rapid City Area was last updated in September 2005.

This Rapid City Area Long Range Transportation Plan has two major components. The first component the 25-year traffic forecasts for the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Study Area used to identify future transportation needs. The second component is the development of the actual planning and prioritization elements within the Long Range Transportation Plan to satisfy those future needs.

STAFF REVIEW: The adopted Comprehensive Plan is a framework with the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of Rapid City, which will, in accordance with existing and future needs, best promote health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity or the general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development. 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.

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Staff has reviewed the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to adopt RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan and has reviewed this proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment for conformance with the six criteria for review of Comprehensive Plan Amendments established in Section 2.60.160(D). A summary of the findings are outlined below:

1. *Whether the proposed change is consistent with the policies and overall intent of the comprehensive plan.*

One of the goals of the Long Range Transportation Plan Element of the adopted Comprehensive Plan is to develop and maintain a transportation system that will be coordinated with land use patterns and will incorporate all available modes of transportation into a safe, efficient, and effective system of moving goods and people within and through the community. The proposed Amendment is an update to the Long Range Transportation Plan Element and identifies a plan to address all modes of transportation and the land use development patterns.

2. *Whether the proposed change is warranted by changed conditions within the neighborhood surrounding and including the subject property.*

RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan is an update to the current Long Range Transportation Plan. This document is a requirement of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and must be updated every 5 years. The Long Range Transportation Plan for the Rapid City Area was last updated in September 2005.

3. *Whether and the extent to which the proposed amendment is compatible with existing and proposed uses surrounding the subject land.*

RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan is compatible with the existing and proposed land uses in the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Area. Existing land uses and the most current Future Land Use Plans were used to calculate the existing and projected traffic volumes used to develop RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan.

4. *Whether and the extent to which the proposed amendment would adversely affect the environment, services, facilities, and transportation.*

RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan will provide the planning tools to develop future Transportation Improvements. The proposed amendment would not appear to result in any significant adverse affects on the environment, services, facilities or transportation network.

5. *Whether and the extent to which the proposed amendment would result in a logical and orderly development pattern.*

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The proposed amendment will provide the planning tools to prioritize the transportation projects needed to serve the projected development over the next 25 years. This will encourage development and redevelopment to occur in a logical and orderly development pattern.

6. *Whether and the extent to which the proposed amendment adversely affects any other part of the city, or creates any direct or indirect adverse effects.*

RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan presents a plan for the construction of transportation projects in the Rapid City Region over the next 25 years. Staff has not identified any significant adverse affects that the Comprehensive Plan Amendment would have on the surrounding area or on the City.

Staff is recommending that the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to adopt RapidTRIP2035 the Long Range Transportation Plan be approved.