

Minutes of the Proceedings
Laramie County Planning Commission
Prepared by the Laramie County Planning & Development Office
Laramie County Wyoming

Thursday, June 10, 2010

- 100610 00** Those in attendance were Commissioner Jody Clark, Chairman, Commissioner Paula Qualls, Vice Chairman; Commissioners Frank Cole, Jim Ward, Bert Macy; Senior Planner Abby Yenco; and Recording Secretary Nancy Trimble.

The meeting register was signed by Tom Mason, Director of Cheyenne MPO; and Sreyoshi Chakraborty, Cheyenne MPO Planner.

- 01** Abby Yenco, Senior Planner, opened the meeting with the introduction of Sreyoshi Chakraborty to come forward with the presentation of the Wayfinding plan.

Ms. Chakraborty explained it was a two phase project: Phase 1 was the conceptual phase, which presented the sign program for the community, and she explained the different type of signs. For the Phase 1 process, a steering committee was formed to include representatives from the City of Cheyenne, Laramie County, Wyoming Department of Transportation, Downtown Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce, Cheyenne LEADS. Phase 2 finalized the specifications of the sign design, location criteria, determined which signs would be new, replaced, and removed. She outlined 3 major destination clusters - the downtown area, the State Capitol complex, Frontier Park/Lions Park.

Ms. Chakraborty explained that the Downtown and Capitol signage would be a unique color - brick red. The other signs would reflect standard colors. The plan proposed gateway entry signs replace existing green signs with population and elevation. Directional signs would point to destinations downtown. Pedestrian kiosk signs would have directional information, as well as a walking map of the downtown area. The plan also proposed removal of the overabundance of signs that were to be combined into the newer designed signs. She also mentioned the signs that would remain; for example, signage for the hospital, airport, post office, golf course, and VA hospital. Ms. Chakraborty asked if any of the Planning Commission members had questions.

Abby Yenco stated there was no staff report associated with this presentation. Commissioner Qualls asked if the overlap to I-80 would be included in the signage plan, with regard to those areas that were still in the City limits. She also asked if there was any way of updating South Greeley Highway with the same sign design. Ms. Chakraborty said the design could be duplicated (prototyped) for the County areas as well. Commissioner Qualls stated that she was a member of SCDDA, and that the rural assessment of South

Cheyenne indicated one major priority was to develop wayfinding signs as well as continuity, to make it appear that the entire community encompasses both the city and county areas. She asked if it would be possible to change the star emblem to something more appropriate for the county, and stated that she would like to express to the SCDDA Board that there was possibility of expanding the new signage later. Tom Mason, Director of the Cheyenne MPO, said that it was possible to expand, but the plan was designed for the City. He stated that he didn't know how or when it would be funded, but hoped that the additional signs would be consistent in design and color. Commissioner Qualls asked if this plan involved the Fox Farm project that the Cheyenne MPO was working on. Mr. Mason explained that the wayfinding plan was very specific in usage, and was probably not the correct type for corridor plans. Commissioner Qualls asked about the downtown area indicated on the district map with regard to crossing south of I-80. Ms. Chakraborty explained that the map shading was not specific, and apologized.

Commissioner Ward commented that he had observed that the Depot Museum was not signed adequately, and neither was the Frontier Park Museum. He suggested that museum wording be added to those signs to make it easier to find these locations. Mr. Mason explained that the plan was gone through in great detail with regards to wording used, and that sometimes there was a space limitation. Ms. Chakraborty said there were three panels per sign, and they were not able to include everything. Commissioner Ward stated it would be nice if they could squeeze it in.

Commissioner Cole commented that the four entry signs were very beautiful, especially for the Central and Yellowstone areas, and he would like to see more. He stated his concern that there was not enough signage with regard to Public Attraction; for example, the retail business on Dell Range. He stated there was also not enough for the softball/baseball complexes, for the soccer fields, or for Pioneer Park. Commission Cole said he though the plan was a long ways from being ready to present to the Board of County Commissioners, and that it should be reconsidered about signage out by Interstates 25 and 80, as well as US 30, for directional signage other than Frontier Park and the downtown area, especially with shopping being a number one tourist attraction.

Commissioner Ward said he though the plan was a great start, but that the concerns needed to be addressed with regard to shopping, etc. Mr. Mason said they were not changing the stone entry signs, but were replacing green signs. He stated there would be the addition of entry signage on I-25 and Vandehei. Ms. Chakraborty added that there would be directional signage to Dell Range from Central Ave and out east to Christensen Road.

Commissioner Qualls asked about the large green signs on Lincolnway and on the Viaduct. Mr. Mason stated those signs were not being replaced, as they were WY DOT signs.

Commissioner Clark asked if later on could directional signs be added for the

soccer and baseball fields. Mr. Mason said that the plan addressed the main attractions, and signs would have to be added in the future for new attractions. Commissioner Cole asked what was unique about the star on these signs? He stated he did not understand. Ms. Chakraborty explained that other emblems were looked at, and this one was received well by the public and the committee. They held a public meeting, and about 20 people showed up. They had displays and drawings posted at the library for 2 weeks, which provided a good opportunity for the public to view them. Commissioner Ward asked if the star was on all the signs. Commissioners Ward and Cole both agreed that the star indicated Texas, the Lone Star State. Ms. Chakraborty said they could look at other designs that had been considered on the Cheyenne MPO website. Commissioner Clark asked if the public said why they liked the star. Mr. Mason said the bucking horse was already licensed, so that emblem couldn't be used. Ms. Chakraborty said the consultants had looked at cost and maintenance, and this solution had seemed best. She stated that 100 signs were going to cost \$520k, and she did not know about maintenance cost, it had been based on other cities experience. Commissioner Qualls said she was concerned since she hadn't seen it at the library, and had never heard about any public meetings. She stated she had never seen this concept until she received the cd on this presentation; that she stays on top of things, so she knew she had not seen it. Mr. Mason said it was a long time ago, and there had been advertisements.

Commissioner Cole asked to see the display of the entry signs again, and asked what happened to the population and elevation information that had been on the previous signs. Mr. Mason explained that population and elevation information would be on signs at the appropriate locations. Commissioner Cole complained that he received the cd, and had no way to look at the plan.

Commissioner Qualls stated that the plan should not move forward, that it was not ready. Abby Yenco suggested that the members state the issues, and how to make improvements, but that a recommendation from the Planning Commission was needed. Commissioner Cole stated that the star emblem was okay for downtown, that Frontier Park could use their emblem, the Greenway theirs, etc. He suggested that the star be interchangeable.

Commissioner Cole moved that the item be tabled, and suggested the MPO staff come back with a new presentation as this one was not ready. Commissioner Qualls seconded the motion, all members agreed, none opposed. The motion was tabled.

Abby Yenco asked if the plan needed to be revised in order to have the Board of County Commissioners make a decision. Tom Mason said the plan was funded by City Government, and the MPO had no intention of asking for funding from the County. He stated the Cheyenne Wayfinding Plan was brought to the County as a courtesy. He explained that changing the star emblem takes away the purpose of this plan, and he would not recommend to his committee to have the consultants change anything. Mr. Mason stated he would like to see what the Board of County Commissioner would say about

the plan as a courtesy, and he doesn't know that the Planning Commission denial really helps with the process.

Commissioner Qualls asked if the MPO was supposed to be for both the County and the City, not just the City. Mr. Mason said the funding for all the signs (which are in the city limits) was coming through the City of Cheyenne Governmental body. Commissioner Qualls responded that if we're trying to work together, everyone needed to be more willing, and not make statements such as Mr. Mason had made. Abby Yenco said there was an opportunity to build upon this plan, but that would be when the funding becomes available to expand outward into the county. She suggested at this point that the meeting move on, and that there was the opportunity to improve upon the plan, if the Planning Commission wanted to recommend it to the Board of County Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.