

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Nick Ross, Transportation & Engineering Department Director
Emiliano Esparza, City Engineer
Taylor Lonsdale, Transportation Engineer

SUBJECT: Approval of the Community Engagement Plan for the 2027 Transportation Master Plan Update

MEETING DATE: July 21, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: **Consider the Motion:** *I move to approve the Community Engagement Plan for the 2027 Transportation Master Plan Update.*

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.2 Community Engagement: Broaden and deepen engagement of the community in city government, innovating methods for inviting input from the community and stakeholders.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Transportation and Engineering is beginning to prepare the 2027 Transportation Master Plan Update, which will provide a comprehensive update of the 2017 Transportation Master Plan, herein called “Transportation Master Plan (TMP)”. The TMP serves as a strategic guide for transportation infrastructure investments based on transportation network needs and associated decision-making principles that incorporate community feedback. The TMP addresses local transportation issues including operational efficiency, safety, sustainability, complete streets, funding, transportation demand management, and multi-modal connections. The TMP also serves as the City’s compliant transportation issue plan under the Montana Land Use Planning Act (MLUPA).

The 2027 Transportation Master Plan Update aims to align the existing TMP with current policy and land use planning based upon the holistic vision of the City Community Plan. The TMP update will be accomplished through community engagement, innovative operational analyses of existing and future transportation demand, socioeconomic analysis of current population and economic trends, an evaluation and prioritization of proposed projects, and an ecological screening of sensitive lands. A comprehensive transportation master plan is needed to address the needs of the community and to help direct future growth through innovative and community-wide planning.

Gathering input from the public is a large component of the 2027

Transportation Master Plan Update and requires a community engagement plan to be adopted by the City Commission. The City has made a commitment to increase community engagement in decision making processes. From the adoption of the 2018 Strategic Plan to the Engage Bozeman platform in 2021, the City has established guiding principles to help develop tools and techniques for effective engagement efforts. Furthermore, as a community that must adhere to the MLUPA, any City led project is required to develop a community engagement plan that identifies and establishes a process and methods for public engagement.

The Department of Transportation and Engineering has prepared a community engagement plan for the 2027 Transportation Master Plan Update to build awareness and through public feedback enhance the goals and blueprint for guiding transportation infrastructure investments, while meeting City and MLUPA requirements for community engagement. TMP engagement activities will be intentionally combined with engagement opportunities for the city's ongoing SS4A Safety Action Plan to improve coordination, provide clear communication with the community, and reduce engagement fatigue. This engagement plan has been developed with input and support for approval by the Transportation Advisory Board during their June 2026 meeting.

City staff will present the community engagement plan for the 2027 Transportation Master Plan Update to the City Commission for final adoption.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As identified by the City Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: Funding for the 2027 Transportation Master Plan Update including components of the community engagement plan is included in the approved FY27-28 Arterial and Collector District biennium budget under Transportation Master Plan (TMP27) with a total project budget of \$250,000.

Attachments:

[Community_Engagement_Plan_2027_TMP_Update__July_20](#)

Report compiled on: June 29, 2026