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To: Kalispell Planning Board

From: Jarod Nygren, Development Services Director

Date: May 11, 2021 Work Session – MOVE 2040 Transportation Plan

BACKGROUND: The Kalispell Growth Policy Plan-It 2035 identified five key projects to aid in the deliverables for the Growth Policy's recommendation. They include 1) the Core Area Plan, 2) The Downtown Plan, 3) the South Kalispell Urban Renewal Plan, 4) the Kalispell Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, and 5) the Kalispell Transportation Update. The first three plans have been adopted by the council with recommendations from the Planning Board. The DRAFT plan before you addresses key project number 5 as well as major pedestrian and bicycle master plan components, key project number 4.

The City of Kalispell and the Montana Department of Transportation initiated the planning process for the plan mid-September 2019 and anticipate a Council presentation and adoption early this fall. During the month of May, staff will be seeking public input on the DRAFT plan in an effort to create a final DRAFT in June. Procedurally, the transportation plan needs to be adopted as an amendment to the Kalispell Growth Policy Plan – It 2035. Since a growth policy amendment is required, a public hearing and recommendation from the Planning Board to the Council will be in order. At the work session, staff will be presenting the DRAFT plan seeking input from the Board so that a final DRAFT can be completed and considered by the Board at its July regularly scheduled meeting.

This DRAFT MOVE 2040 transportation plan will serve to update and replace the existing Kalispell Transportation Plan last updated in 2007. The transportation plan will help guide the development of the City transportation system in a comprehensive and methodical fashion. The Transportation Plan includes the urban boundary determined by MDT, the Census Defined Place of Evergreen and additional growth areas outside of the urban boundary. It provides an analysis of existing transportation conditions, transportation demand forecasting, a discussion of alternative travel modes within the area and identification of specific problem areas relative to crash occurrences, intersection capacities, and street corridor capacities. The plan also includes recommendations for travel demand management and provides a series of recommendations for improvements to the transportation system including short term management changes, major street system improvements and miscellaneous upgrades to the existing transportation system. The transportation plan also includes a chapter designated towards bicycle and pedestrian system analysis and recommendations. The plan concludes with funding programs and policy plan.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board discuss the DRAFT plan and direct staff accordingly.

Attachments: DRAFT MOVE 2040 Transportation Plan