From: Paul Bohan
To: Mayor; Council; City Walk-Ins; Dave Strohmaier; Jesse Ramos; Kevin Pavlik; Tim Bech; Sandra Vasecka; US attorneys office; connect@mt.gov; editor@missoulanewsstation.com; Elke Valley E Club; Gwen Jones; Nick Christensen; Trading And Securities; Jesse Ramos
Cc:
Subject: Missoula Water Company Mailing enclosure
Date: Sunday, February 7, 2021 12:14:39 PM

2021 WINTER NEWSLETTER

City of Missoula

Public Works & Mobility Department

Jeremy Keene
Director
Public Works & Mobility

Director's Message

As a colleague at the Missoula Economic Partnership once said, "When we're completely committed to doing business as usual, we're determined to fail." As Missoula grows, so does our responsibility to provide infrastructure and services for a growing city. Over the past year, the City took a hard look at the way we were doing business in four key departments: Public Works, Housing and Community Development, Parks and Recreation, and Development Services. Each of these departments has its own individual responsibilities, but we also spend a lot of time working together to carry out the City's strategic goals.

We are interested in how we need to change to better serve the citizens of Missoula, not only today, but also in the future. In the next 25 years, Missoula is expected to add 40,000 more people. That will put more pressure on housing, infrastructure, transportation systems, open spaces, and our environment. Our ability to grow sustainably, while preserving quality of life, affordability, and all the things we love about Missoula, depends on the decisions we make now.

In November, Mayor Engen announced Eran Pehan as the director of a new, realigned City department that combines Development Services with Housing & Community Development to form the **Community Planning, Development & Innovation Department**. At the same time, Engineering and Transportation Planning joined Public Works to form **Public Works & Mobility**.

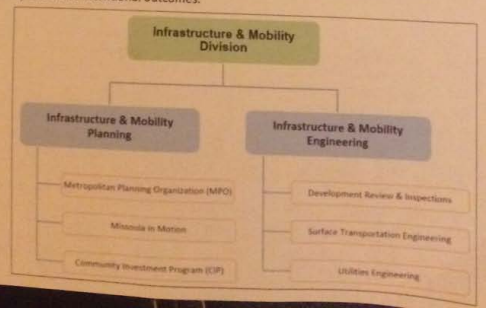
These changes will bring a new approach to community planning and development in the city, combining long-range strategic planning and policy work with the day-to-day work of reviewing new development projects, building new public infrastructure, and operating and maintaining our streets and utilities. The realignment supports the City's goal of promoting equitable, sustainable and quality growth and development. The new structure will allow for more integrated planning; process improvements; and better efficiency, communication, and collaboration among departments and programs.

Each department continues to carry its own mission, but the new organization also recognizes the shared role we have in carrying out the City's mission. These changes will happen behind the scenes. Most citizens won't see a change in the way we provide services, but the end result will be more capacity and more intentional outcomes.

Public Works & Mobility Changes

New Infrastructure & Mobility Division—The realignment creates a new division combining Transportation Planning, Utility Engineering, Surface Transportation Engineering, and Development Review & Inspections. The new division allows us to plan and implement transportation and utility projects that tie directly to our strategic goals, such as replacing aging water mains or creating a robust multimodal transportation system. The combined division allows the same staff to be involved from concept to construction

Continued on back



Fire hydrant properly cleared of snow.

Continued from front

and improves our ability to combine transportation and utility projects or to work with private development partners to improve efficiency and reduce cost.

City Engineer—As Missoula grows, so do the City Engineer's responsibilities. The realignment recognized that workload imbalances were a major obstacle to improving our services. To address that, the City Engineer's duties are now split into three positions: City Engineer for Surface Transportation, City Engineer for Utilities, and City Engineer for Development Review & Inspections.

Embedded Staff—While the majority of our engineering and administrative staff will continue to be located in the Missoula Water building on West Broadway, Public Works & Mobility will maintain a significant presence in City Hall. Locating staff where they are available to other departments and the general public is a priority. To that end, when we are able to return to normal operations post COVID, you'll find our Development Review team and our Transportation Planning team, including Missoula in Motion and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Office, in City Hall.

The realignment provides an opportunity to innovate to meet growing demand in new and better ways. These changes were made with a goal of improving services without significantly increasing our costs. We believe improving our internal processes will result in improvements to our public services. By focusing on how we work together within our department, and with other departments, we are better positioned to address the future needs of both the development community and Missoula citizens.

Innovation and change require constant evaluation. We know the way we do business will continue to require adaptation and adjustment. We are committed to this process and to providing the capacity required to serve this great City. As always, we welcome your feedback. Please feel free to reach out at keenej@ci.missoula.mt.us.

For more information:

Infrastructure & Mobility Engineering Section: http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2729/Infrastructure-Mobility-Engineering

Infrastructure & Mobility Planning Section: http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/1446/Infrastructure-Mobility-Planning

Community Planning, Development & Innovation Department: http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2728/Community-Planning-Development-Innovatio.

Contact Us

Please note that many Public Works divisions are operating with reduced staffing and many other employees are working remotely to comply with COVID-19 directives. We are still here to serve you and are available Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check our website for updates at http://ci.missoula.mt.us/403/Public-Works.

Paul Bohan