October 2018
The Downtown Master Plan Update Edition

Join Us for the
Downtown Master Plan Update
Community Kickoff Meeting

Thursday, October 18
5:30-7:30pm
The Wilma Theater

In this edition:
The Master Plan Update Moves Forward
Meet the Team Behind the Update
BID Road Construction Report
Design Guidelines Coming to a Close
New DDPO for the BID

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The first and only Master Plan for Downtown Missoula was created in 2008 and unanimously approved in 2009 by multiple agencies and has served as the primary guiding tool for all actions, activities and development that has taken place in Downtown Missoula over the last 10 years.

With nearly 70% of the recommended items completed in the plan and $850 million dollars of investment currently happening, the Downtown BID will lead the effort to embark upon a community-wide visioning process to update the plan. Nearly 100 private businesses, non-profit organizations and public agencies have contributed financially to the $400,000 endeavor, and the BID has hired one of the most experienced and well-respected town planning firms to lead the effort.

Dover, Kohl & Partners has assembled a multi-disciplinary team of veterans in sustainable urban design and town planning, livable transportation, housing and economic development to lead Missoula through a year-long planning process to update the Downtown Master Plan. The primary goals are:

- To develop an innovative, community-built long-range vision for Downtown Missoula that builds on past successful investments while preserving and strengthening the city’s unique, historic and cultural character.
- To develop a community vision that maximizes development potential and ensures long-term viability.
- To produce a creative plan that supports and sustains Downtown Missoula as a major employment center with robust activity year-round.

These four guiding principles will serve as the basis for research, planning and recommendations: Authenticity, Innovation, Versatility and Viability. Areas of emphasis will include land use, circulation, infrastructure, downtown housing, parking, parks, business and retail development and street design standards.

The study area will include the historic urban core, areas immediately adjacent to downtown that are suitable for urban expansion, and surrounding neighborhoods impacted by the growth and transformation of downtown. The study area was expanded to the east just beyond Missoula College and to the west, all the way to Russell Street.

To learn more about the Downtown Master Plan and to keep informed and engaged in the process, check-in online here: https://www.missouladowntown.com/downtown-master-plan/. Don’t hesitate to contact the DMP staff via phone (406-543-4238) or email (info@missouladowntown.com) for additional information.
Meet the Partners

Dover, Kohl & Partners has assembled an outstanding multidisciplinary team with national reputation and local experience to help them complete the project.

Gibbs Planning Group
Bob Gibbs, AICP, ASLA, CNU-Accredited President
GPG will provide a detailed retail market analysis to ensure all planning is rooted in Missoula’s current and future economic conditions.

Charlier Associates
James F. Charlier, AICP President
Charlier Associates will provide recommendations to enhance multimodal transportation, connectivity, and wayfinding.

Cascadia Partners
Alex Steinberger Urban Analytics Partner
Cascadia Partners will examine housing in Downtown Missoula. They will focus on corridor analysis, housing, and economic development.

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Community Builders
John Lavey Program Director
Community Builders will work on community engagement and public outreach.

Kimley Horn
Dennis Burns Senior Vice President
Mr. Burns will guide research and analysis in parking development, management, and marketing.

Territorial Landworks
Mark Bellon, P.E. Principal-In-Charge
Mr. Bellon will assist in research, development, planning and design of infrastructure.

Six Pony Hitch
Spider McKnight Owner, Founder
Six Pony Hitch will help with branding, communications and community engagement.
Construction Updates for the BID Area

The Missoula ADA Project is the development of new pedestrian pathways on the street corners of 5th, 6th, Stephens, Higgins and Broadway. Much of the work has been completed, and Knife River is wrapping up the Hip Strip this month. MDT had decided to defer the North Higgins and Broadway corner upgrades to the spring of 2019. For more information, visit mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/missoulada.

The Russell Street Corridor from Broadway to Dakota is focused on building a new river crossing and a new underground pathway for the Milwaukee Trail. Construction is impacting vehicle traffic on Russell Street, as well as recreational use of the Clark Fork River. For more information, visit mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/russell. Texting updates are also available. To register for messaging, text “RUSSELL” to 41411.

The Van Buren Street Interchange has been under construction all summer as MDT builds a two-circle round-about with curb and sidewalk improvements.

Projects Still In Planning Phase

The Fox Site/Riverfront Triangle development is still in the planning phases with financing, design, final agreements and tenant acquisition still on the horizon. The project includes a 200-plus room full-service hotel and a 25,000-square-foot Conference Center for Missoula. Additional development will include office, retail and housing projects, as well as riverfront recreation space. For more information on this project, visit www.riverfronttriangle.com or contact the developers at future@riverfronttriangle.com.

The Higgins Avenue Bridge is scheduled for a re-decking and expansion in 2020. The Montana Department of Transportation will expand the west side of the bridge by several feet to improve bicycle and pedestrian pathways on both sides and to create a wider viewing space over the river and Caras Park. Bridge improvements include replacing the bridge deck, repair and spot painting of the steel superstructure, replacing bearings, railings, and lighting.

For additional information on these and other projects happening in Downtown Missoula, send an email to info@missouladowntown.com or call the DMP Office at 406-543-4238.