

Public Works / Finance Committee



Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

www.ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7015

Monday, January 12, 2026

4:00 PM

Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Drew Davis, Evan Holmes, Bryce Blankenship

ABSENT: Sandra Kelly

OTHERS: Mayor Hailey Lewis, Council Member Scott Sumner, Council Member Sage McCetich

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Sarah Decker, Tyler Palmer, Scott Bontrager, Megan Cherry, Alisa Anderson, Luke Hajda, Laurie M. Hopkins

**1. Approval of Public Works/Finance Committee December 8, 2025 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)
- Laurie M. Hopkins**

The Committee approved the minutes as presented.

2. Disbursement Report December 2025 (ACTION ITEM) - Sarah Decker

Presentation of the Accounts Payable Report for the month ending December 2025.

ACTION: Accept the Disbursements Report for the month of December 2025.

Decker presented the disbursement report and provided details on the major expenses including payroll, Well #6 repair payment, Highway 95-Fountain upsize of watermain payment, body worn cameras and vehicle camera purchase, and payment for city shop project. Discussion ensued regarding the background on the body worn cameras and Tasers. The Committee accepted the report and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

3. First Quarter Financial Report October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 for FY2026 (ACTION ITEM) - Sarah Decker

Presentation of the financial report for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 (October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025).

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the FY2026 First Quarter Financial Report, or provide staff with further direction.

Decker explained that first-quarter expenditures are typically around 20–25% of budget to actual. The General Fund and Streets Fund are currently lower due to property tax, highway user, and bridge revenues not yet being received; these revenues are expected to catch up during the second and third quarters. Some transfers reflect 100% expenditure because smaller transfers, or those for Fleet or Information Services, are completed at the beginning of the fiscal year to allow for necessary purchases. Several expense categories are below 25% as well. Sanitation personnel costs are lower due to the retirement of Tim Davis and the position not yet being filled. Capital projects expenditures are also down, as it is not construction season. Overall, the City is at 11.6% of budgeted revenues and 10.95%

of budgeted expenses for the first quarter. Property taxes are paid in December and June, with the City typically receiving its portion in January and July. Performance increases for staff take effect in January and will be reflected in the second quarter report. The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

4. Idaho Commission on the Arts Grant Application: Public Programs in the Arts (ACTION ITEM) - Megan Cherry

The Arts Department seeks approval to apply for an annual grant administered by the Idaho Commission on the Arts (ICA). The Public Programs in the Arts (PPA) grant program is intended to provide program support for arts organizations in Idaho. These funds will represent off-setting revenue in the production of Palouse Plein Air. If the application is successful, funds are typically available at the end of the City of Moscow's FY26, and would be deferred for use in FY2027.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of the Public Programs in the Arts (PPA) grant application for the current cycle, or provide staff further direction.

Cherry introduced the item as written above. Palouse Plein Air is very popular, this year with a high of over 70 artists from across the region. The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

5. 2026 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Application Project No. 1 (ACTION ITEM) - Alisa Anderson / Scott Bontrager

The City of Moscow has identified a segment of Mountain View Road from Paradise Creek to State Highway 8 as a candidate for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant. The project includes installing curb, gutter, and a shared-use path, along with constructing a retaining wall to minimize property impacts, ultimately connecting to the upcoming construction of the South Mountain View Road TAP project to create a continuous 1.8-mile multimodal corridor. This corridor provides vital access to key destinations such as the Moscow Community Playfields, Latah County Fairgrounds, and Eastside Market Place, serving a rapidly growing residential area with high pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle traffic, especially during events. The infrastructure improvements will support safe, accessible, and continuous connections for all users, prioritizing pedestrian and cyclist safety while encouraging diverse transportation options. The estimated cost is \$750,000, with \$500,000 requested from the TAP, and the remaining funds of \$250,000 will be provided by the City's Roadway Improvement capital accumulation.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Authorize City staff to submit a 2026 Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Application for \$500,000 with total project costs not to exceed \$750,000 or provide staff further direction.

Anderson introduced the item as written above. The City has received two previous TAP awards and with this application if awarded, it would fill the gaps so that there is mobility from Highway 8 to Slonaker Drive.

Luke Hajda described the updates that include bike lanes in both direction and a bike path on the east side of Mountain View that will mirror the asphalt bike path on White Ave. Belknap explained this picks up the path at Heron's Hideout, expanding the path to the south. A portion of it was constructed when the mini storage on the southeast corner was constructed. Idaho Transportation Department does intend to install a traffic signal at Mountain View and Highway 8 which would provide a signal crossing to Latah Trail. Everything but curb and walk on the west which could be a future addition. Bike lanes on both sides are prioritized plus a separated path on the east that would then provide the continuity and connection to the Latah Trail into Paradise Path. The west side of Mountain View from Highway 8 to White Avenue was developed prior to sidewalk requirements. Award notification is June with design

in 2027 and construction in 2028. In normal circumstances the City is only required to put in 7.34% but want to complete as much as possible so the additional match will be funded from the capital improvement plan. The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

6. 2026 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Application Project No. 2 (ACTION ITEM) - Alisa Anderson / Scott Bontrager

The City of Moscow staff has identified the need to replace and expand an aging, heavily traveled pedestrian and bicycle route from a cul-de-sac at the end of Fifth Street to Sixth Street near Short's Funeral Chapel. The project will include an upgraded crosswalk over Sixth Street, connecting to Park Drive with new sidewalks on the west side from Sixth to Seventh Street. This corridor serves residents, students attending Lena Whitmore Elementary and Moscow Middle School, and a developing medical office hub along Sixth Street, which has seen significant growth. Currently, lacking sidewalks on Park Street, the connecting Sixth Street corridor functions as a key multimodal route with two bus stops within two blocks, making it ideal for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The scope involves installing approximately 610 linear feet of curb and 776 linear feet of sidewalk, along with sidewalk extensions and rapid flashing beacons at the mid-block crossing on Sixth Street to improve pedestrian safety. Overall, the project's goal is to enhance connectivity and safety throughout the city, especially for children and students, while staying within the \$500,000 funding limit provided by TAP.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Authorize City staff to submit a 2026 Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Application for Project No. 2 not to exceed \$500,000 requiring a 7.34% local match or provide staff further direction.

Anderson and Hajda introduced the item as written above. The corridor is utilized heavily by pedestrians and cyclists. The long-term goal would be to continue sidewalk through the East Gate Addition, all the way to the fairgrounds. It will be submitted as two projects with priority one being Mountain View and priority two is Sixth Street because sometimes they program farther out. The City is proactive in notifying neighbors and LHTAC staff also contacts neighbors during design. The Committee recommended approval and asked that it be placed on the regular agenda.

7. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) - Highway 95 Underpass Project Modification (ACTION ITEM) - Alisa Anderson / Scott Bontrager

The City of Moscow and the Moscow Urban Renewal Agency (MURA) began planning a pedestrian and bicycle underpass at South Main Street/U.S. 95 in 2018, supported by a feasibility study and a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant. The project was designed to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety by bypassing a busy five-lane intersection near the University of Idaho. The original plan included a 710-foot-long underpass, pathway connections, and removal of the old Hwy. 95 bridge, with most of the \$1.07 million cost covered by federal funding.

State-level delays postponed design work until 2023, and extensive environmental reviews extended into 2025. Updated analyses revealed significant sediment buildup and changed hydraulic conditions in Paradise Creek, making it difficult to meet clearance requirements and requiring extensive sediment removal and ongoing maintenance. These changes also increased project costs to approximately \$1.78 million, significantly raising the required local match despite increased MURA funding.

Due to the altered creek conditions, permitting challenges, and long-term maintenance concerns, the underpass was deemed infeasible at this time. As a result, the project scope has shifted toward

exploring alternative above-ground pedestrian safety improvements at the same intersection, with Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) approval to revise the project approach to better fit current site conditions. This revised approach would meet safety and connectivity goals while reducing the total project cost to approximately \$1.37 million, matching the current budget.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Authorize City staff to modify the scope of the project and complete the design utilizing remaining funds in the current State/Local agreement, or provide staff further direction.

Bontrager introduced the item as written above. He provided a background of the project beginning with a feasibility study completed in 2018. After many delays including COVID and environmental issues, the project cost went from \$1million to \$1.7. The MURA increased match but in the Fall of 2025, 2 feet of sediment moved into the creek bed. The minimum clearance requirements could not be met with the additional sediment without clearing out thousands of feet downstream and would require environmental permitting and ongoing maintenance.

LHTAC contacted FHWA on the scope and authorized modifying the scope as long as it was in the same area. The new scope includes the removal of old Hwy. 95 bridge, addition of sidewalk and pedestrian ramp improvements along US95 and SH-8, and a new pedestrian crossing on the west side of the Highway 8 and US95 intersection.

Belknap said he believes there is \$83,000 as local match in capital projects. Staff hoped to complete another underpass but it would be under water 70% of the year. If the City choose not pursue the project, any design expenses that have been incurred, the city could likely have to reimburse LHTAC. There has been \$200,000 to date. Also, it would create a negative effect with LHTAC if the City pulled out of the project and could jeopardize future applications. Design will be ready in June or July with bidding in the fall and construction in 2027.

Davis said it is unfortunate but likes the idea of taking advantage of what we do have. Blankenship said he is happy to hear there are conversations with ITD.

The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council regular agenda.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.



Minutes Approved On
February 9, 2026
[Signature]
(Clerk Signature)