

CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-5035

Department of Community Development 300 Sixth Street

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization Committees

FROM: Kip Harrington, Planner III

DATE: June 2, 2020

RE: 20TP022 – Acknowledge the Sixth and Omaha Crossing Feasibility Study – Draft Report

The Sixth Street corridor is an important component of the downtown Rapid City transportation system, serving passenger vehicles, transit service, and non-motorized modes of travel. The corridor many key activity centers between Rapid City High School and Performing Arts Center at the southern end to The Rushmore Plaza Civic Center on the northern end.

Omaha Street constitutes a dividing barrier between downtown and Memorial Park, with a temporary pedestrian crossing located at Sixth Street. The Sixth and Omaha Crossing Feasibility Study seeks to identify how a potential grade-separated crossing of Omaha Street at Sixth Street would affect the overall transportation system.

The study is composed of three sections: bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity, traffic operations, and transit operations. One public open house was conducted to gather public input, as well as an interactive map website, used for additional input during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The results of the study indicate that a grade-separated crossing will function well with the pedestrian and bicycle network, pose no negative impacts on traffic operations, and will have a minimal effect on two Rapid Ride routes. The next steps of implementing the crossing include the pursuit of funding, an engineering feasibility assessment that includes design, drainage, and additional vehicle circulation design, and finally, construction of the crossing.

<u>STAFF RECOMMENDATION</u>: Staff recommends acknowledgement of the Sixth and Omaha Crossing Feasibility Study – Draft Report.

