

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

City of Billings & Yellowstone County



June 9, 2011

Dear Billings Mayor and City Council Members,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the City of Billings and Yellowstone County supporting the passage of A Resolution of the City of Billings to Adopt a Complete Streets Policy.

The goals of the Bike and Pedestrian advisory Committee clearly align with the development of a Complete Streets Policy. With the passage of this resolution, Billings can join other communities around the country that have realized the importance of encouraging safe and healthy active living. The city can improve the quality of life of Billings' residents by providing safe, convenient, and comfortable modes of transportation for all users.

The Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's goal is to create an environment in which all members of the community can easily access all transportation modes in their everyday lives. We believe that improving opportunities for walking and biking will make Billings and Yellowstone County a more desirable place to live as we work together to provide more transportation options that are more economical, that will reduce vehicular traffic congestion in and around our city, and that will provide for a more sustainable mode choice as we plan for the many short trips our community can make by foot or bike.

We strongly support the passage of A Resolution to Adopt a Complete Streets Policy. A Complete Streets Policy is consistent with our goal of making Yellowstone County and the City of Billings a safer place to travel by foot and bike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Aragon".

Kathy Aragon
Chair, Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Committee Members: Jim Collins, Chris Cook
Doug Enderson, Brent Roberts,
Deidre Schafnitz, Don Vanica

May 25, 2011

City of Billings City Council
c/o Terry Smith, City of Billings Traffic Engineer
2224 Montana Ave
Billings, MT 59101

Dear City Council Members:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Billings Traffic Control Board in support of the passage of A Resolution of the City of Billings to Adopt a Complete Streets Policy.

Designing streets only for automobiles reduces opportunities for safe and convenient travel choices including walking, bicycling, and using public transportation. Half of all automobile trips were three miles or less and 28% were one mile or less. Continuing to invest in incomplete streets will prevent people from using options such as walking, bicycling, or using public transportation. Networks of Complete Streets, with pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and improved access to and efficiency of public transportation, are needed in Billings to reduce the burden of congestion on our roadways and improve travel times for all users.

With the passage of this resolution, Billings can join other communities around the country that have realized the importance of Complete Streets. The city can improve the safety and quality of life of Billings residents by providing safe, convenient, and comfortable modes of transportation that meets the needs and expectations of all users.

The Billings Traffic Control Board supports the creation of an environment in which all members of the community can easily utilize different modes of transportation and therefore we strongly support the passage of "A Resolution to Adopt a Complete Streets Policy".

Sincerely,



Steve Zeier
Chair, City of Billings Traffic Control Board



Dear City Council Members:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the RiverStone Board of Health in support of the passage of A Resolution of the City of Billings to Adopt a Complete Streets Policy.

The 2005 and 2010 Community Health Assessment (CHA) clearly identifies that Yellowstone County must continue work to create a healthier community. In 2010, the CHA showed that 72.9 percent of Yellowstone County residents are overweight or obese. This is a 10 percent rise in overweight and obesity in just a five-year period, an increase rate that is twice the national average. The 2010 CHA also showed that only 47.2 percent of residents meet nationally recognized physical activity recommendations.

With the passage of this resolution, Billings can join other communities around the country that have realized the importance of encouraging healthy, active living. The city can improve the safety and quality of life of Billings residents by providing safe, convenient, and comfortable modes of transportation for all users.

The RiverStone Board of Health supports the creation of an environment in which all members of the community can easily access healthy choices in their everyday lives. We believe that creating a healthy place can help improve several health indicators in the population's health, including heart disease, diabetes, physical activity and mental health.

We strongly support the passage of A Resolution to Adopt a Complete Streets Policy. Not only is it consistent with our goal of making Yellowstone County a healthier community, but our expectation is that it will contribute to elevating the community's health status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'F. Douglas Carr, MD, MMM'.

F. Douglas Carr, MD, MMM
Chairman, RiverStone Board of Health
Yellowstone County

July 1, 2011

Mayor Tom Hanel
Members of the Billings City Council

The Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitors Bureau is pleased to support the Billings Complete Streets Resolution to City Council. Recognizing the importance to motorized and non-motorized transportation along with the community aesthetics and quality of life derived, visionary planning and investment in our multi-model forms of transportation will pay long term dividends.

One of the benefits of having this policy in place is that it will encourage development of all forms of transportation, thereby promoting alternatives that lend themselves to a much healthier lifestyle. There are a number of reports that correlate the additional use of motorized transportation with an increase in unhealthy lifestyle habits, with obesity being the most far-reaching example.

The document that you will be considering is a guiding document and gives direction to staff, developers, and the general public. It is dependent on a variety of circumstances, right-of-way available, current street configurations and transportation needs. It is not intended to be a cookie cutter approach to street design, and each review will be considered with this guiding document as a basis.

We encourage you to approve this resolution.

Sincerely,



John Brewer, CAE
President and CEO



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Billings
MONTANA'S  TRAILHEAD

it's
BiLLINGS
Billings Chamber of Commerce
Convention and Visitors Bureau

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF PLANNING

4TH FLOOR LIBRARY BUILDING • 510 N. 28TH
PO. BOX 1145 • BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103
PHONE: (406) 627-6540

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Yellowstone County Board of Planning in support of the implementation of Complete Streets principles in the City of Billings.

The Planning Board reviews development proposals, neighborhood plans, transportation plans and is involved in long-range planning in the City of Billings and encourages safety, access and connectivity for people using all modes of transportation. The current City Subdivision Regulations that require boulevard sidewalks in new subdivisions has been a great step for the City in making its transportation corridors more accessible for all users and improving safety for walkers. The soon to be adopted Billings Area Bikeway and Trail Master Plan also guides the City in addressing the safety and accessibility of cyclist, roller bladers, people with strollers, and others, who benefit from hard surface trails connecting the City's neighborhoods, parks, and commercial service areas.

With the adoption of a Complete Streets Policy, the City of Billings will consistently evaluate its transportation corridors during retrofits and new construction to accommodate the users in each situation. This approach will improve the safety and quality of life of Billings residents by providing safe, convenient, and comfortable modes of transportation for all users where they need it and use it most.

The Yellowstone County Board of Planning supports the creation of an environment in which the community can easily utilize different modes of transportation and supports the City Council's adoption of a Complete Streets Policy to accomplish this goal dependent upon funding.

Sincerely,



Dennis Cook, President
Yellowstone County Board of Planning



SERVING BILLINGS, BROADVIEW AND YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

July 7, 2011

Mayor and City Council
City of Billings
c/o Canci Beaudry, Director of Planning

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Please accept this letter on behalf of Big Sky Economic Development in support of the proposed resolution adopting a **Complete Streets Policy** for the City of Billings. This is an important step in the City's continued efforts to enhance the quality of place in our community, and it is supportive of our mutual work to redevelop the East Billings Urban Renewal District (EBURD).

As you know, Big Sky Economic Development and the City of Billings continue to partner with property owners to revitalize the EBURD. One of the central ideas in our Master Plan is the concept of "Complete Streets." The Master Plan suggests that "Complete Streets support economic development efforts by providing accessible and efficient connections between many key destinations." These connections are fundamental to the success of the EBURD project. Simply, this area must be—and feel connected to—the Central Business District and to Metra Park.

Currently, we are working together on the two-way street conversions on 2nd and 3rd Streets. This is one of the top projects listed in the implementation section of the Master Plan. The project is funded through a \$308,000 HUD-EDI Special Projects grant secured by Big Sky Economic Development. The intent of this project is to create a **Complete Streets** corridor and transportation link that better supports business interests and invites pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists to EBURD's businesses. The impetus is to create a destination rather than a pass-through thoroughfare. In short, Complete Streets works in the EBURD. And, we believe the concept will make a positive economic impact throughout the City.

We understand that the resolution you are considering adopting is intended to guide the City as it considers future street projects. It is an attractive, non-prescriptive approach that supports our partnerships within the local business community. As well, it is our understanding that the proposed **Complete Streets Policy** is consistent with the existing requirements of the City's Subdivision Regulations. Therefore, it does not impose any added burdens on developers and business owners. These considerations are important to Big Sky Economic Development. The Complete Streets Policy, as intended and implemented by the City, will support and foster business development and private, residential subdivision development.

As such, Big Sky Economic Development respectfully encourages City Council to adopt the resolution creating a **Complete Streets Policy** for the City. It is good for business. And, it supports what we are trying to accomplish in the EBURD.

Sincerely,


Steve Arveschoug
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BIGSKYECONOMICDEVELOPMENT.ORG

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