



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES



Tuesday, August 27, 2019 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am
1st Floor Conference Room, Miller Building
2825 3rd Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101

DRAFT

Call to order: Ed Gulick, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order.

Members present: Kristi Drake, City; Rose Cook, County; Jane Van Dyk, City; Liana Susott, County.

Others present: Scott Walker, Transportation Planning Coordinator; Bill Kemp Street Traffic Superintendent; Ron Palmer, Street Traffic Supervisory. Guests: Morgan Miller

Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –** none.
- b. **Online comments and comments received by the Active Transportation Planner –** none.

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of July 23, 2019: Rose Cook, BPAC member, moved to approve the minutes, Jane Van Dyk, BPAC member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Presentation from Bill Kemp on Street and Traffic operations

Bill Kemp, Street Traffic Superintendent, gave a presentation on some of the activities of his Division. They take care of traffic lights, school flashers, HAWK signals, and RRFB. The Division pours 12,000 gallons of paint in a year when the weather cooperates. There are 547 miles of streets, 18 miles of gravel road, 93 miles of alley, and 25 miles of mowing around town that they are responsible for. They maintain Shiloh Conservation Area.

41 employees take care of our streets.

Sweeping-everything drains to the river untreated so they take it seriously to keep the streets clean. There are 5 street-sweeping zones, each covered by one employee, who takes great pride in the condition on his/her zone. The Streets Division has been able to increase the efficiency of the operations by having the sweepers dump four sweeper-loads worth of debris into a haul-away dumpster in each zone, limiting the number of trips to the landfill.

Kristi Drake, BPAC member, asked if Street and Traffic can make suggestions on where to put bike facilities. Bill shared that that is more an engineering function. She also asked about storm drains. The new drains are different so that the tire will not get stuck in a slot.

The truncated domes on Shiloh have sharp edging from the cleaning equipment. Street and Traffic will look at those and see if they need to be replaced.

Jane asked about speed humps/speed tables on Gregory Hills. She asked if they would cause problems for snow plowing. Bill said that it could cause some problems but signing might help. The group talked about if an island might be a better option.

Rose asked how the sweeping pattern is determined. They start on the main streets, then secondary streets, then residential try to get at least 3 times. Streets with storm drains are the priority.

Ed Gulick, BPAC Chair, asked about reprioritizing sweeping schedule to prioritize bike lanes. Most bike lanes are on arterials and those are priorities.

Kristi asked who prioritizes striping/restriping sharrows and bike lane symbols. Bill is the one who does that. He will push for handing some of the tasks off to contractors. They typically repaint long lines 2 times a year, then work on school crosswalks, then regular crosswalks.

Bill and Ron stated that the sweepers do take requests, so the Streets Division should be called if bike lanes are filled with gravel and are not being addressed, particularly if the sweepers have already started on the residential streets.

Report out on meeting with Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT). Rose reported out on the meeting with LIFTT. She shared that concerns included signs blocking sidewalks, trail etiquette, having shaded areas on trails and covered bus stops, tires being torn up from sidewalk/road conditions, and short street crossing times. One person who uses a wheelchair mentioned that he uses the bike lanes more than the sidewalks because it avoids going up and down. Kristi mentioned a trail etiquette campaign with signage and social media. Rose will start posting etiquette on social media.

During Public Comment, Morgan Miller mentioned that RiverStone Health can help promote trail etiquette via social media channels.

Discussion Update. Bike Parking. Scott Walker, Transportation Planning Coordinator, presented a handout from Active Transportation Planner, Elyse Monat. Handout is part of minutes packet. Jane suggested offering racks free for non-profits. Ed encouraged BPAC members to hand out applications to places that they frequent downtown. BPAC will wait and see what happens for the next month.

Discussion Update. Reviewed of dates by-laws go before governing bodies. Dates were Commissioner Discussion on September 5 at 2pm, City Council on September 9 at 5:30 pm, and Commissioners on Sept. 10 at 9:30 am.

New Business: All new business was delayed to the next meeting

Future Agenda Items:

Trail Etiquette

Jeff Speck's visit to Billings

The Downtown Traffic Plan

Meeting adjourned at 1:02.