

City Council Work Session

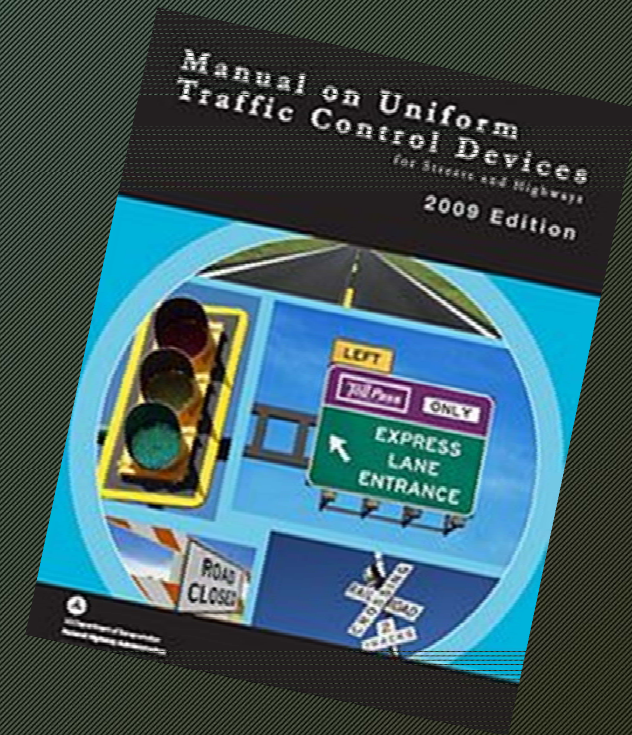
August 19, 2019

Agenda

- Speed Limits
- Traffic Calming
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- Future Guidelines

What is the MUTCD

- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control DeVICES
- National Standard
- Uniformity
 - State to State, City to City
- Not when, but How
 - Gives Guidance on when
 - Size, Color, Shape, and Location
- MAY vs. SHOULD vs. SHALL



MUTCD Requirements

- MCA 61-8-202 requires the adoption of MUTCD
- MCA 61-8-206 requires Local Authority to adhere to MUTCD
 - Also eliminates the use of automated traffic enforcement (as adopted by BMCC 24-101)
- What does MUTCD say about speed limits?

MUTCD on Speed Limits

- SHALL be in increments of 5 mph
- SHOULD be within 5 mph of 85th percentile
- SHALL be located at points of change
- SHALL have add'l signs posted beyond major intersections
- SHALL be based on engineering study

Speed Limits



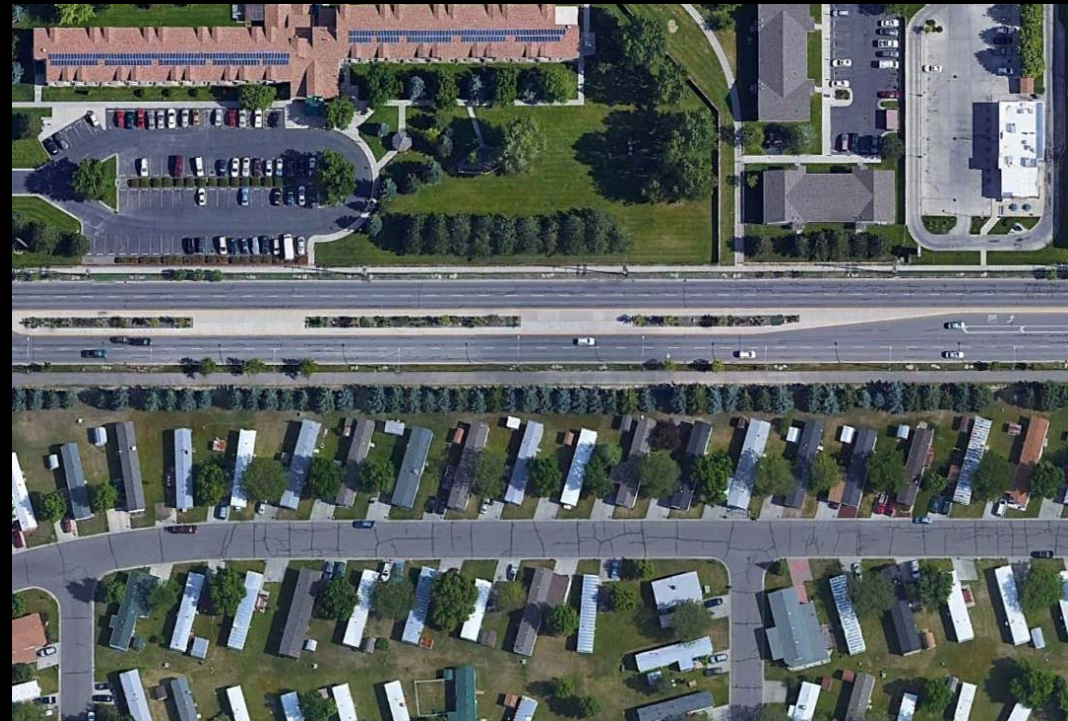
Which road should have a higher speed limit? Why?



Setting Speed Limits

- Road classification
- Roadside development
- Parking
- Pedestrian/bicycle activity
- Road characteristics (horizontal/vertical curves, lane widths, landscaping, etc.)
- Operating speeds

Speed Limits



*Which road drives faster?
Why?*

Speed Limits

11% Over the
Speed Limit



*Which road drives faster?
Why?*

6% Under the
Speed Limit



Speed Limits

- Ultimate guiding principle for driver behavior:
In the absence of steady enforcement, people will drive at a speed at which they feel comfortable.
- As comfort increases, so do speeds.
- How do we make drivers feel uncomfortable, and thus, slow down?

TRAFFIC CALMING!

Traffic Calming

- Horizontal shifts
 - Chicanes, lateral shift, etc.
- Vertical shifts
 - Speed humps, cushions, etc.
- Narrowings
 - Bulbouts, islands, etc.



Traffic Calming Measure	Type	Local Street	Collector	Minor Arterial	Principal Arterial
Full Street Closure	Volume Control	✓			
Half Closure		✓			
Diagonal Diverters		✓			
Median Barriers		✓	✓	✓	✓
Forced Turn Islands		✓	✓	✓	✓
Speed Humps	Speed Control: Vertical	✓	✓		
Speed Tables		✓	✓		
Raised Intersections		✓	✓		
Textured Pavements		✓	✓	✓	✓
Traffic Circles	Speed Control: Horizontal	✓	✓		
Roundabouts			✓	✓	✓
Chicanes		✓	✓		
Lateral Shifts		✓	✓	✓	
Realigned Intersection		✓	✓	✓	
Neckdowns	Speed Control: Narrowings	✓	✓	✓	✓
Center Island Narrowings		✓	✓	✓	✓
Chokers		✓	✓	✓	✓
Add'l Signage/Flashers	Varies	✓	✓	✓	✓

Historical Billings Traffic Calming

- Citizen request/complaint
- Engineering study to determine validity
- Funding secured?
 - SID?
 - Permit?
 - No City funds
- Project constructed

- City projects or developer-related
 - Requires assumption/prediction of problem

Future Billings Traffic Calming Guideline

- Include City funds?
- Becomes both reactive and proactive
- Engineering study to determine applicability
- Requires the need for ranking/prioritization
- Funds will need to be allocated

Future Billings Traffic Calming Guideline (cont'd)











- Start with “trouble” neighborhoods? Schools? Downtown?
- If deemed “applicable”, can neighborhood veto?
- If neighborhood is willing to pay entirely, can they build outside of the priority ranking?

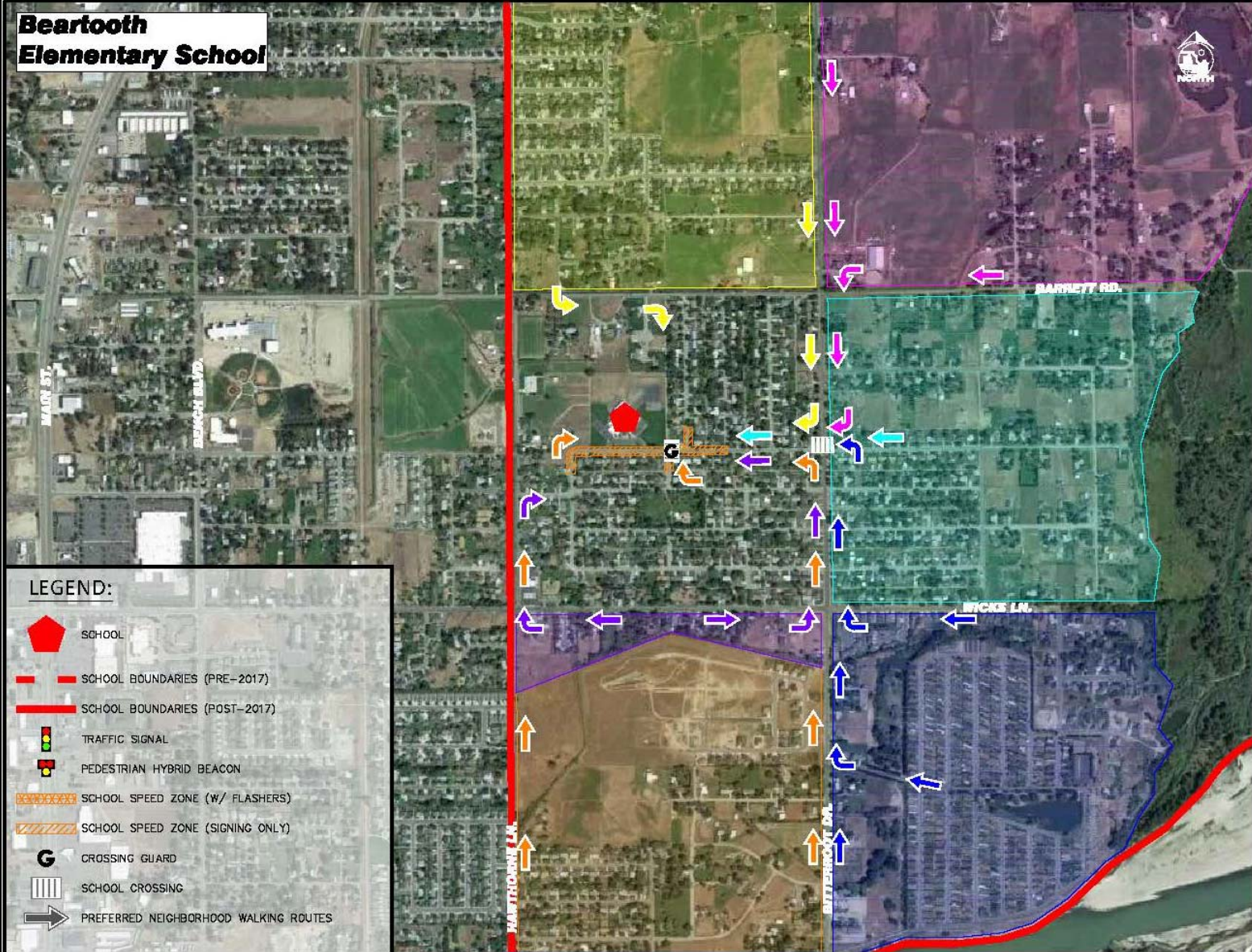
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

- Re-analyzed school boundaries in 2017
- Collaboration with SD2, Riverstone Health, Planning
- Compliant school zones
- Updated school maps

Beartooth Elementary School

LEGEND:

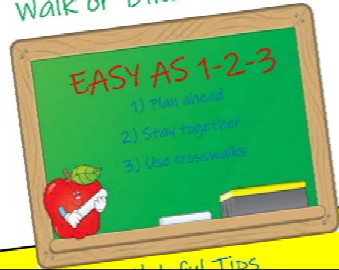
-  SCHOOL
-  SCHOOL BOUNDARIES (PRE-2017)
-  SCHOOL BOUNDARIES (POST-2017)
-  TRAFFIC SIGNAL
-  PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON
-  SCHOOL SPEED ZONE (W/ FLASHERS)
-  SCHOOL SPEED ZONE (SIGNING ONLY)
-  CROSSING GUARD
-  SCHOOL CROSSING
-  PREFERRED NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING ROUTES



SRTS Tasks

- Identify enhancements at crossing locations
 - RRFB
 - HAWK
- Prioritize/rank the crossings
 - ADT
 - Speeds
 - Ped volumes
- Missing sidewalk
- Public outreach – work with Schools
 - Walking school busses
 - Identify walking routes
- PW social media

Walk or Bike to School



Helpful Tips

- Find your school's recommended route:
<https://www.ci.billings.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/37472/SRTS-Figures>
- Connect with other students to start travel groups, staying together increases visibility and safety
- Always use designated crossing locations, the Crossing Guard is there to help keep everyone safe!

Learn More https://www.ci.billings.mt.us/2098/School_Zones



Get a HEALTHY start to your day— Walk or Bike to School



It's as easy as 1-2-3



1. Find your school's recommended route:
<https://www.ci.billings.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/37472/SRTS-Figures>
2. Connect with other students to start travel groups, staying together increases visibility and safety
3. Always use designated crossing locations, the Crossing Guard is there to help keep everyone safe!



Learn More https://www.ci.billings.mt.us/2098/School_Zones



→ Walk or Bike to School ←

Stay safe and have fun

Just follow these rules



#1 PLAN AHEAD

Find your school's recommended route:
<https://www.ci.billings.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/37472/SRTS-Figures>

#2 STAY TOGETHER

Connect with other students to start travel groups, staying together increases visibility and safety.



#3 USE CROSSWALKS

Always use designated crossing locations, the Crossing Guard is there to help keep everyone safe!



Learn More https://www.ci.billings.mt.us/2098/School_Zones



Walking to school is healthy and fun
To make it safe too
here's what you do



The wheels on the bus go "pitter-patter"...

Know where to go
and stay with
your group

Last, but not least
always follow the
signs when
crossing the street



Get more information
and route maps at
https://www.ci.billings.mt.us/2098/School_Zones

Future Traffic Guidelines

- Traffic Control/Lane rentals
 - Delivery Truck hours?
- Access Management
- Signing & Striping
- Street Lights
- Site & Subdivision Transportation Impacts

Questions?

