



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES



Tuesday, February 25, 2020 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am
1st Floor Conference Room, Miller Building
2825 3rd Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101

APPROVED BY A MOTION ON MAY 26, 2020

Call to order: Ed Gulick, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:33 am

Members present: Kristi Drake, City; Scott Barber, City; Rose Cook, County.

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Alan Woodmansey, FHWA;
Ron Frisbe, City GIS

Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –**
Alan Woodmansey introduced himself as the local bike/ped connection to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
- b. **Online comments and comments received by the Active Transportation Planner –**
None.

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of February 25, 2020: Rose Cook, BPAC member, moved to approve the minutes, Scott Barber, BPAC member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Wayfinding Discussion with Billings Fire Department and GIS

At the January BPAC meeting, City Fire and the Communications Center came to talk about wayfinding on trails as it relates to emergency services. The Wayfinding Signage Plan would be a way to improve signage for emergencies. Ron Frisbe, GIS Coordinator, reviewed the signage plan and thinks it is good. He also reviewed the bikeway and trail app and thinks that it will help as well. He asked if a couple of locations could be added to the app. Kristi Drake, BPAC Member, commented that there need to be etiquette signs. Kristi asked if there was still time to put in comments for the RTP grant. Active Transportation Planner Elyse Monat did not think the comment period had opened yet.

Election of BPAC Vice-Chair for 2020

BPAC did not elect vice chair in January meeting and they postponed the election again until the March meeting.

Downtown Traffic Study

Lisa Olmsted is going to come present at the next BPAC meeting in March. She has been reaching out to different groups around town about the Downtown Traffic Study preferences.

Walkable City Rules

A community book group is starting at a coffee house on Thursdays at 5 or 6 pm leading up to Jeff Speck's event.

Ed read Rule #39: “Revert Multiway One Ways to Two Ways for Safety” and Rule #53 “Understand that Cycling Follows Investment.”

The group talked about how to promote the event. Ed is promoting the event via a social media event and a press release. The group also suggested reaching out to LIFTT, AARP, senior citizen centers, and participating in an YPR sponsorship exchange.

Ed will send out a graphic, a bio of Jeff Speck, and a poster to help promote the event.

Active Transportation Policy

The group discussed an active transportation policy for City of Billings’ employees. It could serve as a model for other employers in the community. The group discussed some examples from other communities where employees got a cash payout, vacation time, or combination of each.

BPAC is not making this a top priority until after the downtown traffic study. BPAC could potentially present this to different groups: MET Transit, City employees, Healthy By Design.

Elyse will invite Rusty to give a presentation about MET changes at the April BPAC meeting to present about changes.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Other Business:

Future Agenda Items:

Presentation on Downtown Transportation Plan

Walkable City Rules

Vice Chair election

6th Street Underpass

Meeting adjourned at 12:41 pm. Alan Woodmansey gave a presentation after about the Billings Bypass.

Billings Bypass

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) did an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. Segment #1 will be under construction this summer. MDT will build Segment #1, but it will be a county road. There will be no sidewalks, as MDT will build it to County road standards. It will have shoulders and drainage.

Segment #2, the bridge, will go out for contract this summer. MDT will put in a shared use path separated from traffic on bridge. This path will tie into an underpass on Billings side. On the south side of the bridge (Lockwood side), the path will dead-end. It will be up to the TEDD to make the sidewalk connections.

Segments #4 and #5 will have shoulders but no sidewalks.

Segment #3 is currently in design. It will be a diverging diamond interchange. Sidewalks will be included as part of the interchange. Bike lanes will go through main part of interchange. MDT is willing to build a sidewalk south of the interchange if the County is willing to maintain them.

Segment #6 trail crossing may cross the Kiwanis Trail.