



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am

Virtual Conference Format

Live Coverage was, and recording is, available here: <https://www.facebook.com/Billings-Planning-Community-Services-Department-1738982159659260/>

APPROVED BY A MOTION ON JUNE 23, 2020

Call to order: Ed Gulick, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30 am

Members present: Kristi Drake, City; Anna O'Donnell, City; Liana Susott, County; Rose Cook, County.

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk; Lisa Olmsted, Public Involvement Manager, DOWL; Ryan Guelff, DOWL

Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –**
No calls received
- b. **Online comments and comments received by the Active Transportation Planner –**
None.

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of February 25, 2020: Active Transportation Planner, Elyse Monat, noted that BPAC members voted on the minutes of January 2020, not December 2019. Rose Cook, BPAC member, moved to approve the minutes as amended, Kristi Drake, BPAC member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Election of BPAC Vice-Chair:

Kristi nominated Anna O'Donnell, BPAC member, for the Vice-Chair position. Anna accepted. Kristi commented that Anna has been at City Council meetings every Monday. She is also the chair of the Pioneer Park task force. BPAC members voted in favor of having Anna as Vice-Chair with Anna abstaining. The motion passed.

Wayfinding Signage Grant debrief

Elyse shared that based on her conversation with the manager of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant, Billings submitted a strong application, but RTP was not the right funding source for this project. The manager said that Billings could apply for some signage as part of a larger maintenance project where some direct trail repair is being done.

Annual BPAC presentation to governing bodies

BPAC members discussed what should be included in their annual presentation to governing bodies.

Larger topics for BPAC to communicate this year include:

- A comprehensive cheat sheet on what all the plans and documents are, such as Complete Streets, the Bikeway and Trails Master Plan, and many other studies. BPAC wants to share when the plan was done, what the process was, who put together, what public input was, and when it was adopted.
- Information about how people use trails and boulevards for transportation and safety and how the infrastructure will keep people safe. Having the infrastructure is also safer for drivers.
- Changes in usage during COVID.

Elyse will look for dates mid-July to mid-August for a City Council Work session. BPAC will present to Planning Board on July 14 for Planning Board and Council after that.

Ed will send out last year's presentation to everyone

Assignments:

- Previous plans and identifying the process – Kristi and Planning Division
- Reiterate benefits of bicycle boulevards to traffic calming – Anna
- Uses of trails during pandemic (trail counts): Kristi and Elyse
- Kristi will compile the PowerPoint

Ed would ask someone else present or co-present.

New Business:

Downtown Traffic Study Presentation from DOWL

Lisa Olmsted from DOWL presented. The Billings-Yellowstone County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) contracted DOWL to conduct outreach for the Alternative Prioritization & Public Preference portion of the Downtown Billings Traffic Study. Ryan Guelff joined Lisa to offer transportation engineer perspective.

The City started the Downtown Traffic Study a couple years ago. DOWL and Kittleson were consultants on the project. They took intersection data at over 100 intersections. The team evaluated an array of transportation alternatives. Six options came out of this study. Now, DOWL is engaging the public and various stakeholders to understand what is wanted. The project area is bounded by Metra/Expo, Division, 6th Ave. N, and 1st Ave. S. Options were 1-2 way conversions, road diets, and a seasonal closure of Broadway Ave.

Ryan introduced relevant terms such as sharrow, conventional bike lane, protected bike lane, cycle track, separated bike lanes, road diets, and back-in parking.

Lisa shared the various options available for the downtown area. The options are available on this website via recorded video: https://dowl.mysocialpinpoint.com/downtown-billings-traffic-study?fbclid=IwAR3kKJuN0ek5kqoXVFp3wkb_ZIQHo_4PY1-pfHH8pFa86Y0CCtR54f1hsE
BPAC members took the

Lisa will send Kristi and Ed a postcard graphic about the downtown traffic study.

Questions about the presentation:

Ed wants to include options that reduce cost. He can imagine the area between 1st Ave. N. and 4th Ave. N and between 27th St. and 30th St as a pedestrian district to which cars can still go through, but there could be 4-way stops to reduce cost.

What does it look like, and where does it go from here? DOWL is pivoting to have more outreach online, and to have a more concerted effort to engage people virtually. At the end, they will develop a report for presentation.

Concern: There may be less ability to discuss implications of choices due to the COVID pandemic.

Other Business:

Commuter Challenge is coming up in June. Elyse will send out the information about it.

Heart and Sole Run went virtual

Billings TrailNet is paving section 750 ft. section of Skyline Trail between Zimmerman Trail and Zimmerman Place

Future Agenda Items:

MET Transit Presentation

Presentation to Governing Bodies

Downtown Transportation Plan Survey Distribution

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.