



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am

Virtual Conference Format

Live Coverage was available here: <https://www.facebook.com/Billings-Planning-Community-Services-Department-1738982159659260/> Recording is also available on same Facebook page link.

DRAFT

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

Members present: Anna O'Donnell, City; Liana Susott, County; Scott Barber, City.

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk.

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 28, 2020: Liana Susott, BPAC member, motioned to approve the minutes, Anna O'Donnell, BPAC Member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

5th Ave. Corridor Feasibility Study Update: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, shared that Sanderson Stewart, the consultant on the project, met with property owners in the East Billings Urban Renewal District (EBURD). EBURD property owners thought developing the 5th Ave Corridor was a good idea from N 20th St. to Division St., but saw challenges going east from N 20th St. Challenges included the width of the corridor and some uses that are incompatible with people walking, biking, or rolling by. The rail line would likely remain active, even if a trail were developed in this area. The consultants are in contact with Montana Rail Link again to see if they are still amenable. The virtual open house is coming up in the next couple of weeks. Elyse will send out a link to BPAC members when the site is live.

Bike and Scooter Share Feasibility Study: A virtual outreach opportunity is coming out soon. Elyse will send the link out to BPAC when it is available.

New Business:

One-way to two-way street conversions from BPAC Chair, Ed Gulick:

Much of the information in the presentation comes from Jeff Speck's book. Ed shared the concept of *Walk Score*. *Walk Score* uses only distance to a variety of destinations, but not data such as lack of sidewalks. The *Walk and Bike Scores* for Billings are both low.

Ed shared benefits of walkability

- Economic reasons
 - Recruiting benefits
 - Development is more cost-effective in denser areas
 - Stronger GDP
- Health reasons
 - People in walkable areas are more likely to be of a healthy weight
 - Reduces premature deaths from crashes
- Climate Change reasons
 - Lower vehicle miles traveled
 - Reduced heat island-effect
- Equity reasons
 - Kids used to be free range
 - 1/3 of Americans cannot drive-they may be too young, too old, cannot afford to drive, or unable to drive
 - Walkability provides independence and social connection
- Community reasons
 - Gives the opportunity to interact with people

What can we do in Billings to make this happen?

The community has the opportunity to provide input on the Downtown Traffic Study to convert one-ways to two-ways.

A study in Louisville examined the effect of changing two one-way streets back to two-ways. Robberies, auto theft, auto collisions decreased and property values increased on the converted streets.

More downtown biking brings more downtown business. A study in Toronto showed that people who bike visit businesses more often and spend more per month.

Other Business:

None

Future Agenda Items:

Brainstorm BPACs next project

Presentation on Kids in Motion

Metra Park walkability presentation

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.