



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 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.

APPROVED BY A MOTION ON APRIL 27, 2021

Call to order: Scott Barber, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:31 am

Members present: Anna O'Donnell, City; Ed Gulick, Planning Board.

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 –
A resident emailed Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, and Public Works about a crosswalk across Poly Drive near St. Francis School. The resident said there is no crosswalk between Poly Drive School and 17th St. W. Her kids would like to cross Poly after school, but she is hesitant to let them with no crosswalk.

Ed Gulick, BPAC member, asked if this should be passed onto the Safe Routes to School group in Billings. Elyse said she could pass it on.

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of February 23, 2021: A quorum was not present, so BPAC was not able to approve the minutes February 2021 minutes.

Old Business:

I-90 Bridge letter

BPAC reviewed the draft of the I-90 bridge letter to Council. Anna O'Donnell, BPAC Vice-Chair, suggested adding a reference to the car pile up that happened on the bridge.

Letter of support for public funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in Billings.

Without a quorum present, BPAC was not able to vote to approve this item. The members present noted that they did not want to miss the deadline to get this letter in ahead of the April 19 City Council meeting where the Public Works Department would be discussing potential funding sources for trails and Safe Routes to School. They wanted to look into how to get this letter out ahead of the

meeting and asked if they could call a special meeting. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, said she would look into the options and advise BPAC on how they could proceed.

27th St. Crossing

There was a question brought up about whether or not it was appropriate for Ed to make a presentation about the 27th Street Crossing project as he is also running for City Council. Scott Barber, BPAC Chair, suggested discussing this during the next meeting when a quorum would hopefully be present to vote on whether Ed could give the presentation. The item was tabled for the April BPAC meeting.

New Business:

Snow removal issues in the City

BPAC members discussed the email that a resident sent last month saying that poor snow removal along sidewalks caused challenges for pedestrians. The resident suggested more proactive enforcement of City code requiring snow shoveling within 24 hours of a snow storm.

BPAC members discussed that there are things that can be done to improve winter walking conditions short of enforcement. A campaign might be helpful.

Scott suggested advertising Snow Buddies, the City's program to match volunteers to residents who are unable to shovel their sidewalks, more and trying to get businesses involved. As a business owner, he said he thought it would be nice to send his employees out in the morning in their branded gear to help advertise the business and do something good for the community. BPAC discussed sending out a direct mailer informing people of why they should clear walks and explaining that City code requires it be done within 24 hours.

Elyse mentioned that Healthy By Design is working on the same issue from a similar perspective. The group agreed they would like to have a Healthy By Design representative attend the next BPAC meeting to discuss how what their group is already working on.

Methods by which members of the public can share bicycle and pedestrian-related concerns

This item was tabled until the next meeting as the BPAC member who wanted to discuss it was not able to attend the meeting.

Future agenda items:

Letter urging City Council to come up with funding options for Safe Routes to School and trails

27th St. Crossing – implications to walkability.

Methods by which members of the public can share bicycle and pedestrian-related concerns

Annual presentation to the governing bodies including City Council, the County Commissioners, and Planning Board.

Other business:

Anna asked about the KIM events for the semester and Elyse shared that KIM would have bike repair events at Medicine Crow Middle School, Central Heights Elementary, Big Sky Elementary, Bench Elementary, and Orchard Elementary. The schools are selected by a steering committee with a focus on Title I schools where a high percentage of students receive free or reduced lunch.

Anna asked if BPAC would be able to meet in person again. Elyse said she would look into opportunities to do so.

Scott said he was going to send a summary of each BPAC meeting to City Council to help keep an open line of communication with Councilmembers. The summary would include a brief summary of the meeting, contact information for Scott, and a link to draft minutes.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at approximately 12:20 p.m.