



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 25, 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.

DRAFT

Call to order: Scott Barber, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30 am

Members present: Anna O'Donnell, City; Ed Gulick, Planning Board; Liana Susott, County; Kristi Drake, 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 April 27, 2021: Ed Gulick, BPAC member, moved to approve the April minutes. Anna O'Donnell, BPAC Vice-Chair seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Discussion Update. Review of letter to City Council about 27th St. Crossing.

The group agreed that the letter Scott Barber, BPAC Chair, sent out was to their satisfaction. Ed had not received the letter so he asked to be emailed the letter for review before Scott sent it to Council.

Online Comment Form.

Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, showed a draft of an online comment form for the public. She was able to create a form that does not force users to login. She will put together a draft form or two and send them out to the group for comment.

The group suggested adding fields such as:

- Crashes and near misses
- Mapping – they suggested reaching out to Healthy By Design to see if they have any ideas on how to do this

- The alternative to having a map on the form would be to plot where the issues are reported – either on GIS or My Maps
- Blurb about what will do with information. BPAC members think contact information should be required from the public.

New Business:

Annual presentation to governing bodies

For about the past 5 or 6 years now, BPAC has given an annual presentation to the governing bodies. While the City Council receives recommendations from BPAC, they may not know much else about BPAC. BPAC will give the 2021 annual presentations this summer.

BPAC members talked about including the top three things that decision makers need to know about bicycle and pedestrian issues in the presentation. They agreed to have a draft before the next BPAC meeting. The first presentation will be to Planning Board. Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk, commented that she needs the information a week before the Planning Board meeting.

BPAC chose the following governing bodies dates to present:

- Planning Board **July 13**
- Council work session: **July 19 at 5:30 pm**
- Commissioner regular meeting: A Tuesday at 9:30 am

Members suggested adding these topics:

- Bicycle boulevard implementation
- Issues that engineering staff think need clearing up
- Skyline trail and the Stagecoach Trail
- How decisions at the state level affect trails and bikeways including the I-90 bridges.
- Accomplishments including the comment page
- Updated data on bikeway and trail counts
- Two way-street conversions and data on increasing walkability.
- County Commissioners – connecting county areas through trails

Ed would be happy to meet with Scott and Elyse to discuss presentation.

Transportation Alternatives (TA) Application for Pioneer Park Trail

Elyse shared that the City is applying for a TA grant. TA funding is available for several things including: “Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.”

The City is applying for a trail rehabilitation project in Pioneer Park. Staff looked for projects where they could find match, that were shovel ready, and that were relevant. Parks was able to come up with \$25,327 match for this project. If fully funded, the grant program will provide \$163,400 for a total estimated project cost of \$188,727. This project is shovel ready as the City already owns the land and there are very few unknowns with the project, so we should be able to construct it within the estimated budget. This project is relevant as it is part of the bicycle boulevard and it is in very poor condition right now. Anna has tripped on it before and Healthy By Design found it is a barrier for people with disabilities and seniors trying to access the park.

Ed mentioned that the pavement had not been repaired since he was in high school and that the trail is fairly steep near the parking lot.

Members mentioned that the trail is also used for many runs including the Purple 5K, glow run, kid's cross country, and the women's run.

Ed moved that BPAC submit a letter of support for this Transportation Alternatives project. Kristi Drake, BPAC member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Request for a trail from Alkali Creek Trail to Skyway Drive

Kristi was contacted by two community members who want the Alkali Creek Trail extended to Skyway Drive. Elyse shared that there is a trail connection in the Bikeway and Trails Master Plan that covers part of this distance. There is no funding identified for this connection.

Kristi asked what BPAC could do to make this trail a reality. Ed suggested making sure that we don't lose an opportunity to get an easement for a future trail. Members suggested sharing this connection as an example of a needed trail in the county to the County Commissioners during the annual presentation.

Other Business:

BPAC members asked if they were going to meet in person again soon. Elyse said she would check with Planning Division leadership and see when this could happen.

A BPAC member shared a concern from Ward 4 in Cameron Park area. The resident was worried about crossing across Rimrock Road. Lots of people dart across the street to utilize the park. BPAC members would like to add to list when comes around in the late fall. SRTS project will hopefully help identify needed crossings.

Ed suggested also narrowing the street and putting up flashing lights to catch drivers' attention, similar to at 11th St. W and Poly.

Anna asked when the light at Rimrock and Virginia would be put in. Elyse said she would check with Public Works staff.

Elyse invited BPAC members and the public to the Commuter Challenge kickoff Party on June 1 at Pioneer Park from 5-7 pm. She will send information about the event to Anna.

Future agenda items:

None

Adjournment

Ed moved to adjourn, Anna seconded. All voted in favor.