



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 27, 2021 MEETING TIME: 11:33 am

1st Floor Conference Room of 2825 3rd Ave. N

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 about 11:30 am

Members present: Anna O'Donnell, City; Ed Gulick, Planning Board; Kristi Drake, City; Dorothy Dupree, County; Liana Susott, County.

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Morgan Miller, Jenna Solomon, Councilmember Yakawich, and Councilmember Joy as members of the public.

Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –** Councilmember Mike Yakawich thanked BPAC members for their service. He said they are unsung heroes and that by attending many committee meetings, he has realized how much work goes on behind the scenes. He said he is sure Councilmember Joy shares his sentiments.
- b. **Online comments and comments received by the Active Transportation Planner –** None

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of June 22, 2021: Ed Gulick, BPAC member, moved to approve the June 2021 minutes. Anna O'Donnell, BPAC Vice-Chair, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Review Presentation to Governing Bodies

BPAC members said they would like to see some different BPAC members present this year. Liana offered to help with the County presentation.

BPAC selected **August 24** for the Planning Board presentation at 6 pm. They decided to present to City Council on **September 20 at 5:30 pm**. They will present to the County Commissioners on Tuesday **September 14 at 9:30 am**.

Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, reminded BPAC that they cannot meet with more than three members to avoid a quorum.

BPAC members went through the presentation to review for content and mistakes. BPAC members restated that they wanted to share that active transportation is for everyone and the safety of everyone traveling via all modes of transportation is important.

Changes:

- Changed header to “Primary areas of support”
- Add BPAC abbreviation to the first slide
- Members want to add exact missed projects that the community could have had if there was match
- Councilmember Joy suggested stressing that neighborhood bikeways came out of the direction from Council to reduce conflict between people biking and walking
- Change arrows on two-way street slide for streets that have been converted
- Section for “untapped potential” items/what next/ “asks” for the future – i.e. commuter tax benefits
- Discuss safety
- Two-way conversion data-include analysis from realtor
- Discuss more about lack of funding
- List all letters that have written
- List successes and accomplishments

Kristi Drake, BPAC member, asked if the City was collecting data on before the street conversions so that we can compare to after data. The police department and property tax data could be used for data points.

Dorothy Dupree, BPAC member, suggested being aware of how much money is coming into the state opt-in fund from MDT and advocating for those funds to be used for Billings. She suggested also advocating for others to check the box to opt-in. Kristi has an update on this that she will send to Elyse.

During public comment, CM Joy said that an applicant came to Council and cited the lack of two-way streets as the reason why restaurants were not successful in a particular location. She suggested reaching out to Rose and DBA about this comment.

Comments from CM Yakawich on the presentation:

- Purpose and mission -have one pager hand out with information about who you are and what you are about, bullet points about presentation
- Do not assume know what are talking about – successes and accomplishments- safety, access, and connectivity
- Want to hear challenges-i.e. rocks on trail, etc.
- Define bikeway, rebranding, inclusive, economically vibrant
- He was not sure why BPAC has two-way conversions in presentation
- Ask Chief St. John for a quote rather than one from Indiana

Morgan has quotes from parents about Safe Routes to School that she will send to Elyse.

Ed commented that two-way traffic slows down traffic and makes streets more walkable and bikeable. Kristi commented that BPAC needs to do some education on two-way street conversion. She also wants to talk more about accomplishments.

Councilmember Joy asked if BPAC was involved in bike/scooter share study. The Council must adopt plans so advocating for plans is really important. She said not to underestimate the importance of advocating for plans and studies to Council.

Councilmember Joy said that BPAC advocating to MDT is important. Kristi mentioned that BPAC is not supposed to reach out directly. CM Joy said that BPAC also has a relationship to staff and that staff can be a conduit to MDT.

Scott will email everyone to get the presentation together and to set up practice times.

New Business:

Data Needs

BPAC members identified the need for more data and said that it would be helpful in the County in particular. At a candidate forum, Mayor Cole mentioned that we need to do a better job collecting data on active transportation.

BPAC members suggested that the police department PR person might help to get statistics together monthly.

List of data needed:

- How many people contribute to YC opt in fund via vehicle registration
- How many streets have pathways
- How many recommendations BPAC has made that have been implemented
- Report a bike accident
- Data on two-way street conversions – safety
- Accidents involving people biking and walking
- Points of confusion – places where the infrastructure is confusing or unsafe
- Costs of construction, maintenance, police, etc.
- Injuries

BPAC members decided they would like to invite someone from the Billings Police Department and someone from the Sheriff's Department to talk about data that they might be able to share.

Other Business:

None

Future agenda items:

Invite police and sheriff to talk about data

Adjournment

Ed motioned to adjourn; Anna seconded. All voted in favor