



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 MEETING TIME: 11:30 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.

APPROVED BY A MOTION ON OCTOBER 26, 2021

Call to order: Scott Barber, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:32 am

Members present: Ed Gulick, Planning Board; Kristi Drake, City (attended remotely); Dorothy Dupree, County; Anna O'Donnell, City (attended remotely)

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner

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 woman emailed Kristi Drake, BPAC Member, asking if two concrete squares on the Big Ditch trail could be replaced. Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer, said they were sending out inspectors to look at the trail.

A woman emailed Councilmember Joy asking for more crosswalks on 3rd St. W, Virginia, 8th St. W, 13th St. W, and 15th St. W. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, responded to the email and sent it onto Mac Fogelsong. New crosswalks are going in at Virginia and at 13th as part of the neighborhood bikeway. Anna O'Donnell, BPAC Vice-Chair suggested installing a crosswalk at 3rd St. W and Ave. C.

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of August 24, 2021: Ed Gulick, BPAC member, moved to approve the August 2021 minutes. Dorothy Dupree, BPAC member, seconded. During discussion of the motion, Ed requested that “appeal” be changed to “accommodate” on the second page. The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Annual Presentation Debrief

BPAC members discussed the annual presentations they gave to the Planning Board, County Commissioners, and City Council.

Anna commented that BPAC did a great job at the Council presentation. She did not think the presentation was anti-vehicle as one Councilmember suggested. She also noted that people who use trails care about them and take care of them.

Dorothy said that the Planning Board and County Commissioners did not ask questions or make comments. City Council members responded by saying good job and that they wanted to hear from BPAC about what it wants from the Council.

BPAC members commented that they might need to be more active in inviting councilmembers to BPAC meetings.

BPAC Chair Scott Barber's takeaway was that BPAC is growing in its role and its members are willing to present to Council. He knows that getting everyone onboard with active transportation is a long process and he wants BPAC to help the community make the change more quickly.

Ed said that BPAC started doing presentations about 8 years ago. Prior to that, there was no in-person interaction with the governing bodies. He suggested that anytime BPAC makes a recommendation, they have a member or two also make the recommendation in person at a Council meeting.

Anna suggested having coffee with councilmembers.

BPAC members also discussed educating potential councilmembers before they are elected. The candidate forum is coming up, and Dorothy suggested asking questions related to biking and walking. She also suggested having a parameter ride all around Billings. Ed mentioned critical mass rides. Billings TrailNet, Healthy By Design, and Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT) worked together to put on a forum about mobility. Kristi can email the responses from the forum.

BPAC members decided that they wanted to meet with Council candidates before they are elected. Kristi will meet with Charlie Loverich. Anna will reach out to Jennifer Owen in the Heights. She would prefer to go with a partner. BPAC members will email each other to decide who to reach out to.

Data - Dorothy

Dorothy said that BPAC told City Council that they are working on a plan for data needs and will come back to Council with the plan. She mentioned that there is a lot of data available, but no one gathers it. She said BPAC should identify the data sources.

Elyse mentioned her conversation with the Billings Police Department (BPD). The BPD could not provide more on crash statistics than the state can, but Officer Cache Anderson would be happy to help provide context on some crashes as he is a crash investigator. He can give context on specific crashes or come in and talk about how they investigate crashes in general. If there are pictures he can likely investigate old crashes. He can also do time/distance/speed studies to study a particular location and see if speeds are too high or sight distances are limited.

Dorothy suggested collecting data sources and checking to see if someone has a background in data statistics. She wants to know what percent of population are cyclists and what percentage of people use wheelchairs. She asked that Elyse bring a list of available data sources.

BPAC members noted that it was important to have comparative data to follow trends both over time and to different cities.

BPAC members suggested surveying the public. Kristi offered to put together a Survey Monkey survey. She also suggested working with Public Works to send the survey out to everyone registered to receive emails from the City or with the utility bill. Kristi will reach out to League of American Bicyclists to see what surveys they have.

New Business:

CIP recommendations for sidewalks, enhanced crossings, and ADA ramps

BPAC members will work on figuring out which sidewalk, enhanced crossing, and ADA ramp projects they want to suggest to Public Work as potential projects ahead of the next meeting. To help with this decision, Elyse will send out the map of missing sidewalk and the map of bike/ped crashes in the Billings Urbanized area.

Recommended last year:

Crosswalks at:

- Poly Dr. and 21st St. W
- 21st St. W and Colton
- Rimrock Rd. near MSUB
- N. 27th St.
- Grand Ave
- Cameron Park and Beth

Missing Sidewalk:

- Around 5th and Rimrock

Other Business:

Anna said she is getting good feedback on new stop signs from Pioneer Park neighbors. Elyse said that these stop signs are part of the neighborhood bikeway.

Future agenda items:

Ask Mac to present street/bike/ped CIP projects to BPAC

Elyse will bring a list of data sources

Adjournment

Dorothy motioned to adjourn; Kirsti seconded. All voted in favor.