



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 24, 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.

DRAFT

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

Members present: Ed Gulick, Planning Board; Kristi Drake, City; Dorothy Dupree, County; Liana Susott, County; Rose Cook, County

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer

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 with concerns about the street she lives on, Ave. D, being turned into a through street. The change to the street was part of the neighborhood bikeway. Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer, said that his division has data about speeds and traffic volumes before the neighborhood bikeway went in and will compare it to after the change to see if additional traffic calming is needed. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, also heard from a person who lives by Lyman that was happy about a stop sign that went in as part of the neighborhood bikeway.

a. Mac also mentioned that substantial completion of the neighborhood bikeway is by September 30. All signs are up. Striping is starting today. Flashing beacons are going up shortly.

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of June 22, 2021: Kristi Drake, BPAC member, moved to approve the July 2021 minutes. Liana Sussot, BPAC member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Downtown Traffic Conversion Update

Mac gave a presentation about the two-way street conversions and road “diets”

- Why the conversions are happening:
 - Business access

- Improves safety for people biking and walking
- Slower paced, traffic calming created by a “weave” pattern
- Phase 1
 - Converted N. 29th St. and N 30th St. from Montana to 6th Ave. N
 - Chip and fog seal (new look and seal)
 - Sharrows on N. 30
 - Signal updates
 - Back in angled parking
 - Scott spoke to downtown businesses and they have said there is some learning curve, but believe the long-term benefits will outweigh the negatives
 - Mac said education involved speaking with business owners and running some spots on local tv
 - Kristi suggested that Mac send her an update about the two-way street conversions and the neighborhood bikeway for the Billings TrailNet newsletter. Liana said she could put information in the Big Sky State Games newsletter too.
 - Ed Gulick, BPAC member, commented that there is a bit of confusion at 6th and N 30th where the bike lane and traffic lane southbound merge into one.
- Next phase: Convert 2nd and 3rd Aves. N from Division to N 22nd
 - Completes bicycle connectivity from Division to Main Street
 - Reviewing road diet and costs
 - Balance of parking and bike/ped uses – not sure yet what the bike facilities will be on these streets
 - Signal at 2nd and Division, update “triangle”
 - Add signals on N 31st at 2nd and 3rd
 - Ed mentioned the challenge at 3rd and Division – Clark Ave. is one way, it would be helpful if it were contraflow for cyclists
 - Expected timeline: 2023, dependent on utility review
- North-South Streets
 - N 31st to N 35th
 - Some work on N 25th and 26th
 - Additional signals at 25th, 26th at 6th Ave. N – will create safer bike/ped crossings
 - Potential signal at MET
 - Expected timeline: 2023, dependent on utility review
- Montana Ave
 - MDT will only allow back-in parking
 - Removal of a travel lane
 - Pedestrian crossings
 - Ongoing business owner discussions and initial discussions with MDT
 - Mac is not sure if there might be bike lanes or sharrows
 - Expected timeline: based on MDT overlay and additional traffic analysis/design
- Ed said that to appeal to all ages and abilities of people riding, it seems essential to have bike lanes on at least one east-west street downtown
- Scott asked what BPAC could do to support the process of the conversions and road diets. Mac said trying to get input from as many groups as possible was helpful.

Kristi asked what the status was on the 32nd Street trail. Mac said they hope to have it wrapped up by the end of December.

For the Virginia and Rimrock intersection, Mac is hoping it will be operational by end of September. This includes a crosswalk.

BPAC would like Mac to come back again and talk about the Capital Improvement Plan.

Annual presentation

Kristi and Scott practiced the annual presentation that they were going to give to the Planning Board that evening.

Topics included the neighborhood bikeway, one-to-two-way street conversions, coordination with MDT, project funding, gathering data and improving public reporting, trail and bike lane counts, and requests for the governing bodies.

BPAC made changes to the table of projects for which grants could have been applied for if there was match, the “help us help you be successful” slide, and reworded a couple of points.

Other Business:

None

Future agenda items:

Invite police and sheriff to talk about data

Adjournment

Kristi motioned to adjourn; Liana seconded. All voted in favor.