



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County  
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room of 2825 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 DECEMBER 7, 2021

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

**Members present:** Kristi Drake, City; Dorothy Dupree, County; Liana Susott, County; Rose Cook, County.

**Others present:** Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer; Dakota Martonen, Staff Engineer; City Council Candidate Tim Warburton

### 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 man emailed Kristi Drake, BPAC member, asking about the condition of the trail on Elysian Road including the pavement condition, some overhanging branches, and weeds. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, passed the concern about the condition of the trail onto Engineering for inspection as the property owner is responsible and reported the low hanging branch to Code Enforcement. Weed season is over so Code Enforcement cannot do anything about the weeds now.

Two people contacted Elyse about the trail through Pioneer Park. The first was anonymous so she could not respond. Elyse responded to the second email from Amelia Marquez and let her know that the City is aware of the problem and is looking for funding to fix it. Elyse also passed the comment onto the Parks Department.

Amelia’s comment read:

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee:

My name is Amelia Marquez and I reside at 300 N 25th St 59101. I would like to ask the committee to look into the trail that starts on the west side of Pioneer Park and goes down the hill near Senior High. During my walk through the park I noticed the city placed a sign to recognize the trail as an official bike path. Due to the state of the path, many pedestrians, bicyclists, and students trip on the rough path. This path is popular during the winter as well and I have heard

many students express concerns about walking on the path in its current condition when wet or icy.

I appreciate your time and dedication to improving our paths!

The group discussed that the Pioneer Park trail condition is a known issue, but that there is not funding to fix it.

**Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of September 28, 2021:** Liana Susott BPAC member, moved to approve the September 2021 minutes. Rose Cook, BPAC member, seconded. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

### **CIP projects**

Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer, gave a presentation about the projects that Engineering has in its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2023-2028.

Projects from the 2021 construction season included:

- 32<sup>nd</sup> St. W trail, which will probably be finished in the spring
- Boulder Ave. sidewalk on north side of the street from Rehberg Ln. to Boulder Elementary

Sidewalk projects for construction season 2022 include:

- Alkali Creek Road sidewalk from Sandstone Dr. to Alkali Creek Elementary School
- The South Billings Urban Renewal District (SBURD) gravel streets project will include sidewalks on Vaughn Ln., Hillview Ln., Mitchell Ave., Ryan Ave., Stephens Ln., and Morgan Ave. for a total of 2.2 miles of sidewalks

### **Multi-Use Paths**

- Path along BBWA Canal on the south side of St. Francis School, to be constructed spring/summer 2022
- Path along one side of Mallowney Ln., generally from Elysian Rd. to Midland Rd (FY23)- construction may extend into calendar year 2023
- Skyline Trail

After the presentation, the group discussed its suggestions for sidewalk/crosswalk/ADA ramp projects for the CIP.

Suggestions for sidewalks/crosswalks/ADA ramps:

- Crosswalk at 21<sup>st</sup> and Poly

Kristi solicited feedback from the Billings TrailNet membership which included (list is unedited and presented as submitted):

Where are there missing sidewalks that need to be installed?	Is there a sidewalk with problems, such as mailboxes located in the middle of the sidewalk, or other hazards? If so, please give exact location.	Is there a street that needs a crosswalk or enhanced crossing? If so, where and what type of crossing enhancement is needed?	Is there a sidewalk or trail that needs an accessible ramp? If so, please share the location
S. 25th Street - missing parts of sidewalk along the street, some segments are rough/broken, South 36 St. W in between Monad and Central	S 38th St W in between Monad and Central - mailboxes in the middle of sidewalk; 2nd Ave S in between S 39th and 41th have a lot of broken/crumblly segments	Monad and 36th St W - add pedestrian crossing signs, paint wears away quickly there and people drive fast; N Broadway and S 28th St crossing - extend curbs? people never look before turning left there, I've almost been hit multiple times crossing here downtown	Trail through Pioneer Park
		I would like to see enhanced crossing on Zimmerman Trail at Colton Boulevard. I cross here to get to the Big Ditch Trail. There is a crosswalk, but people are not good about stopping.	
South side of Central Ave., undeveloped land between 29th St. W and 31 St. W; can a sidewalk be installed and charged to the property owner as a SID? Needs to be shoveled in winter as well.	MDT plowing snow onto 27th Street sidewalks continues to be an issue north and south of downtown. Challenging situation to address.	Minnesota Ave. across 27th Street. Bikeway crossings of Division at 2nd and 3rd Avenues N.	A ramp is needed on 38th St. W where the connector from the Big Ditch Trail comes to the sidewalk.
Sidewalk on the west side of Virginia between Poly and Rimrock (esp between Woodland Drive and Park Ln)		Cross walk at Park Ln, across Virginia between MSUB parking and poet Street neighborhood	
Sidewalks on Highwood between Poly and Rimrock		Crosswalk on Rimrock at Glenwood	
Sidewalk on south side of Rimrock between Highwood and Virginia	mailboxes in the middle of the sidewalk on Rimrock between Chapman to 13th		
Separated path next to the ditch on Poly Drive between Virginia and The bridge over the ditch.			

Kristi asked for sharrow markings in a couple of places, for example on Poly Dr. near Grandview. Scott Barber, BPAC Chair, suggested a bike facility on 24<sup>th</sup> St. N of Grand Ave. where there is a lot of available asphalt space.

### List of Plans and their data

Elyse presented a list of plans and the data sources that they explore. The presentation is saved as an attachment to these minutes for the record.

Kristi pointed out that there are many bike/ped crashes on 27<sup>th</sup> St. and she wants to work on changing that. Scott wondered how information from these plans gets in front of MDT. Mac said MDT is going into their 5-year plan so now would be a good time to share information.

Dorothy suggested taking a comprehensive look at the plans and comparing findings from them.

### **New Business:**

#### **Jim Dutcher Trail Closure**

While the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is working to open the Jim Dutcher trail when possible during the I90 construction, there is no specific timeline when they will do so. The Billings MDT District Administrator is doing what he can to figure out when the trail can be open. MDT will try to include in their weekly email update whether or not the trail is open.

Kristi shared that MDT's policy says it is supposed to provide alternative transportation routes during construction and that for some people the Jim Dutcher trail is a transportation route. Dorothy asked if MDT puts up signs to indicate that the trail is closed.

Dorothy Dupree, BPAC member, made a motion that Chairman Scott develop a letter to Council, Commissioners, and Planning Board on the closure of Jim Dutcher trail. Rose seconded. The motion passed unanimously. BPAC will include in its letter that MDT should reroute trail traffic and notify trail users of closures via signage.

#### **Schedule combined November/December BPAC meeting.**

BPAC typically combines its November and December meetings as the regular meeting days would be very close to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays respectively. BPAC decided to meet on December 7 at 11:30 am.

### **Other Business:**

Kristi mentioned that she invited Tim Warburton and a couple of other City Council candidates to the BPAC meeting to see what BPAC does. She asked Tim if he had any comments. In regard to the trail closure by MDT, Tim said that the squeaky wheel gets the grease and encouraged BPAC to submit its letter to City Council encouraging them to talk with MDT about the trail closure.

### **Future agenda items:**

Presentation from MDT

Frequency of presentations to Council

Discussing how to move forward with all the data. BPAC members will do a cross referencing of data across plans. They will take major concerns to the Council after reviewing all the plans. The group suggested trying to present to the governing bodies in May

### **Adjournment**

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