



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County  
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 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.

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**Call to order:** Anna O’Donnell, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30 am.

**Members present:** Kristi Drake, City (attended virtually); Joan Schey, County; Dave Coppock (attended virtually), Planning Board; Margy Bonner (attended virtually for the first few minutes of meeting); Nikki Zimmer, County.

**Others present:** Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Jenna Solomon, RiverStone Health.

### 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 –**

Margy Bonner, BPAC member, requested that the truncated domes on Shiloh be replaced as they are broken and can puncture bike tires. The City is tracking down who maintains the truncated domes. Kurtis Schneiber, MDT District Projects Engineer, said that MDT likely installed them, but that he thought it was the City’s responsibility to maintain them.

There was a comment about bushes blocking the view of traffic at Rimrock and Rimpoint Dr. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, gave the complaint to Code Enforcement. The bushes are outside of the clear vision zone, so the City cannot require the property owner to trim the bushes.

The same person also submitted a comment about Grand and 56<sup>th</sup>. She was turning left onto 56<sup>th</sup> St. W and almost hit someone because there was a lot going on. The Engineering Division will add this location to their signal prioritization study and this intersection will likely be looked at during the Phase 2 Safe Routes to School Plan.

Anna wants to have a traffic study done on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. West and see how many people use park during warmer months. People also want a crosswalk on Ave. C and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. W.

**Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of March 22, 2022:** Joan Schey, BPAC member, moved to approve the March 22, 2022 minutes as presented. Nikki Zimmer, BPAC member, seconded. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

## **New Business:**

### **Future MDT projects**

Kurtis Schneiber, MDT Billings District Projects Engineer, shared future MDT projects. He mostly works on design of projects.

1<sup>st</sup> and Exposition – MDT is adding a lane to the intersection. They are proposing a separated path along the Metra frontage, but a local entity needs to commit to maintaining the path. MDT needs a commitment in the form of a maintenance agreement for a local agency to maintain it. Kurtis feels that this will happen, but will let BPAC know if there is anything they can do to help. Tentative letting date for the project is 2024/2025. There will also be pedestrian activated signals to cross the street on the south side.

BPAC emphasized that they want to help facilitate open communication regarding MDT projects in the Billings area.

Kristi Drake, BPAC member, wants to write a letter in support of having a maintenance agreement. Kurtis will check in to see what the timeline is for needing the letter.

Airport Rd. and Main St. – MDT is doing a reconfiguration of the Main St. and E Airport Road intersection. They are planning to include a trail/sidewalk along the frontage of Main St/E. Airport Rd. to help connect to an existing trail.

Billings bypass – The bridge includes a separated path for bike/pedestrian traffic and on the Billings side there is a path to connect to the bridge.

Johnson lane project – This intersection will be a diverging diamond. There will be a 10 ft. path within MDT right of way and Kurtis believes the County is going to extend path to where the river path ends.

Lockwood interchange – This location will also get a diverging diamond. There will be pathways on it connecting to the N. Frontage Rd. They are also looking at adding a path along the US 87/I-90 Business Loop bridge to connect the 1<sup>st</sup> and Expo project.

Zoo Drive – This project is tentatively planned for 2024/2025. MDT is taking one lane in each direction and making it two lanes in each direction. They are going to connect the sidewalk to the bridge pathway with an 8-10 ft. path. The path will terminate just past S. Frontage Road. MDT is also updating ADA corners with this project.

S Billings Boulevard River Bridge-MDT is going to make the path 5 ft. wide instead of 4 ft. wide. They may add a switch back trail to path on north side and a path to fishing access.

Nikki likes the buffered bike lanes on 5-mile road wants to know if they will be extended further onto HWY 312. Kurtis said is not aware of any effort to do this.

A BPAC member asked about the Inner Belt Loop project. Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner, explained that Billings was awarded a federal BUILD grant and that while the City is still working on the grant agreement, they are hopeful to start bidding in August with a road opening date of 2024.

## **Old Business**

### **2022 BPAC work plan**

BPAC went through the list of ideas they generated and decided that they would like to primarily work on getting more input from the public. Dave Coppock, BPAC member, will also reach out to cross country and track teams and ask them to report back problems related to biking and walking issues.

Staff/BPAC discussion points are on the attached spreadsheet.

Elyse will put together a work plan with annual/ongoing projects as well as the specific project decided on so that BPAC can vote on it at the next meeting.

### **Commuter Challenge kickoff party**

Joan will be at Commuter Challenge kickoff party to ask people to fill out surveys. There will be a walk and ride beforehand. The ride starts North Park and the walk starts at Evergreen Park, both at 5:30 pm. Everyone will travel to Rose Park where the Party will start around 6 pm. There will be lots of fun activities at the party. The walk and ride will be along the neighborhood bikeway route.

### **Other Business:**

N/A

### **Future agenda items:**

Presentation from Victoria Hill on public outreach efforts  
Presentation from Zack Terakedis on the BIRD

**Nikki moved to adjourn, Joan seconded, all voted in favor.**