



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County  
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 23, 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.

APPROVED BY A MOTION ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

**Call to order:** Anna O'Donnell, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Members present:** Kristi Drake, City; Dave Coppock, Planning Board; Nikki Zimmer, County; Joan Schey, County; Margy Bonner, City.

**Others present:** Scott Walker, Transportation Planning Coordinator. Members of the public as written on sign in sheet.

### Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –** Kristi Drake, BPAC member, would like to have a monthly police report shared with BPAC.
- b. **Online comments and comments received by the Active Transportation Planner –** Scott Walker, Transportation Planning Coordinator, shared several comments received from the public. The first was a concern that St. Francis students are crossing regularly at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Poly without a crosswalk. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, sent this request onto the Engineering Division and copied the resident. She also informed the resident that this issue might be addressed in the Phase 2 Safe Routes to School Plan.

A bicycle commuter submitted a comment about the pedestrian activated HAWK signal at 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. N and North Park. The resident is concerned that the signal is not effective and says that many cars don't slow down. The resident would like to see a full signalized intersection.

**Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of March 22, 2022:** Nikki Zimmer, BPAC member, moved to approve the July 26, 2022 minutes as presented. Margy Bonner, BPAC member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Old Business:

#### Follow-up on maintenance request letter to the County Commissioners

Anna O'Donnell, BPAC Chair, sent the letter requesting that the County accept maintenance responsibility of future trails by the Metra and on the Dick Johnson Bridge off at the end of July. Margy spoke to all of the commissioners about this. Councilmember Pitman is very much in favor of this. The County has been budgeting \$20,000/year for maintenance since 2011 but has not used any

of this money. Commissioner Ostlund is against the County maintaining the trails and Commissioner Jones is non-committal. Anna will email the letter to Erika Guy who works for the County Commissioners and find a time to get the item on the Commissioners' agenda.

### **Public Engagement Campaign**

Survey – want to add web address to survey so people know where to go to get more information.

Next meeting, BPAC will work on the digital portion of the survey and talk about where and how they want to get the survey delivered.

### **New Business:**

#### **2022 BPAC presentations to governing bodies**

BPAC typically gives presentations to the Planning Board, Commissioners, and City Council. Usually they put together a presentation with historical data and BPAC's mission and goals. Usually 3 people divide up the presentation. Anna suggested that next month, BPAC members come with some key points they would like to see in the presentation.

#### **Bike facilities on downtown converted streets**

Scott shared that there is a plan to convert a lot of downtown one-way streets into two-way streets with the goal of making traffic more predictable, slowing traffic down, and making downtown more pedestrian friendly. That might happen next summer with the exception of Montana Ave. Montana Ave. will likely be converted from 3 lanes down to 2 lanes. Scott said that BPAC could have a key role in creating the desired biking and walking environment downtown. Scott talked about the importance of back-in angled parking for making it safer for people biking downtown. The goal is to get bike lanes on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Some of the north-south streets are more up in the air as to what will be done for bike infrastructure. Scott said that it would be very nice to have separated bike lanes.

Montana Ave. is a Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) route. MDT is willing to work with the City to reduce 3 lanes to 2 lanes and provide some sort of different parking situation, but has not committed to bike facilities yet. Scott suggested BPAC should also advocate for bike facilities on Montana Ave.

Scott suggested BPAC get in touch with Sarah Plath with Public Works about current ideas/designs for the conversions. Anna will put together an email to reach out.

Public comment: Thomas Yampradit, a member of the public, was concerned about the traffic on Rimrock Rd. He counted how many lights and crossings there were from Shiloh to 27<sup>th</sup> St. There are only two crosswalks – one at Arvin and one at Beartooth. There are 6 lights for that whole stretch and there is a stretch of 2 miles that doesn't have any traffic lights. Anna asked if there was a possibility of a light at Rehberg and Rimrock. Scott says that Public Works functions on safety warrants and that the Public Works Department quick to act if warrants are met. The member of the public remarked that there was a pedestrian death about a year ago where the convenience store is on Rimrock. The resident said this issue will be brought up again at the next Rimrock Task Force meeting.

### **Other Business:**

None

### **Future agenda items:**

None

**Dave Coppock, BPAC member, moved to adjourn the meeting, Nikki seconded, all voted in favor.**