



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County  
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 27, 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.

DRAFT

**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.

**Others present:** Scott Walker, Transportation Planning Coordinator; Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner. 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 a monthly report on bike/ped crashes that occur on the streets.

Dave Coppock, BPAC member, said that the parking lot closest to the 27<sup>th</sup> St. Roundabout at Airport Road is getting rough.

Kristi wanted to hear what follow-up was done on the request to get more crosswalks on Rimrock.

- b. Online comments and comments received by the Active Transportation Planner –**  
A resident was concerned about fading bike lane symbols on 17<sup>th</sup> St. W. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, sent the concern to Street and Traffic and their staff are painting the symbols this week.

A resident was concerned about the traffic around Ben Steele. The Public Works Director replied that they would be happy to work with the principal to set up a second drop-off on 56<sup>th</sup> St. W.

After the news story was published about Lake Elmo, a councilmember reached out to Elyse about what the SRTS plan said about Lake Elmo and through the department head, Elyse sent the information along. Public Works is doing some investigation into speeds and conditions there.

A resident was concerned about traffic on a cul-de-sac near Arrowhead School. Elyse suggested the resident reach out to the principal as the principal sets the drop-off/pick-up plan and she provided the resident with the principal's contact information.

**Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of March 22, 2022:** Dave moved to approve the August 23, 2022 minutes as presented. Nikki Zimmer, BPAC member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

#### **BPAC annual presentation to the governing bodies**

Anna suggested having BPAC members present who the governing bodies haven't seen before.

Nikki said she would be interested in presenting.

Kristi said the presentation should discuss how funding plays into bikeways and trails.

BPAC decided they would like to present in January or February.

During public comment, member of the public Steve Shandera said he was pleased with the neighborhood bikeway and the signage. He is interested in seeing more wayfinding signage across Billings trails and bikeways. He suggested an adopt a trail program to help pay for signage. He is going to contact the Parks Department about the idea.

Elyse added that it is important to implement the signs in a systematic way, rather than spotted across Billings. The signs only make sense as a system. She suggested picking a trail corridor to raise money for until all the signs are paid for and then move onto the next trail.

#### **Public Engagement Campaign**

Elyse showed BPAC the digital version of the survey she had put together. BPAC members decided they wanted to keep the survey as is and that it meets their goals of the information they want to collect.

BPAC talked about partnering with Victoria Hill, Debi Meling, Billings TrailNet, Rim Runners, etc. to get the survey on social media. They will also ask the Parks Department if they can post flyers with the QR code for the survey in the parks. They also suggested printing out post cards to drop into race bags.

BPAC decided to wait to release the survey until November 1 as there are at least two other surveys out in the community right now.

#### **Presentation to County Commissioners on maintenance request letter**

BPAC discussed waiting until mid-October to schedule a date to go to a County Commissioners meeting to request they accept maintenance of future trails in front of the Metra and across the Dick Johnson Bridge.

### **New Business:**

#### **Lake Elmo Dr.**

BPAC discussed the situation on Lake Elmo Dr. at the beginning of the meeting. Elyse mentioned that Public Works is putting together a plan looking at Lake Elmo Dr. She said planning staff would coordinate with Public Works staff and report back to BPAC.

**Other Business:**

Scott Walker, Transportation Planning Coordinator, mentioned that the bids for Skyline Trail and the Inner Belt Loop came in under estimates and that there is a small amount of money left for contingency. Preliminary work on the projects might get started this winter.

Scott also mentioned that there has been a lot of progress made on the 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Corridor downtown. The west end of the project from the Y to Yam has lots of momentum thanks to Public Works. The EBURD is also interested in participating and in putting together a design from Main Street to the west almost to the YAM. The City has a contract with Sanderson Stewart to plan and engineer the piece from the Y to the YAM to a 30% design. For the portion along the rail, Montana Rail Link will only get involved when there is an 80% design. Having preliminary design will open a lot of doors to grant funding.

Elyse and Anna met with Sarah Plath, an engineer with the City, and talked about the one-way to two-way street conversions. Sarah will try to keep BPAC involved in the design process. During the meeting, Elyse mentioned that there should be separated bike lanes. Sarah said she will bring the 30% design to BPAC. She will also share the outreach talking points with BPAC so that they can provide feedback. Anna requested Elyse check in with Sarah before BPAC meetings and give an update on what is happening with the project.

**Future agenda items:**

Bike/ped crash reports from PD

Annual presentation

**Kristi moved to adjourn the meeting, Dave seconded, all voted in favor.**