



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County  
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 25, 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:** Kristi Drake, BPAC member, called the meeting to order.

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

**Others present:** Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Member of the public Kathy Aragon.

### Public Comment Period:

#### a. Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –

Member of the public, Kathy Aragon, wanted to encourage people to comment on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Kathy would be happy to help people add input to the Long Range Transportation Plan. She commented that sometimes it is too late to provide input, so maybe now was a good time to submit all comments and be looking at policies as they relate to walk, bike, and roll transportation so that these aspects are not forgotten. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, mentioned that the public involvement lead is planning to attend the December BPAC meeting and give a presentation on the LRTP.

Elyse mentioned that BPAC needs to schedule their combined November/December BPAC meeting.

#### b. Online comments and comments received by the Active Transportation Planner –

Elyse received a number of write in comments via the City's website in the past month:

Someone wanted a trail on Grand Ave. between Ben Steele and 64<sup>th</sup> St. W. Elyse wrote back to them and let them know that project is on the radar. There is a pot of federal funding available and the top priority for the funding is to redo Grand Ave. including adding a trail.

There was a concern about the roundabout at Shiloh and Grand. Elyse sent the comment to Engineering who was going to check to make sure that the pedestrian activated rapid flashing beacon is working. The person was also advocating for a bike/ped tunnel.

There were two comments on the Lyman and Brentwood intersection after a young boy was hit on his way to school. Public Works is beginning to look into the intersection.

Kristi forwarded a concern from a resident in the County. A grandfather has grandchildren who want to walk to Riverside Middle School, but what looks like a public right of way is blocked off. Elyse passed the comment onto County Code Enforcement and the Code Enforcement is investigating.

There was a comment about the pedestrian activated beacon at Shiloh and Central not working. Public Works sent someone to go check it out.

There was also a comment about cars and truck driving fast on 6<sup>th</sup> St. W and O'Malley. The resident wanted some sort of traffic calming there. Elyse sent the comment onto Public Works.

Kathy Aragon, member of the public, commented that someone she knows fell off his bike due to his tire getting caught in the storm grate at 17<sup>th</sup> and Poly. Kathy suggested getting someone to work on an Eagle Scout project to weld crossbars perpendicular to current bars so that bike tires cannot fall in. Elyse said this would be up to Public Works if they would allow this. Kristi also said that if the grates are square, they could be turned so that the grates are perpendicular to the direction of travel.

Margy Bonner, BPAC member, commented that the truncated domes on the trail on Shiloh have not been replaced yet.

**Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of September 27, 2022:** Dave Coppock, BPAC member, moved to approve the September 27, 2022 minutes as presented. Nikki Zimmer, BPAC member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

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

BPAC selected dates for their annual presentations. These are the dates they selected:

Planning Board – January 24 @ 6pm in the first-floor conference room of Miller Building  
Dave and Nikki are interested in presenting.

City Council – Feb. 6 @5:30 pm in Council Chambers  
Margy is interested in presenting.

Commissioners – Feb. 7 @ 9:30 am in the Stillwater Building (316 N 26<sup>th</sup>, Room 3101)  
Joan Schey, BPAC member, is interested in presenting.

The group below is interested in working on the presentation. There can only be 3 BPAC members working on presentation together at a time in order to stay under a quorum. Any gathering with more than 3 BPAC members there has to be advertised.

Anna O'Donnell, BPAC Chair (possibly-she was not at the meeting)

Kristi

Margy

Nikki

The group can get together initial ideas and then send it out to the rest of the members for feedback.

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

Margy thinks it would be a mistake to go to the County Commissioners and get voted down on the question of whether or not the County would maintain a future bike/ped facility on the Dick Johnson bridge. Margy does not think they have the votes in favor of the County maintaining a future facility.

Billings TrailNet went and talked to MDT about building a bike/ped facility on the Dick Johnson bridge. Kristi said that MDT said they don't have any way to maintain the facility as they currently shovel the small walkway with shovels. MDT won't design it if there is not a maintenance agreement.

There are new federal regulations that require bridges to include bike/ped facilities with two minor exceptions. The group suggested getting in touch with the FHWA to learn more about the requirement to build bike/ped facilities on bridges.

Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner, suggested that maintenance could be a focus of the Bikeway and Master Trail Plan update.

### **New Business:**

#### **Enhanced crossing requests for Public Works to consider**

In the past, BPAC has worked with City Public Works around this time of year to provide input on the Capital Improvement Plan. Public Works said they are still working on their list of enhanced crossings and that BPAC could submit location requests for consideration. Public Works has \$100,000 to implement enhanced crossings and is also looking at Safe Routes to Schools crossings as the first tier. Public Works is also looking into more crossings on Rimrock including Beth and Rimrock, Rehberg and Rimrock, and 46<sup>th</sup> and Rimrock.

Margy wants a crossing at 46<sup>th</sup> and Rimrock  
A Glenwood and Rimrock crossing was suggested too.

Elyse will reach out to ask Anna about crossings as she was not able to attend the meeting but may have mentioned some crossings before.

During public comment, Kathy Aragon suggested a crossing at the street that aligns with 11<sup>th</sup> on Rimrock or Wisconsin and Rimrock.

#### **Crashes involving people biking or walking in September**

Elyse shared a spread sheet of crashes involving people biking or walking that the Billings Police Department (BPD) was able to provide. The BPD was not able to provide descriptions of what happened at each location this month. Elyse will continue to work on a way for the BPD to provide information to BPAC, whether it be via a quarterly report from an officer or a monthly spreadsheet.

#### **Community Transportation Safety Plan**

Lora is the Project Manager for the Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP). She explained that the draft plan is out for review and it will go through the public process including a public hearing at the Planning Board, and then to the City Council, County Commissioners, and finally to the Policy Coordinating Committee. The first CTSP was completed in 2016 through a grant from MDT. MDT has guidelines governing how the plans are developed. The goal of the 2016 plan was to reduce serious injuries and fatalities by 20% by the time the plan was updated. The data shows there was approximately an 18% reduction so there were improvements in the last four years. The plan focuses on 3 of the 4 E's of transportation including education, enforcement, and emergency services.

The plan lays out emphasis areas based on the crash data including distracted driving, impaired driving, people not wearing seatbelts. There was also a focus on young drivers. Based on the emphasis areas, the plan identified strategies to address the behaviors identified in the emphasis areas. One of the first steps is to establish a committee to help lead some of the emphasis areas.

Kristi said that an outright ban on electronic devices might not be realistic as many people use them for navigation. Lora said she would take a look at this item.

Margy suggested adding the definition of serious injuries to the plan.

**Other Business:**

BPAC decided that the combined Nov/Dec BPAC meeting will be on Dec. 6 at 11:30 am.

**Future agenda items:**

Work plan review

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