



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 28, 2022 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am

1st Floor Conference Room of 2825 3rd 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 MARCH 28, 2023

Call to order: Nikki Zimmer, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:31 am.

Members present: Dave Coppock, Planning Board; Jason Wood, County; Joan Schey, County; Margy Bonner, City; Kristi Drake, City.

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Lisa Olmsted, DOWL; Rachel Grosso, Kittelson, attended virtually.

Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –**
For next month-Margy Bonner, BPAC member, said that she talked to Commissioner Ostlund who said that the County budgets for maintenance of the Jim Dutcher trail. Margy would like BPAC to advocate that the City bill the County for the maintenance of the Jim Dutcher Trail. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, will investigate and will get back to BPAC with what she finds out.

Kristi Drake, BPAC member and Executive Director of Billings TrailNet said Billings TrailNet just gave \$10,000 for 5th Ave. Corridor design at last night’s Council meeting.

- b. **Online comments and comments received by the Active Transportation Planner –**
Elyse received a comment that a resident doesn’t like the neighborhood bikeway section on Lyman. She gave him information on the history of the bikeway and directed him to Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer.

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of January 24, 2022: Kristi moved to accept the minutes, Dave Coppock, BPAC member, seconded. All voted in favor.

New Business:

Long Range Transportation Plan

Lisa Olmsted, Public Involvement Manager from DOWL, introduced herself and said that DOWL was partnering with Kittelson on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Rachel Grosso, Transportation Planner with Kittelson, was in attendance virtually.

The LRTP is a framework that guides the development of multimodal transportation system projects in the urban area. It is updated every 4-5 years with a 20-year planning horizon. It must consider

priorities set out by the federal government. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law added focuses on resiliency, equity, accessibility, and multimodal safety.

LRTP Vision: Support a livable and economically vibrant community through a safer and more equitable multimodal transportation system.

Goals:

- Safety – Develop a safer transportation system for all users
- Resiliency – Optimize, preserve, and enhance the existing transportation system to adapt with climate change, protect the natural environment, and promote a healthy and sustainable community
- Mobility – Create a transportation system that supports the practical and efficient use of transit, walking, biking, shared mobility, and vehicles
- Equity and accessibility – Address the needs of transportation-disadvantaged populations through the provision of affordable, accessible, and reliable travel options
- Economic vitality – Provide transportation facilities to support the local economy and connect the Billings urban area to local, regional, and national commerce

Kristi asked if goals in the LRTP fit in with LEED certification to move from gold to platinum. Rachel will look to see if this could match up with the LRTP.

Rachel shared that there are lots of elements that go into the LRTP including demographics, employment, etc. The plan development started in May 2022 and included elements such as drafting vision, goals, and objectives; existing conditions; travel demand model; future conditions; and a financial plan.

The themes from the first phase of the public outreach included 315 comments total with 115 about safety, many of which related to bike/ped issues. Comments were solicited through an interactive online project map. The project team also conducted stakeholder outreach to groups such as elected officials, Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT), Bike Walk Montana, the Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District, and the Lockwood Steering Committee.

Rachel will send out current conditions chapter to BPAC via Elyse.

Project list-The project list gets wrapped into the Transportation Improvement Program. The project priority list for the LRTP tries to pull in all the priorities from stakeholders, the public, and issues and deficiencies from the analyses to create a prioritized document to show what should be built first.

The project list currently has 379 projects on the list including 71 committed projects, 41 projects from plans and studies completed since the 2018 LRTP, 34 projects from LRTP analyses, stakeholder input, and public input, and 233 projects from the 2018 LRTP which includes projects from the 2016 Bikeway and Trails Master Plan.

Kristi asked if crash data was included in the project prioritization. Rachel said that it was but that unfortunately the most recent crash data available from MDT was from 2020. Margy asked if the MDT data only included crashes on state highways, and Rachel clarified that it includes crashes on all roadway types.

Prioritization criteria included:

- Stakeholder & Public Support
- Consistency with adopted plans & studies
- Multimodal safety
- Equity (Transportation Disadvantaged Populations)
- Sustainability (Low Carbon Modes & Green Infrastructure)

- Resiliency & Security Risks
- Right of Way Impacts
- Pedestrian Mobility
- Bicycle Mobility
- Transit Mobility
- Vehicle Level of Service (LOS)
- Freight mobility and safety

Rachel showed a draft version of the project list map.

The elected officials' workshop and in-person open house will be on the evening of April 5th. The virtual open house will be on April 6 and will be recorded and posted online.

Lisa asked for help with getting the word out about the public comment period when it comes out.

Begin work on project #3 from BPAC work plan

When BPAC put together its work plan last year, one of the items it put on its list of projects was to "Work with the City/County to strengthen or create an overarching policy/policies to incorporate bike/ped in the built environment."

After reviewing the City's current Complete Streets Policy, BPAC decided they are happy with the current City policy as is.

Margy Bonner, BPAC member, moved that BPAC remove project #3 from their work plan and replace it with "We will support Resolution 16-1150 and the continued implementation of the policy."

During discussion, Elyse mentioned that this policy only addressed the City, not the County. Jason Wood, BPAC member, asked if the County has a way to address needed biking/walking facilities. Elyse said they do not; the best example is Lockwood where residents taxed themselves in order to build sidewalks. Through the development process, many new developments in the County require sidewalks.

BPAC decided to put working with the County on the "bike rack" list for discussion at another time.

Old Business:

Crash data

Kristi asked that all the crash data be placed into one spreadsheet. Elyse will do this.

BPAC also asked Elyse to print out a large-scale map of Billings so that they could place marks where crashes happened.

Report out on presentations to governing bodies

Nikki shared that the Planning Board had a lot of questions after BPAC gave the annual presentation. One of the Planning Board members recommended a person who tracks data for crashes. BPAC asked Elyse to find the name of this person.

Other Business:

Kristi gave a short update on Parks and Trails funding. A work group has been meeting to decide what projects should be in a bond and what things should be in a mill levy. The group has been trying to get a mill levy for a consistent source of funding for. A bond might include a match for the Stagecoach Trail, the 5th Ave. Corridor, and trails in the Westend Reservoir site. The group is trying

for 4 mills for trails which would generate almost \$1 million per year. City Council is expected to discuss this topic on April 28 at their strategic planning session.

Future agenda items:

Funding for county maintenance

Kristi moved to adjourn the meeting. Joan Schey, BPAC member, seconded. All voted in favor.