



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County  
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 28, 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 APRIL 25, 2023

- Call to order:** Nikki Zimmer, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.
- Members present:** Dave Coppock, Planning Board; Jason Wood, County; Anna O'Donnell, City; Kristi Drake, City.
- Others present:** Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, member of the public as seen on the attached sign-in sheet

### Public Comment Period:

- a. Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –**  
Victor Sargent, member of the public, shared an issue that is bothering him. He is puzzled by the planned/partly existing neighborhood bikeway that goes from Meyers trail to Rose Park. He said he understands making Billings more bike friendly, but doesn't think this section makes sense. He doesn't understand why the stop signs were installed on Lyman. He feels that stop signs shouldn't be there, thinks that the streets are not ready for the neighborhood bikeway, and thinks that there will always be cut through traffic in that area. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, said she spoke with Victor on the phone previously and that the stop signs went in as part of the neighborhood bikeway. She said they have received numerous positive comments from neighbors about the stop signs and that this is ultimately a Public Works decision. Victor says the signs are an inconvenience to drivers.

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

There was a concern on Main Street that there is lots of gravel on the sidewalk. Code Enforcement is taking care of this and sent out 118 letters to property owners who have 10 days to respond and clean up gravel.

A resident wrote in about Central Ave and Shiloh and Grand and Shiloh. They were wondering how the pedestrian activated lights (RRFBs) work on the roundabouts. They wondered if they had to press the button in the middle of the intersection to activate the second leg of the lights. Elyse connected them with Dakota Martonen, an engineer with the City, who said it is necessary to press both buttons. Separating the lights helps increase compliance with drivers as pedestrians are more likely to be crossing there and it gives the pedestrians a second chance to activate lights that might have turned off.

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

## **Old Business:**

### **Crash Data Review and Mapping**

Elyse handed out a list of crashes involving people walking or biking that the BPD has supplied since October. BPAC members mapped out crashes on a large paper map.

### **Status of County Funding for Trail Maintenance**

Elyse talked to the County and County staff said there is \$20,000 available per year for trail maintenance in the County. They said if there was an issue on a trail in the County, to get in touch with them and they would use funding to get it fixed. They said that they thought the City could bill the County for the snow removal and other maintenance. City Parks and Rec will look into this and see if it is worth it for the section of trail they maintain.

### **Feedback from BPAC presentation to Council**

BPAC received some suggestions from the Council after their presentation:

- How to pay for sidewalks and get them paid for more quickly? It has been a sticking point that property owners have to pay for half of the cost of sidewalks.
- One councilmember wants bicycle yield signs
- One councilmember suggested making videos to show how to enter street from sidewalk to road/roundabout

BPAC members discussed the sidewalk issue. They noted it has been a sticking point that the property owners have to pay for half of the sidewalk installation in the case of sidewalk infill. Elyse said she thinks Public Works has already investigated this, so a first step would be talking with them to find out what they already have discussed on the topic. Kristi Drake, BPAC member, suggested that BPAC look into sidewalk funding and how other communities fund sidewalks. BPAC wants to discuss this at a future meeting. Kristi suggested coming with specific questions to the meeting about what they don't know, what they want to know, etc. BPAC also wants a subject matter expert to come to the meeting.

## **New Business:**

### **Review and discuss public comments from the BPAC public input survey**

Kristi spent some time breaking the comments from the survey into categories.

- 54% of people are not familiar with BPAC
- 93% of respondents have never attended a BPAC meeting
- 70% of respondents want more information about BPAC – BPAC wants to discuss about how to get word out about this

What matters most to people about safe bicycling, walking, and/or wheelchair facilities?

- 23% want all 3 options (designated trail system, connected trails, trails to work/school)
- 42% want a designated trail system
- 50% want connected trails
- 43% want trails to work and school

What attracts you to living in Billings and Yellowstone County in general?

- 78% said closeness to the outdoors
- 58% said employment
- 18% school
- 16% shopping

Is there an area of concern (a safety problem or an issue in general) you would like to share with BPAC? If yes, please describe.

- 6% of people mentioned crosswalks
- 7% wanted more trail connections

BPAC discussed what they want to do with the data

- They want to know how to get the word out about BPAC
- They want to address issues that a lot of people mentioned and provide input to the City on these issues
- There might be certain comments that can be passed to specific departments

BPAC said that they would all look at the responses to question 6 and come up with categories that they could group responses into by the next meeting.

**Other Business:**

BPAC requested that they be notified when bike/ped issues go to Council.

**Future agenda items:**

Sidewalks

Public Survey results

Transportation alternatives grant applications

Update from Kristi on Parks and Trails funding issue

**Dave moved to adjourn the meeting. Jason Wood, BPAC member, seconded. All voted in favor.**