



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am
1st Floor Conference Room of 2825 3rd Ave. N

DRAFT

Call to order: Nikki Zimmer, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

Members present: Kristi Drake, City; Dave Coppock, Planning Board; Anna O'Donnell, City

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner

Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –**
Anna O'Donnell, BPAC member, brought up the email to the BPAC group about sidewalks/trails getting repaired in Parks. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, said Public Works has a contractor lined up to do concrete repair and will work with Parks on getting these sidewalks/trails fixed.

Elyse will check in with MDT again to determine the status of the 56th bridge project.

Dave Coppock, BPAC member, commented that the Rimrunners cleaned up trash off the trail off King from 24-29th Sts.W. However, they do not have the capacity to address the weeds, some of which are encroaching on the sidewalk. Elyse passed the comments along to Parks and asked if the trail could be cleaned up.

Elyse brought up a request from Jim Jones who wants a commitment for a trail out at 64 St. W between Rimrock and Grand instead of 62nd St. W off of Rimrock. Elyse said that this location is in the county. The County does not have a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), so it is not possible to place this in a CIP. Kristi, BPAC member, requests that this location be put on the radar/noted and requested more information on the status of this location. Elyse will look at the Trail Master plan again to see if the city has the right of way in this location and determine if anything can be done.

Kristi suggested asking Crime Prevention office to reinstate trail patrol. This item was discussed more in future agenda items.

Anna brought up complaints about E-bikes going up to 20mph in the bike lane the wrong direction and requested information about the status of signage for trail etiquette. Elyse will follow up with Jason Wood about bollards for trail underpass that BPAC discussed at their last meeting and will continue to work on the etiquette signs.

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

None

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of March 28, 2022: Dave moved to accept the minutes. Kristi seconded. All voted in favor.

Old Business:

Sidewalk funding research

Email From Joan:

"I talked with People in Bozeman, Missoula and Great Falls. I left numerous messages in Helena, but never received a call back. The last person I left a message for was Kim Cross.

The gist was everyone is funding sidewalks as we are.

Great Falls stated they were looking at the same issue and trying to find funding source other than property owners. they had no idea on ways to find contractors for jobs. They have 7-8 contractors who do small jobs and 3 or 4 contractors who do big jobs

Missoula – A BPAC member talked with a staff member named Monte. Curb and gutters are done with local funding. He forwarded some policies. I will send attachments in a separate email. No incites on obtaining contractors

Bozeman- I talked with Kellen. Funding falls on the adjacent property owners. The city funds ADA ramps and corners. Major boulevards are covered by the city. Concrete sidewalk grinding on boulevards are done by city. No incites on obtaining contractors"

Dave heard from Helena. The email from Helena said:

"Our current code states that the adjacent property owner is responsible for the sidewalk, curb & gutter. We do offer a 10 year no interest sidewalk program loan but it is only funded to \$150K/yr. Because of this small budget, and the growing interest, the last few years we have had to restrict the amount allowed per property to help the funds stretch farther. (\$5K for a single frontage and \$10K for a corner lot; otherwise we could easily spend \$30K on one corner property). The remainder must be paid up front by the owner at completion of the project.

We do use some of our Streets budget to upgrade ADA corner ramps with any mill/fill projects since those upgrades are required by federal law.

Because there is so much of what I would call "legacy" missing sidewalk, our Commission is considering other possibilities to infill and create better connectivity.

We are currently collecting/providing data for City Commission discussions about the possibility of a Sidewalk Maintenance district(s), similar to our Street Maintenance District assessment. The Commission hasn't given us any direction yet on if and/or how they might want to proceed with a sidewalk district but we are supposed to have another "sidewalk summit" discussion toward the end of the year. Hopefully they will come to a consensus one way or the other then."

The group discussed reaching out to Reno, Boise, Bend (Dave), Omaha, and Bismark to research/gather information about their strategies for sidewalk funding. Kristi will send out a spreadsheet with categories pertaining to other cities' funding strategies which BPAC members will fill out.

Members will report back at the next meeting. Anna requested more than 10 or 15 minutes to discuss the findings. Anna requests spreadsheet printed out for meeting and to send information the Friday before BPAC meeting.

Review and mapping of PD crash data

BPAC members mapped the crashes from September.

Elyse will check in with the PD about the crash at S. Billings Blvd. and Commerce Way. The group assumed this should be at King Ave. E and S. Billings.

New Business:

Safe Routes to School Project List

Elyse emailed the list of recommendations to the group before the meeting. She asked if there were any schools in particular they would like to review.

The group discussed Will James middle school recommendations. The first recommendation is to install high-visibility crosswalks and traffic control signals for students crossing Grand Ave. and N 30th St. W. Elyse said that there will be a prioritization of recommendations based on several factors like safety, demand, and equity.

The group discussed Pioneer Elementary School recommendations including speed zone signage, installing shared use paths along Dover Rd, and installing crosswalks.

Anna asked if the residents of these areas are aware of the plan. Elyse said that she will share the information with principals when the plan is further along, and that there was public outreach including the online survey and interactive map and kick off meetings/tabling at the beginning of the plan.

Pick time of combined Nov/Dec meeting

After discussion from BPAC members, November 28 at 12:00 p.m. was decided upon for the November/December meeting.

Other Business:

Kristi asks if Elyse will reach out to Parks Department to see if they can add a ramp to Landon's Legacy when they are doing the ramps at Lillis Park.

Kristi is trying to write a grant from *Quality of Life* for signage in Billings.

Dave asked about planting trees around new trails. Elyse will reach out to the forester about this.

Dave made a note about curb that is not ADA accessible at Crawford and 7th that is used by school kids. Elyse will reach out to Public Works/make a note.

Future agenda items:

Kisti requested to ask the crime prevention office to reinstate trail patrol, preferably, by next summer. Elyse will reach out to the volunteer coordinator at PD to see if the trail patrol could be an arm of this organization. Anna will reach out to Sg. Lenneik as well.

Anna moved to adjourn; Dave seconded. All voted in favor.