



**YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF PLANNING**  
 CITY OF BILLINGS AND  
 YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA



**AGENDA**  
 JUNE 13, 2023 MEETING TIME: 6:00 p.m.  
 1st Floor Large Conference Room, Miller Building  
 2825 3rd Avenue North, Billings, Montana 59101

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

citizens are invited to:

- Review the Agenda Packet on the City's website at: <https://ci.billings.mt.us/117/Agendas-Minutes>
- View the meeting live online at Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/yckr478k>
- Public comment will be taken only during the Public Comment periods as indicated on the agenda and during the Public Hearings, if any are scheduled, under the Regular agenda. Comments may be sent to Board via email before 10:00 AM on the meeting date. All emails received prior to this time will be read into the record for the public hearing. Comments may be submitted by:
  - Mail: City/County Planning Division, 2825 3rd Ave N 4th Floor, Billings, MT 59101
  - Email: [deinest@billingsmt.gov](mailto:deinest@billingsmt.gov)
- Call in during the Public Comment periods as indicated on the agenda:
  - Citizens may call in during specific Public Comment periods at 406.237.6165. All callers will be placed in a queued system and are asked to remain on hold and be patient. Calls will be taken in the order in which they are received. Callers will be limited to 3 minutes of testimony as is customary. Future delivery methods may be explored as best practice is learned.

**\*\*In the event a quorum of the Council is present, no City-related decisions will be made during this meeting or event.**

- Please direct questions to Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk at [deinest@billingsmt.gov](mailto:deinest@billingsmt.gov) or 406-247-8610. Thank you!

1. **CALL TO ORDER - Planning Board President:** Welcome and Introduction of new and returning Board Members.

a. Welcome! Morgan Tuss, Planning Board representative BOCC District 7. Planning Board Dennis Cook

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA\*** - including any additions or deletions to agenda. The agenda for a regular meeting will be closed at 5:00 p.m. three (3) working days prior to the date of the meeting.

3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MAY 23, 2023**

**Attachments**

PLNB\_2023\_05\_23\_MIN\_DRAFT.pdf

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** -- As required (3 minute maximum per person). *Any member of the public may be heard on any subject that is not on the agenda. The Planning Board will not take any action on these items at this time, but could choose to add an item to the next meeting's agenda for discussion.*

**4a) Comments on items not on agenda and requests to add items to future agendas**

**4b) Comments on items on the non-public hearing agenda items**

5. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

6. **DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION:** Ex Parte Communication Binder is available at the Sign-In and Agenda station.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** (Agenda items that were not discussed or not completed in a previous meeting or items requiring action).

a. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES.** The County Planning Board welcomes public input on matters brought before the Board. To ensure a fair and effective public comment process, we ask that you consider the following guidelines when presenting your comments: Address the Planning Board

directly. You must state your name and address before commenting. This is an opportunity to explain how you will be affected by the decision and why that is an important consequence. By state law, the Planning Board must consider only certain criteria when reviewing subdivisions (76-3-608(a), MCA). Please see the attached guidelines for the criterion. Thank you for participating!

8. **NEW BUSINESS:** (Agenda items new to this meeting).

- a. **Plat Review. Board Discussion. Howard Billings Industrial Subdivision, (AKA Zeiler Subdivision), City Major Plat. SLH INDUSTRIAL LLC, owner. Mat Smith, Stahly Engineering & Associates, Engineer/Agent. Dave Green, Planner II, presenting.**

**Attachments**

Findings of Fact

Proposed Plat

SIA Draft

Attachment A Variance

- b. **Public Hearing. Board Discussion. 2023 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator Presenting.**

**Attachments**

2023 LRTP Ex. Summary

2023 LRTP - Draft

2023 LRTP Project List

- c. **Public Hearing. Staff Presentation. Transportation Alternatives (TA) that includes a recommendation of application funding from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and conduct a public hearing to collect public testimony regarding the TA applications. Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner.**

**Attachments**

Lockwood TA Application

Stagecoach Trail TA Application

9. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- a. (Standing Item) Long Range Strategic Issues and an overview of future City and County issues and projects.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2023**

- a. **Public Hearing. Motion/Recommendation to City Council. Howard Billings Industrial Subdivision, (AKA Zeiler Subdivision), City Major Plat. SLH INDUSTRIAL LLC, owner. Mat Smith, Stahly Engineering & Associates, Engineer/Agent. Dave Green, Planner II, presenting.**
- b. **Motion/Recommendation to PCC. 2023 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator Presenting.**
- c. **Motion/Recommendation to PCC. Transportation Alternatives (TA) that includes a recommendation of application funding from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and conduct a public hearing to collect public testimony regarding the TA applications. Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner.**



# CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

“Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County”

**Board Attendance Roster:** Please note: “E” stands for excused absence, “A” stands for un-excused absence, “1” stands for present, “Z” stands for Zoom participation. **BYLAWS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF PLANNING, (Amended. May 25, 2004) Section 4. Absences and Removal** A. Each member shall inform the Planning Director at least one day before the meeting of his/her inability to attend a Board or Committee meeting. Such an absence shall be considered an excused absence. If any Board member accrues three (3) or more consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings, notice of which has been given at his/her usual place of work or residence, or by announcement at a meeting attended by him/her, the President may call such absences to the attention of the Board which may then recommend to the appointing authority that such member be asked to resign and that another person be appointed to serve out the unexpired term. Schedule: (\*\* denotes a Wednesday meeting)

	Position	01/10/2023	01/24/2023	02/14/2023	02/28/2023	03/14/2023	03/28/2023	04/11/2023	04/25/2023	05/09/2023	05/23/2023	06/13/2023	06/27/2023	07/11/2023	07/25/2023	08/08/2023	08/22/2023	09/12/2023	09/26/2023	10/10/2023	10/24/2023	11/14/2023	11/28/2023	12/12/2023
<b>Jim Ronquillo</b>	Mayor/Billings Ward I	1	1	1	1	1	1	E	1	1	1	1												
<b>Roger Gravgaard</b>	Mayor/Billings Ward II	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	V												
<b>Dennie Stephenson</b>	Mayor/Billings Ward III	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1												
<b>John Staley</b>	Mayor/Billings Ward IV	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	E	V												
<b>David Nordel</b>	Mayor/Billings Ward V	1	E	E	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1												
<b>Troy Boucher</b>	YC District 1	A	A	A	A	A	1	A	1	1	E													
<b>Dennis Cook</b>	YC District 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1												
<b>Vacant</b>	YC District 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-												
<b>Vacant</b>	YC District 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-												
<b>Woody Woods</b>	YC District 5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1												
<b>Vacant</b>	YC District 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-												
<b>Monica Tuss</b>	YC District 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	V												
<b>Vacant</b>	Y County Cons. District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-												
<b>Scott Reiter</b>	<b>Ex-Officio SD2</b>	E	E	E	E	A	1	E		E	E	E												

---

## CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

*"Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County"*

**JUNE 13, 2023**

*DRAFT- To be approved by a motion on June 27, 2023*

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES**

As legally advertised, The Yellowstone County Board of Planning met on June 13, 2023 in the Miller Building 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room.

Citizens are invited to:

→Review the Agenda Packet on the City's website at: <https://ci.billings.mt.us/117/Agendas-Minutes>

→View the meeting live online at Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Billings-Planning-Community-Services-Department-1738982159659260>

Public comment will be taken only during the Public Comment periods as indicated on the agenda and during the Public Hearings, if any are scheduled, under the Regular agenda. Comments may be sent to Board via email before 10:00 AM on the meeting date. All e-mails received prior to this time will be read into the record for the public hearing. Comments may be submitted by:

- Mail: City/County Planning Division, 2825 3rd Ave N 4th Floor, Billings, MT 59101
  - Email: [deinest@billingsmt.gov](mailto:deinest@billingsmt.gov)
- Call in during the Public Comment periods as indicated on the agenda:
  - Citizens may call in during specific Public Comment periods at **406.237.6165**. All callers will be placed in a queued system and are asked to remain on hold and be patient. Calls will be taken in the order in which they are received. Callers will be limited to 3 minutes of testimony as is customary. Future delivery methods may be explored as best practice is learned.

**1. Call the Meeting to Order:** President Cook called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

#### **Introduction of Planning Board Members and Planning Department Staff**

President Cook called for introductions of the members of the Planning Board and staff.

Welcome! Morgan Tuss, Planning Board representative BOCC District 7. Morgan is participating virtually this evening.

**Participating Planning staff members:** Monica Plecker, Planning Division Manager; Dave Green Planner II, Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk

**Participating Virtually:** Planning Board member John Staley; Planning Board member Morgan Tuss, Andy Daleiden, Consultant, Kittelson and Associates, Erin Claunch Sanderson Stewart

---

## CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

*"Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County"*

**Others in Attendance:** Brandon Schmitt, City of Billings Parks and Recreation;  
Matt Smith, Staley Engineering

**2. Approval of Agenda – Board member Stephenson made a motion and it was seconded by Board member Ronquillo to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

**3. Approval of Minutes: May 23, 2023**

**Motion by Board member Woods and seconded by Board member Stephenson approve the May 23, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

**4. Public Comment:** President Cook asked if there was anyone wishing to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting. He stated any member of the public might be heard on any subject that is not on the agenda; the Planning Board will not take any action on these items at this time, but could choose to add an item to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

**5- 6. Disclosure of Outside (Ex Parte) Communication or Conflicts of Interest– Board Members and Planning Staff.** There were no disclosures of outside communication or conflicts of interest. Board member Woods disclosed he is a member of the Lockwood Safety District and Board member Tuss disclosed she is a member of Billings Trail Net. These members will not comment on the during the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program agenda item due to conflict of interest.

**7. OLD BUSINESS** There is No Old Business.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8a. Plat Review. Board Discussion. Howard Billings Industrial Subdivision, (AKA Zeiler Subdivision). City Major Plat. SLH Industrial LLC, owner. Matt Smith, Stahley Engineering & Associates, Engineer.**

Planner Dave Green opened this agenda item with a staff presentation.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning Board forward to the City Council a recommendation to conditionally approve the preliminary plat of Howard Billings Industrial Subdivision, adopt the

Page 3 of 10

---

## CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

*"Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County"*

Findings of Fact as presented in the staff report, and deny the variance request.

### **BACKGROUND**

On May 1, 2023, Stahly Engineering & Associates for SLH Industries LLC, applied for preliminary major plat approval for Howard Billings Industrial Subdivision. The proposed subdivision creates 40 lots for commercial development. The subject property is generally located west of Mullowney Lane and south of South Frontage Road. The property is zoned Heavy Commercial (CX), builders will follow the CX zoning when developing the lots.

**VARIANCES REQUESTED** The applicant is requesting a variance from the subdivision regulations, Section 23-406.A.1, Streets and Roads, relation to undeveloped areas. Staff has recommended denial of the variance.

### **Background**

The applicant has not provided an alternate for the request to not provide a vehicle connection to the undeveloped land to the west. When QFC subdivision was completed to the west of this property they were required to provide a 56-foot-wide dedicated utility and bike path right of way along their east border next to Hogan's Slough. That 10-foot-wide paved path has been installed and will provide a connection to the 10 paved trail that runs along the south side of Elysian Road. The trail along the south side of Elysian Road has had a pedestrian bridge constructed across the Hogan's Slough. This subdivision is required to install a 10-foot-wide trail along the frontage of South Frontage Road that abuts this subdivision. The reconstruction of Mullowney Lane will provide a bike/pedestrian trail along it when the construction is completed. Staff is proposing as an alternative to a vehicle connection to the undeveloped land to the west that the developer provide a pedestrian connection to the land to the west. This would include a 10-foot-wide paved trail on the utility easement between lots 11 and 12, block 1. A pedestrian bridge over Hogan's Slough and a connection to the existing trail. With this connection for pedestrians it would open access through the subdivision to those who walk or ride a bike and provide a connection to the trail on Mullowney Lane and a connection to the future trail on South Frontage Road through the use of the internal sidewalks and local street network within the proposed subdivision.

### **PROPOSED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

Pursuant to Section 76-3-608(4), MCA, the following conditions are recommended to reasonably minimize potential adverse impacts identified within the Findings of Fact.

1. To protect public health and safety, prior to final plat approval, the applicant will submit all drawings and specifications for water systems, sewer systems and storm water systems to the City of Billings Engineering Department for review and approval prior to installation.
2. To protect public health and safety and minimize traffic conflicts, prior to final plat approval, City Engineering has requested the developer directly line up their Holiday Lane road with the existing Holiday Lane on the east side of Mullowney. This shall be depicted correctly on the Final Plat.

---

## CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

*"Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County"*

3. To protect public health and safety and to minimize the possibility of traffic conflicts, prior to final plat approval, the applicant will place a no access strip on lots that have a lot line in common with the road edges of Mullowney Lane and South Frontage Road. Lot 2, Block 5 and Lot 1, Block 1, shall have a no access strip place on it from Mullowney Lane going west for 100 feet. Lot 17, Block 1, and Lot 1, Block 3 shall have a no access strip placed on them from South Frontage Road going south 100 feet.
4. To protect public health and safety and minimize the impacts on local services, the subdivider shall provide connectivity to an existing trail and neighboring subdivision by installing a pedestrian bridge across Hogan's Slough. This bridge will connect the existing trail located in QFC subdivision to this proposed subdivision with a 10-foot-wide paved surface that will extend from their new internal street to the existing 10 foot wide paved trail in QFC subdivision. The connection shall be depicted on the final plat and the SIA shall include language describing the bridge and pedestrian connection. \*Note, This condition reflects staff's recommendation of denial for the variance. If the Planning Board approves the variance, this condition of approval will no longer apply.
5. To protect public health and safety, prior to final plat, the applicant will coordinate with the USPS to locate a central box unit for the subdivision and provide enough space for the mail delivery person to safely stop there and deliver the mail.
6. Minor changes may be made in the SIA and final documents, as requested by the Planning, Legal or Public Works Departments to clarify the documents and bring them into the standard acceptable format. Changes include, but are not limited to, requiring the developer to include a Waiver of Right to Protest with the SIA.
7. The final plat shall comply with all requirements of the City of Billings Subdivision Regulations, rules, policies, and resolutions of the City of Billings, and the laws and Administrative Rules of the State of Montana.

### **Discussion**

President Cook called for questions and discussion from the members of the Board. He asked if the access points will be controlled and Dave Green said the intersections will have stop signs. Board member Woods asked if the existing silo foundation needs to be removed, and if Holiday Lane could be aligned correctly if moved to a new survey location. Dave Green explained the subdivision regulations requirement for a connection to undeveloped land and pointed out the undeveloped lot adjacent to this parcel for a connection point. Staff is requesting an alternate connection for a pedestrian bridge as City Engineering prefers that a vehicle bridge is not used in this instance. Board member Staley asked if there will be parking on both sides of Mullowney Lane. Dave Green said the roads are wider to accommodate the commercial development and there will be parking on both sides of the road.

---

## CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

*"Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County"*

### **Matt Smith, Stahley Engineering & Associates, Engineer, 3440 Stonebrook Drive, Billings, MT**

Matt Smith represents applicant/developer SLH Industrial LLC. Their concern with placing a bridge over Hogan's Slough is potential flooding and having pedestrians walk through a commercial subdivision. In response to question by Board member Ronquillo, Matt said Hogan's Slough is about 25-ft across and the proposed pedestrian bridge will need to be ADA accessible. He pointed out that this survey is two pieces of property and the boundary is depicted for the second piece of property. A boundary line relocation survey has been submitted to remove this survey line. The silo foundation will be removed.

A public hearing for Howard Billings Industrial Subdivision will be held during the June 27, 2023 Planning Board meeting and this application will be heard by City Council on July 27, 2023.

### **8B. Public Hearing. Board Discussion. 2023 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator.**

Scott Walker opened the agenda item and gave a brief introduction. This document is updated every five years. This document is tied to Federal funding and eligible projects. It provides a listing of community projects, priorities, and funding sources available. This is an informational meeting. This Board will forward a formal recommendation to PCC on June 27, 2023. Scott introduced Andy Daleiden, Consultant, Kittelson and Associates who continued and gave the PowerPoint presentation below.

### **2023 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

**2023 LRTP Vision: Support a livable and economically vibrant community through a safer and more equitable multimodal transportation system.**

**2023 LRTP Goals:** Safety, Resiliency, Mobility, Equity & Accessibility, Economic Vitality.

**Billings-Yellowstone County MPO Planning Area:** 151 square miles MPO Planning Area; 122 Miles of Roadways; 140.5 Miles of Bicycle Facilities; 86 Miles of Trails; 14 Bus Routes; 28,787 Population in 2020; 57,343 Households in 2020

**Long Range Transportation Plan Elements:** Pedestrian, Bicycle, Safe Routes to School, Congestion Management, Safety, Freight, Land Use, Demographics, Travel Demand Model, Security & Resiliency, Emerging Technology Readiness, Vision, Goals & Objectives, Federal, State & Local Funding, Projects & Implementation, Air Quality Conformity

**Community Outreach/2023 LRTP Steering Committee:** Planning Transportation Team MPO: Scott Walker, Lora Mattox, Elyse Monat. City of Billings City Council and Staff: Ed Gulick, Dakota Martonen, Chis Kukulski, Monica Plecker, Wyeth Friday. MDT Samantha Woods Kurtis Schnieber. Lockwood: Woody Woods. Dennis Cook, Planning

**CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

*“Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County”*

Board President; Billings Transit: Rusty Logan, Sarah Graham, Healthy by Design: Tony Chase. Federal Highway Administration: Katie Potts

**Community Outreach (15 month Schedule):** 2-Public Open Houses: 30 Total attendees; 2-Online Interactive Maps: 558 Total Comments; 3-Press Releases; 7-Media Announcements (On-Air, Online, and Print); 10-Steering Committee Meetings, 2 Elected Officials Workshops with representatives from: City of Billings, Yellowstone County, Lockwood, MET Transit, Billings MPO, RiverStone Heath, 12 Meetings to Various Community Groups.

**Project List of 416 Projects:** 72 projects from existing programs CIP, TIP STIP. 39 projects from recent plans and studies since the 2018 LRTP, 238 projects from 2018 LRTP, 67 projects from LRTP analyses and community input.

**Project Funding:**

**Committed Projects:** Projects already committed/ funded in the MDT STIP, MPO TIP, or City of Billings CIP.

**Recommended Projects:** Projects that are expected to be fully funded by 2045.

**Illustrative Projects:** Projects that are not expected to be fully funded by 2045 because of fiscal constraint but could be included if additional resources become available.

**Fiscally Constrained Project List:** The costs to design, construct, operate, and maintain all elements of the committed and recommended projects in the LRTP through 2045 are approximately \$988 million. The estimated available revenue (\$1,251 million) is greater than the estimated total costs (\$988 million) to implement the committed and recommended projects for the 2023 LRTP. Therefore, this plan is fiscally responsible and meets the fiscally constrained requirement.

Project Category	Committed	Recommended	2045 Fiscally Constrained Total	2045 Revenue Projection Total	Difference
Pedestrian, Bicycle, SRTS, Trail	\$16.76 million	\$143.13 million	\$159.89 million	\$247.61 million	\$87.72 million
Congestion Management, Intersection, Roadway	\$265.12 million	\$465.77 million	\$730.89 million	\$775.14 million	\$44.25 million
Transit	\$18.08 million	\$79.29 million	\$97.37 million	\$228.78 million	\$131.41 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$299.96 million</b>	<b>\$688.19 million</b>	<b>\$988.15 million</b>	<b>\$1,251.53 million</b>	<b>\$263.38 million</b>

**2023 Long-Range Transportation Plan Review Schedule**

Review-Body	Date	Materials-Due	Notes/Results
Technical-Advisory-Committee	Thursday, June-8 10:30-a.m.	Memo-by-6/1	Recommendation-to-Governing-Bodies
Planning-Board-with-Presentation-and-PH*	Tuesday, June-13	Memo-by-6/6 Notice-PH-on-5/26-&-6/2	Presentation, Public-Hearing
Planning-Board-MTG/Action	Tuesday, June-27	Memo-by-6/20	Recommendation-to-PCC
City-Council-Work-Session	Monday, June-19	Memo-by-6/12	Presentation
City-Council-Meeting	Monday, June-26	Memo-by-6/15	Recommendation-to-PCC
Board-of-Commissioners-Discussion	Monday, June-12	Memo-by-6/5	Introduction
Board-of-Commissioners	Tuesday, June-27	Memo-by-6/20	Presentation/Recommendation-to-PCC
Policy-Coordinating-Committee	Tuesday, July-18	Memo-by-7/11	Final-Action

---

## CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

*"Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County"*

**The Plan is available at:** [billingslrtp.com](http://billingslrtp.com)

Interactive Project List Map is available at <https://maps.kittelso.com/billingslrtp2023>

**Consultant Contacts:** Andy Daleiden, Phone: 208-472-9804, [adaleiden@kittelso.com](mailto:adaleiden@kittelso.com)  
Lisa Olmsted, Phone: 406-869-6329 [lolmsted@dowl.com](mailto:lolmsted@dowl.com)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Planning Board hear a presentation on the Final Draft 2023 LRTP and conduct a Public Hearing at this meeting. The Board will make a formal recommendation of the document to the PCC at its June 27th meeting.

### **Discussion**

Andy clarified for Board member Woods and explained that the statics for the total project costs are posted in millions of dollars equating to 1.25 billion dollars for the total. Board member Nordel commented on broad band and AI technology. Any said this Transportation Plan contains a section on emerging technologies primarily focusing on micro mobility and broadband. There is no discussion of AI at this time but this topic will probably be considered in the next transportation plan.

### **Public Hearing**

President Cook opened the public hearing and asked if there is anyone wishing to speak in favor or against the 2023 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan. There were none. President Cook closed the public hearing. The Planning Board will forward a recommendation to the MPO governing bodies and PCC during the June 27, 2023 Planning Board meeting.

## **8. C Public Hearing. Board Discussion. Transportation Alternative Program, (TA), Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner**

Lora Mattox opened the agenda item with a staff presentation.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff is requesting that the Planning Board (PB) receive a presentation on the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program applications that includes a recommendation of application funding from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and conduct a public hearing to collect public testimony regarding the TA applications. The Planning Board at its June 27 meeting will take formal action on the TA applications to forward a recommendation to the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC).

### **BACKGROUND**

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TA) is a set-aside program from the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. Eligible uses of the funds include projects and activities that were previously eligible under the Transportation Alternatives Program under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). This includes a variety of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects and other community improvement projects. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) allows for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to

---

## CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

*“Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County”*

administer their own competitive application process with approval and oversight from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). Billings, Missoula, and Great Falls will be overseeing a local process for the TA funding that is specific to areas with a population of over 50,000. Entities within the MPO may also apply with MDT's Call for Applications as well, as there is funding that is not tied to population. The timeline for both processes run concurrently. This year, the MPO received an allocation of approximately \$6.38 million of TA funds. This includes several years of previously unspent TA funds managed by the Montana Department of Transportation. Future year funding will be approximately \$700,000 annually.

Two projects were submitted requesting funding.

**The first is from Yellowstone County on behalf of the Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District.** A proposed sidewalk gap connection along Old Hardin Road between two end points that are being constructed by Yellowstone County on one end and the Montana, Department of Transportation (part of the Billings Bypass project) on the other. This project will complete the 2,200' gap.

**The second project, Stagecoach Trail, was submitted by the City of Billings Parks Department** and will construct a 10' wide shared use path from the Skyline Trail on the east side of Zimmerman Trail to Rimrock Road below the Rims.

### **Discussion**

President Cook called for questions and discussion from the members of the Board. Monica Plecker asked for an explanation of timing for project construction following PCC approval. Planner Lora Mattox said Dave Holien, Transportation Alternatives Program Manager, MDT is hoping the Skyline Trail project will be bid late winter or early spring. MDT will manage the Lockwood sidewalk project and the project engineering is projected to take place next summer with construction in late 2024.

### **Public Hearing**

President Cook opened the public hearing and asked if there is anyone wishing to speak in favor or against the recommended applications for the Transportation Alternative Program. There were none. President Cook closed the public hearing. The Planning Board will forward a recommendation to the MPO governing bodies and PCC during the June 27, 2023 Planning Board meeting.

### **9a. (Standing Item) Long Range Strategic Issues and an overview of future City and County issues and projects. Monica Plecker, Planning Division Manager**

- City Council passed the FY24 budget. They also passed a budget amendment which provides the Planning Division with \$100k to be used for Skyway Drive land use planning and \$200k to use for the City of Billings Growth Policy update.
- Amendments to Zoning Code. The Zoning Commission during the July 11, 2023 meeting will hear and consider text amendment and forward a recommendation to City Council to be heard during the last business meeting in July.

**3. Announcement:** The June 27, 2023 meeting will be held as legally announced and advertised.

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:19 PM**

**DRAFT—TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION June 27, 2023**

Page 9 of 10

PLNB\_2023\_06\_13 MIN\_DRAFT.docx

Reviewed by Planning Staff

## Who was involved in the LRTP Process?

### 10 Steering Committee Meetings

2 Elected Officials Workshops  
15 attendees @ #1 and  
13 attendees @ #2

2 Public Open Houses 20 attendees  
@ #1 and 11 attendees @ #2

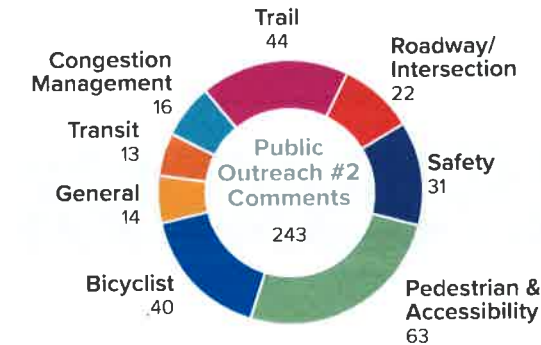
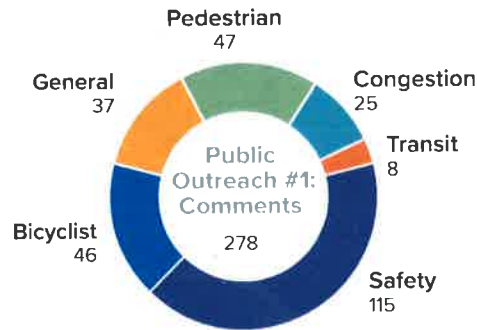
2 Online Surveys/ Interactive Maps  
(Fall & Spring): 521 Total Comments

### 12 Outreach Meetings

#### OUTREACH MEETINGS

- LIFTT
- Bike Walk Montana
- Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District
- Pioneer Park Task Force
- All Task Force Meeting
- Lockwood Steering Committee
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Billings Industrial Revitalization District (BIRD)
- Healthy by Design
- Midtown Community Collaborative
- Southside Task Force
- Billings Public Schools

The purpose of public outreach #1 was to gather input on the needs, opportunities, and deficiencies that currently exist in the multimodal transportation system.



The purpose of public outreach #2 was to gather feedback on the projects to address those needs, opportunities, and deficiencies identified during public outreach #1

# 2023 LRTP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## What is a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)?

The Billings-Yellowstone County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) prepared a long range transportation plan (LRTP) to guide the development and implementation of multimodal transportation projects for the Billings planning area. MPOs are required to update their transportation plan every four to five years to meet local, state, and federal requirements.

The LRTP includes:

- Planning for the next 20 years—looks out to year 2045
- Engaging the public for input and comment
- Assessing facilities and operations of the different transportation modes
- Identifying transportation needs and a set of short- and long-range transportation projects
- Constraining the transportation projects financially

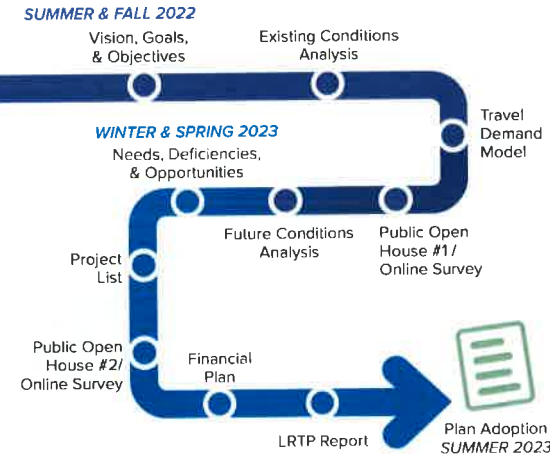
## VISION

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

## GOALS

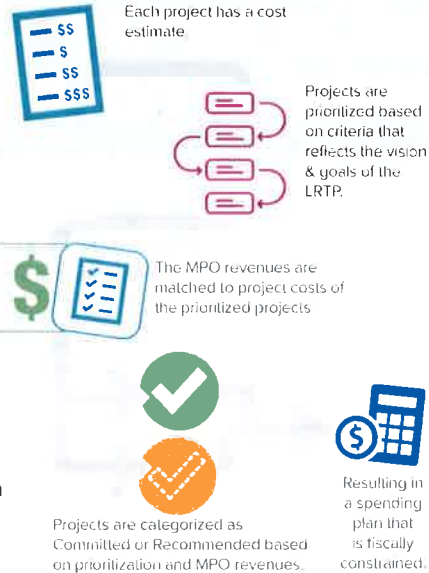
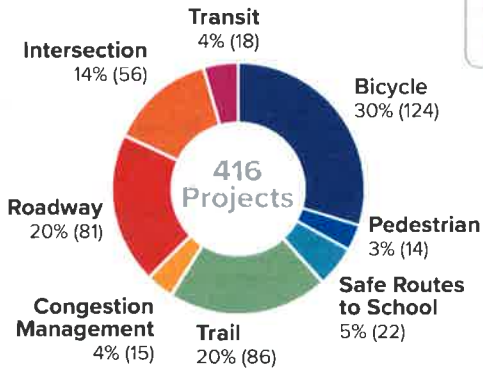
-  **Safety** – Develop a safer transportation system for all users.
-  **Resiliency** – Optimize, preserve, and enhance the existing transportation system to adapt with climate change, protect the natural environment, and promote a healthy and sustainable community.
-  **Mobility** – Create a transportation system that supports the use of transit, walking, biking, shared mobility, and vehicles.
-  **Equity & 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.

## How was the LRTP created?

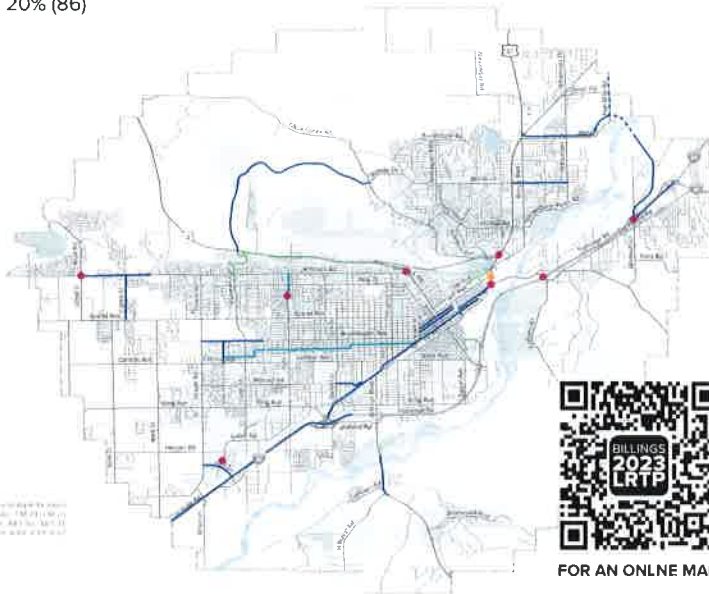


## Project List

Projects included in the 2023 LRTP were identified through previous plans, previous studies, and feedback from the public, stakeholders, and the Steering Committee on the needs, opportunities, and deficiencies in the Billings planning area. Through this process, 416 projects were included in the Project List, with 70 new projects identified through analysis, stakeholder input, and public input. Of the 416 projects, 63 have committed funding through 2028, 349 are recommended for funding through 2045, and 4 are illustrative of what could be funded if more funding becomes available.

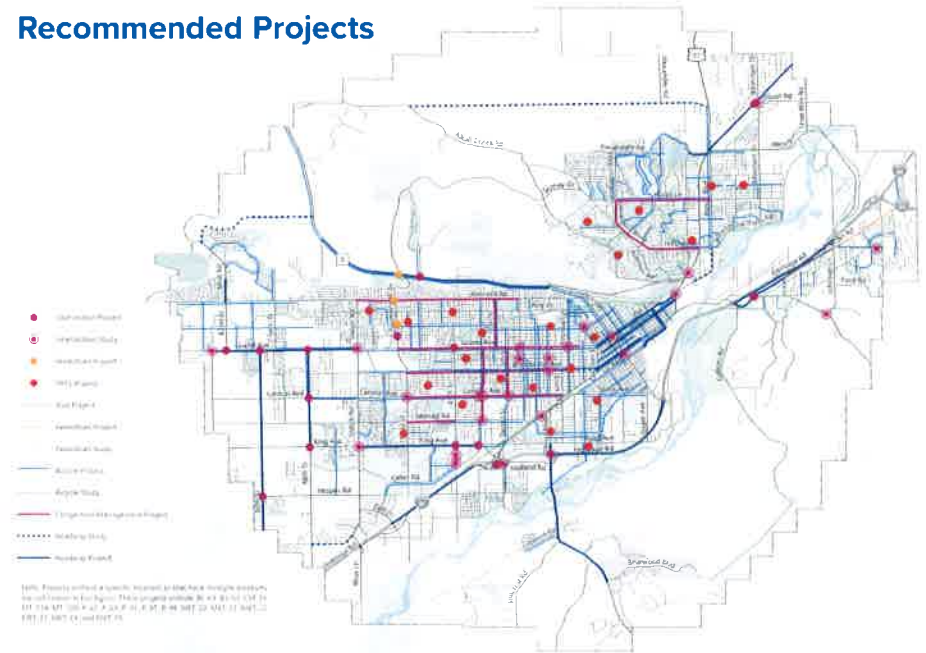


## Committed Projects



FOR AN ONLINE MAP

## Recommended Projects



## A Fiscally-Constrained Plan

An important aspect of a long range transportation plan is ensuring that the projects included can reasonably expect to be funded within the lifetime of the Plan. For the 2023 LRTP, the planning horizon is 2045. The table below presents the 2023 LRTP projects by type, and the dollar amounts that are committed and recommended for each project type. Additionally, the table presents the revenue projections for these project types, and because the total funding projections exceed the total project costs, the 2023 LRTP is fiscally-constrained. Please note that dollar amounts are rounded for presentation.

### SUMMARY OF LRTP PROJECT COSTS

Project Categories	Committed	Recommended	2045 Fiscally Constrained Total	2045 Revenue Projection Total	Difference
Pedestrian, Bicycle, SRTS, Trail	\$16.76 million	\$143.13 million	\$159.89 million	\$247.61 million	\$87.72 million
Congestion Management, Intersection, Roadway	\$265.11 million	\$465.78 million	\$730.89 million	\$775.14 million	\$44.25 million
Transit	\$18.08 million	\$79.29 million	\$97.37 million	\$228.78 million	\$131.41 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$299.96 million</b>	<b>\$688.19 million</b>	<b>\$988.16 million</b>	<b>\$1,250.00 million</b>	<b>\$263.37 million</b>

---

**CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

*“Serving Billings, Broadview, and Yellowstone County”*

Tamara L. Deines, Planning Clerk