



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA
CITY OF BILLINGS AND
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA



DECEMBER 6, 2022 MEETING TIME: 1:30 PM
The Miller Building 1ST Floor Conference Room
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
- 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.

Please direct questions to Tammy Deines, Planning Clerk at deinest@billingsmt.gov or 406247-8610. Thank you!

1. **Call to Order: Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator**
 - a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and requests to add items to future agendas.**
3. **Approval of the minutes of: September 22, 2022**
4. **Old Business:** There is no Old Business.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Motion/Recommendation to City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. Billings, Community Transportation Safety Plan. Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner, presenting. View the Plan here: <https://billingsctsp.com/documents/>
 - b. Motion/Recommendation to the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. Billings North Bypass Planning Study. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, Lisa Olmstead, DOWL, presenting. View the Plan here: <https://billingsbypasscorridor.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Billings-Bypass-Corridor-Study-Draft.pdf>
 - c. Discussion. Adding Grand Avenue from Shiloh Road to 62nd Street West to the Urban System. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, presenting.
6. **Other Business**
 - a. **Update. Discussion. MET Transit. Rusty Logan, MET Transit Manager**
7. **Future Agenda Items**
8. **Adjournment**

Billings Transportation Advisory Committee
10:30 AM
DRAFT Meeting Minutes—December 6, 2022

Committee Members			
Scott Walker, Transportation Coord., Chairman, T.A.C.	1	Wyeth Friday, Director, Planning and Community Services	1
Tim Miller, Director YC Public Works Dept.	1	Mike Black, Civil Engineer, YC Public Works Dept.	1
Debi Meling, Public Works Director, City of Billings Engineering	1-V	Mac Fogelsong, City Engineer, City PW Engineering,	1
Rusty Logan, MET Transit Manger	1	Sarah Graham, MET Transit Planner	1
Katie Potts, Urban Planning Section, MDT		Clark Snyder, Environmental Health RiverStone Health	
Ken Winnegar, Urban Planning Section, MDT		Carol Strizich, Supervisor Urban Planning Section, MDT	1-V
Kurtis Schnieber, MDT		Carolyn Miller, FHWA	
Zach Kirkemo, MDT	1-V	Ryan Hammon, FHWA	
		Alan Woodmansey, FHWA	

Others Participating: Lisa Olmstead, Consultant, DOWL; Doug Enderson, DOWL

1. Call the meeting to order: 1:30 pm.

Transportation Coordinator Scott Walker called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm in the Miller Building 1st Floor Conference Room, 2825 3rd Ave North.

Scott Walker introduced Sarah Graham, who has been recently promoted to Transit Planner. MET Transit Manager Rusty Logan said Sarah was previously working with the grants and funding portion of the operation and they are lucky to have her.

- a. Comments on items not on the agenda and requests to add items to future agendas. There were no comments on items not on the agenda or requests for future agenda items.
- b. Comments on items non-public and public hearing agenda items. There were no comments on non-public or public hearing agenda items.

2. Minutes of September 22, 2022

Motion

Rusty Logan made a motion and it was seconded by Mike Black to approve the minutes of September 22, 2022 with the language clarification correction requested by Wyeth Friday on pages 2, 3. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

3. Old Business: There is no Old Business.

4. New Business

5a. Motion: Recommendation to City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. Presentation. Billings Community Transportation Safety Plan, (CTSP), Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Lisa Olmstead, DOWL Engineering, presenting.

Lora Mattox opened the agenda items and said this plan is an update to the 2017 CTSP plan. She said the process has went very well and she hopes they have good momentum going forward. Lora introduced consultant Lisa Olmsted, DOWL Engineering who gave the presentation below.

Introduction The Billings-Yellowstone County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is updating the 2016 Billings Community Transportation Safety Plan. The updated Billings community transportation safety plan (CTSP) will be developed by the Billings MPO, with assistance from DOWL, technical support from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), and an Advisory Committee (AC) of community leaders, safety partners, and stakeholders with the expertise and insight to identify community-specific emphasis areas, strategies, and action steps to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on roadways in Billings. The process will be a collaborative approach using the “Four Es” of transportation safety: Education, Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, and Engineering. The CTSP team will create a plan that reflects current trends and statistics of incidents and challenges in the City of Billings and will increase safety and work toward *Vision Zero – zero fatalities, zero serious injuries* in Montana. The plan will be updated using stakeholder input, comprehensive safety data analysis, consideration of best practices from national and local community safety programs, and identification of safety management strategies tailored to meet the unique needs of the Billings community. Ultimately, the plan will determine specific action steps to achieve the Billings Community’s transportation safety vision.

Project Team: CTSP Lead: Billings-Yellowstone County MPO, Consultant: DOWL-Lisa Olmsted, Doug Enderson, Sarah Patterson

CTSP Advisory Committee Members are representatives from: Billings Chamber of Commerce, Billings, City Council, Billings Clinic, Billings Fire Department, Billings Police Department, Billings Public Schools, Billings Public Works Department, MDT, Montana Highway Patrol, Healthy By Design, St Vincent Healthcare, YC Planning Board, and the Yellowstone County Sheriff’s Office

Notes on Crash Data Analysis: The crash reporting procedures change over the years. The MPO Boundary changed in 2016 and 2018. Data reported summarizes 2010-2019 crashes, analyzed using the latest boundary. The reporting is slightly different number of crashes when compared to the prior CTSP. Consideration is made as to what qualifies as a serious injury.

Number of Persons Involved in Crashes Each Year in Billings MPO 2005-2020- Over the last 5 years, approximately 6,600 persons were involved in crashes each year ranging from those with no apparent injury to those with a fatality.

Number of Persons Involved in Serious Crashes Each Year in Billings MPO- The Billings community achieved a 15% reduction in serious and fatal crash injuries. (Reduced from 67 in 2014 to 57 in 2019).

5-Year Comparisons: Crash Factors.

- **Types of Crashes that have declined:** Young Driver, Unbelted, Impaired, Run off the Road, Inattentive.
- **Types of Crashed that have plateaued or increased:** Intersection, Speed Related, Motorcycle, Pedestrian, Large Truck, Older Driver, Bicyclist

CTSP Emphasis Areas

- **Updated Vision Statement:** The Billings community will achieve zero fatalities and serious injuries through a culture of safety for all travelers.
- **Goal:** based on a 5-year rolling average, to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by 20% from 57 to 46 by the end of 2024.

Public Engagement Safety Summit to identify safety strategies, Public Meetings to collect public input, Website & Interactive Map, Community Outreach. www.BillingsCTSP.com

Safety Strategies

- 1) **Establish Transportation Safety Oversight Committee**
- 2) **Unrestrained Vehicle Occupants**
 - a. Support & enhance enforcement of seat belt and child safety seat laws
 - b. Increase youth and adult education to reinforce the importance of wearing a seat belt during every motor vehicle trip
 - c. Strengthen and support vehicle occupant protection laws
- 3) **Impaired Driving**
 - a. Expand awareness and access to safe transportation alternatives to decrease impaired driving
 - b. Reduce impaired driving through prevention education and training
 - c. Establish communication lines with safety partners to identify opportunities and increase probability for earlier intervention
- 4) **Inattentive Driving/Speeding**
 - a. Increase law enforcement staff to proactively enforce speed limits and current distracted driving laws

- b. Reduce speeding and distracted driving crashes through enhanced education
- c. Encourage the development of a statewide law banning the use of electronic devices while driving

CTSP Development Process: Preliminary Efforts, Public Involvement, Final Plan, Implementation & Reporting

Discussion

Scott Walker called for discussion from the members of the committee. In response to question by Mike Black, Lisa Olmstead referred to the chart trends depicted for the of number persons involved in crashes each year and clarified that the 6,600 statistic given is related to persons involved in crashes each year instead of vehicles. Doug Enderson said the 2021 crash data should be available as of October 2022. Lora Mattox pointed out that the overall statistics for serious crashes are trending down. Scott Walker said one of the study goals is to have the Oversight Committee keep these statistics in the forefront for the City and County governing bodies.

Mike Black asked how to these statistics will be used in correlation to project funding. Lora Mattox explained that this study is a little different as it points to the need for education within the MPO instead of capital or infrastructure projects. Lisa Olmstead said the study is the coordination piece connecting partners and resources together. Wyeth Friday said the City is increasing its traffic enforcement capabilities through the public safety mill levy which should continue this trend.

Motion

Motion by Tim Miller and seconded by Rusty Logan to forward a recommendation of approval of the Billings Community Transportation Safety Plan as presented by staff.

Discussion

Wyeth Friday said the critical piece of this study is the coordination of City and County governing bodies and keeping the partners active. This plan would be updated every 4 years.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5B. Public Hearing. Staff Presentation. Billings Bypass Corridor Study. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator. Lisa Olmstead, DOWL Engineering Consultant, presenting.

Scott Walker opened this agenda item and introduced consultant Lisa Olmstead, DOWL, gave the presentation below.

Background: The Billings Bypass project is a multi-phase project that will result in a new arterial roadway. The new road will begin at the Johnson Lane Interchange on Interstate 90 (I 90) in Lockwood, Montana, span the Yellowstone River, and connect to the Highway 312/Highway 87 intersection in the Billings Heights.

Billings Bypass Corridor Study Team: Study Lead: Billings-Yellowstone County MPO; Support: City of Billings, MDT; Consultant: DOWL

Billings Bypass versus Billings Bypass Corridor Study

Billings Bypass

Project Owner: Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

Purpose: Design and build new roadway

More info: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/billingsbypass/>

Billings Bypass Corridor Study

Project Owner: Billings Yellowstone County

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

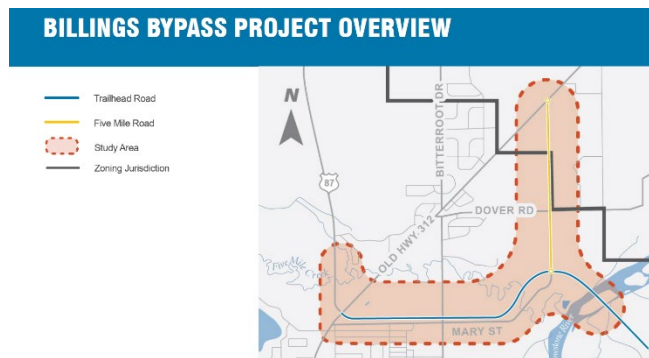
Purpose: Plan for growth anticipated to result from new roadway

More info: <https://www.billingsbypasscorridor.com>

Study Goals

- Document transportation system plans related to the new roadway, including access options, intersection designs, bicycle and pedestrian access, and multi-modal transportation safety
- Plan for future growth resulting from the new roadway and corresponding connectivity on the north side of the Yellowstone River
- Facilitate actionable public and stakeholder involvement
- Develop a guidance document that integrates existing infrastructure plans and future development plan

Corridor Study Content: Executive Summary, Introduction, Background, Transportation, Land Use, Private Utilities, Public Utilities, Floodplains, Drainage and Irrigation, Corridor Aesthetics and Vision



Reference Documents: 2016 City of Billings Growth Policy, City of Billings Zoning Code; Billings Heights Neighborhood Plan; Water/Wastewater Master Plan, Integrated Water Plan; Implementation Water Master Plan Update; County Water District of Billings Heights Standards, Rules, and Regulations; Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study; 2018 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan and MPO Travel Demand Model; 2018 Billings Fire Department Long Range Master Plan; Billings Visitor Profile: Final Report of Findings (January 2019)

Process/Public Involvement: Website, Public Meeting #1, Stakeholder Meetings, Public Meeting #2

Intersection Traffic Control: Trailhead Road, Five Mile Road

- **Discussion** was held regarding the intersection redesign of Bench Boulevard and Highway 312. Consultant Doug Enderson gave further information on how Mary Street, Bench Boulevard, and Trailhead Road will interact. He said he feels the public is anxious to see improvements.

Recommended Non-motorized Facilities: Trail recommendations, Bikeway Recommendations (Connection to Dover Park Trails, Connections to Future TEDD Trail)

Discussion

Wyeth Friday pointed out the lack of bike/pedestrian facilities along Mary Street. Scott Walker said the thought was to use Mary Street and at some future point create a separate bike facility or use striping to create a connection.

Corridor Development Recommendations: Respectful and thoughtful development; Affordable Housing; Mixed-use development (Live & Work Orientation); Quality of life amenities; Billings Heights Town Center

Discussion

Mike Black asked if there will guiding documents and access recommendations to the Planning Department. Lisa Olmstead said the Growth Policy would be the guiding document. Scott Walker said Shiloh Road has been used as an example and the hope is that this document will be used by staff and the general public. Tim Miller asked about projected traffic volumes. Lisa Olmstead they are included in the document.

Visuals Provided in the Corridor Study

Discussion

Scott Walker called for questions and discussion from the members of the Committee. He said this has been a good project. In response to question by Mike Black, Lora Mattox said this study costs in the range of \$125,000 and the process spanned about 1.5 years. Mike Black asked about levels of service. Scott Walker clarified and said the road study is completed. This study focuses on the corridor and it presents opportunities to identify locations for future developments. Mike Black agreed and said this study protects the corridor and sets the stage for planning. Scott Walker stated this study is a good first step to getting well thought out projects for future developments. Wyeth Friday said staff should use the study recommendations to relay to City and county governing bodies multi-modal information; the need for consideration for the annexation area and map amendments; and long term plans for utilities. Scott Walker said this area will be in transition for a long time. Mike Black said he applauds this effort and the study is a good tool to accommodate the development in this area.

Motion

Mike Black moved and Wyeth Friday seconded the motion to forward a recommendation of approval of Billings North Bypass Planning Study. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5c. Discussion. Adding Grand Avenue from Shiloh Road to 62nd Street West to the Urban System. Scott Walker, Transportation Coordinator, presenting.

Scott Walker opened this agenda item said this will be a two phase ask of the Federal Highway Commission with the first action being a formal recommendation to MDT for a system modification of Grand Avenue from Shiloh Road to 62nd Street West to an arterial status on the State network. This recommendation will be moved forward to PCC in February. Wyeth Friday pointed out the need for staff to provide explanation to the governing bodies the need for traffic safety, signalization, and pedestrian facilities with this project. Scott Walker said these details will come with the second ask. Wyeth Friday suggested using visuals for the presentations. Mike Black said the City and County have worked together on these pieces. Scott Walker concurred. He said this is a multi-jurisdictional project and it will be a huge piece in promoting traffic flow and connectivity. He explained that this request will move a formal project of the expansion of Grand Avenue to a three lane section with the City alignment out to 54th or 56th with sidewalk and continue the alignment to 62nd Street West. Scott Walker said the Federal Highway Commission needs the reasoning for this request and read aloud the following reasons:

- The west end of Billings is rapidly growing with lands abutting Grand Avenue seeing the most change in land use, from agricultural to commercial and residential
- The urban highway system is currently not serving the west end of Billings, beyond Shiloh Road
- To serve the residents, and support continued commercial and economic growth in a safe efficient manner
- Adding Grand and 62nd to the Urban highway system will provide for system continuity and connections to housing and employment

Motion

Motion by Tim Miller and seconded by Mike Black to forward a recommendation to add Grand Avenue from Shiloh Road to 62nd Street West to the Urban System as presented by Staff.

Discussion

Scott Walker reiterated that the system modification will make a connection from 62nd Street West to Rimrock Road to provide future continuity. Mike Black commented this is a logical extension of what has already been done.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5. Other Business

a. Update. Discussion. MET Transit. Rusty Logan, MET Transit Manager

- The Transit Asset Management (TAM Plan) and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) will need to be approved by TAC in 2023.



- The MET Triennial Review with FTA will be done in early 2023, and they will be here in the summer in person.
- The Transit Development Plan goes to PCC December 13, 2022 for final approval.
- There will be an upcoming TIP Amendment to include the recent MET competitive grant awards.

6. Future Agenda Items

ADJOURNMENT: 2:51 PM

DRAFT-TO BE APPROVED BY A MOTION DURING THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING— Tamara L Deines, Planning Clerk

<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Address/email</i>
Scott Walker	Planng.
WYBETH FREEMAN	JCSA
Rusty Logan	MET
Sarah Graham	MET
MAC FOGELSONER	ENGR.
Mike Black	Yellowstone County Public Works
Tim Miller	Yellowstone County
Lisa Olmstead, Dew Engineering	
Zach Kirkman (Virtual)	
Debi Mehlig (Virtual)	