



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 MEETING TIME: 12:00 pm
1st Floor Conference Room of 2825 3rd Ave. N

DRAFT

Call to order: Nikki Zimmer, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

Members present: Kristi Drake, City; Dave Coppock, Planning Board; Anna O'Donnell, City; Jason Wood, County; Joan Schey, County; Margy Bonner, City (attended virtually)

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Emma Hardy, Transportation Planning Intern; Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator, Steve McConnell, City Forester.

Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –**
Joan Schey, BPAC member, requested that a one of the bike racks Parks has be installed on the Kiwanis trail at Mary St. Anna O'Donnell, BPAC member, said that Director Pigg at Parks and Recreation could be contacted about installation.

Kristi Drake, BPAC member, brought up past agenda items of crime prevention and speed control. Kristi requested that reviewing the Billings TrailNet survey be added to future agendas.

Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, said that regarding crime prevention, the PD volunteer coordinator will come and talk to BPAC about trail patrol for the spring during the January BPAC meeting.

Elyse reached out to Cole McQuillan, the new Superintendent of Parks, in regard to the speed control in the underpass next to the big ditch trail under Shiloh. Cole had concerns that adding the jersey barriers would make it difficult to mow or plow snow, but Mike Pigg has given permission to set up a trail etiquette sign. Kristi brought up the idea of adding speed bumps, Joan suggested that speed bumps might be hard for people with walkers and wheelchairs. Margy Bonner, BPAC member, suggests painting a large "SLOW" on the sidewalk under the tunnel to control traffic there. Margy will send an example picture to the committee. The committee concluded that etiquette signs will be placed and then if that is not successful, other ideas will be presented. Kristi will reach out to the people who brought up the complaints about the e-bike speed and inform them of the committees' solution.

Kristi requested an installation date for the etiquette sign. Elyse said she will ask Mike Pigg for the date.

Kristi brought up adding dotted lines to separate walkers and bikers on multi-use trails would help protect both walkers and bikers, the committee agreed that could be a viable solution in the future.

Anna requested to add discussing presenting to the Council and Commissioners.

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

Elyse said that a student at Central High brought up a concern about a faded crosswalk on Broadwater. Elyse sent the request to the Street and Traffic Division, and it will be repainted in the spring.

Elyse shared Kathy Aragon said that a student was struck on Rimrock going to Highland school. Kathy has requested more crosswalks on Rimrock. Public Works is aware of the desire from several residents for more crosswalks on Rimrock and has been studying the issue.

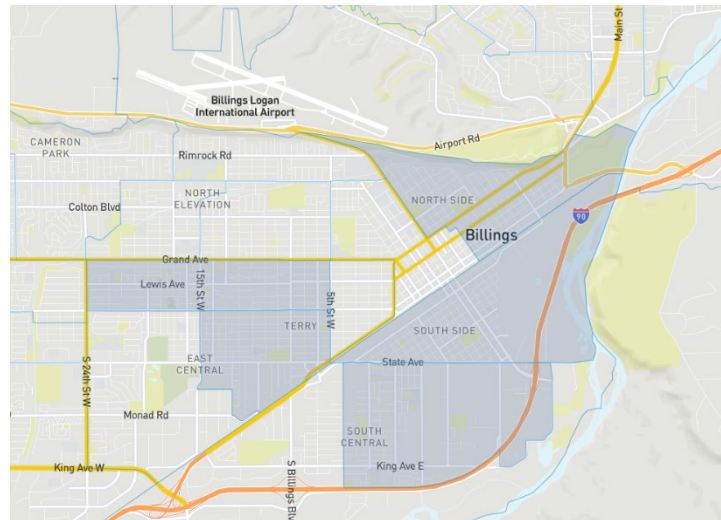
Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of March 28, 2022: Dave Coppock, BPAC member, moved to accept the minutes. Joan Schey, BPAC member, seconded. All voted in favor.

New Business:

a. Tree Planting/Trails

Steve McConnell, City Forester, spoke on the one-million-dollar Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Urban Forestry Grant and the future of urban forestry for Billings. Steve said he plans to reorganize urban forestry and manage it more effectively and efficiently. As of now, Steve said he can only plant in specific areas of the City as shown in the map below, but in the future, he would like to expand to planting on trails and he is open to suggestions. Steve informed the committee that in the designated grey areas below trees can be planted without a dollar match from the city.

IRA Grant Project Area
Map (in grey)



Website:

<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#8.99/45.7762/-108.512>

Steve told the committee that a well-treed city can reduce crime, reduce heat islands, slow traffic, increase prosperity, improve quality of life, etc. He also informed the committee that there is split management in urban forestry. Parks and Recreation are

responsible for trees in city parks and cemeteries, and Public Works is responsible for trees on boulevards.

Steve also informed the committee that Billings does not have a complete citywide tree inventory, a tree board, or an urban forest management plan. Steve said they are working to establish a tree board if anyone on BPAC is interested in joining.

Anna requests adding looking over the IRA Grant Project Area map to a future agenda. The committee agreed.

Old Business:

a. Sidewalk Funding Research

The committee discussed the sidewalk funding research they had gathered (see shared document for all research). Dave said he did not get any meaningful information back, but he has rephrased his question and is waiting to hear back. Nikki said that in Bismark one hundred percent of the funding for sidewalks comes from property owners, so they had no suggestions for funding sources. Kristi said that the politician that she contacted in Reno did not answer the question directly, but she did suggest various other ways to fund sidewalks, like a hotel tax. Dave suggested a casino tax. Kristi said that property owners in Missoula cap out at \$3,500 and then the city pays the rest.

b. Review and mapping of PD crash data

See report for cash data.

Other Business:

Joan requested information about whether a park along the Rims is on City or private property. Elyse said that she will help Joan figure it out after the meeting.

Elyse announced that the Ped/Bike Master Plan Open House is on 11/29/23 at 5:30 pm. Kristi announced that there is a ribbon cutting for the Skyline trail on 12/7/23 at 2:00 pm. Kristi brought up that the bond for parks and trails did not pass so she is raising money for help fund the Stagecoach Trail. They have already committed \$100,000 and are trying to raise another \$50,000 and are getting close to meeting their goal.

Kristi brought up that the three-bike repair stands that she and Jason Wood, BPAC member, got a grant for have arrived. Kristi said they have to wait a year to install one on the Skyline trail, and Jason is waiting to hear from the County Parks Board about when they can install one in Zimmerman Park. One bike repair stand does not have a definite location yet and Kristi suggested doing a poll to determine where it will be installed. Jason suggested putting it at Swords Park, Anna suggested somewhere on Shiloh Road. Jason thought that Swords would reach a lower-income part of our community.

Kisti brought up the lack of an accessible ramp at the south end of Landon's Legacy Park. Elyse talked with Mike Pigg he said the location is not in a park and said to talk to Public Works.

Margy Bonner announced that the concrete panels on the Big Ditch trail have been fixed.

Future agenda items: Future agenda items are noted in other sections above

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

City	Funding mechanism	Options for residents	Problems	Considerations
Helena	adjacent property owner is responsible for the sidewalk, curb & gutter	10 year no interest sidewalk program loan but it is only funded to \$150K/yr	pay up front when project is complete	possibility of a Sidewalk Maintenance district(s), similar to our Street Maintenance District assessment
	Streets budget to upgrade ADA corner ramps with any mill/fill projects since those upgrades are required by federal law			
Great Falls				looking at the same issue and trying to find funding source other than property owners
Missoula	The portion assessed to the property owner only includes the sidewalk and associated work. \$0 - \$1,000 – City pays \$1,000 - \$8,000 – 50/50 split with property owner \$8,000 - \$22,000 – City pays			
	The gutter, asphalt patch back, boulevard and trees, etc are all covered by the city. This ensures that the most a property owner will pay is \$3,500 (that 50/50 split for costs between \$1,000 and \$8,000).			
Bozeman	city funds ADA ramps and corners + major boulevards			
Boise (Ana)				
Reno (Kristi)	Street repair program (small) small assessment for small area. Old area- new sidewalks: with street repair. One time- did sidewalk replacement 50% paid by homeowners. Community Development Block Grant for spot improvements. Indexed gas tax. Set asides.			
Bend (Dave)				
Bismarck (Nikki)	100% the responsibility of the property owner	10 year special assessment if needed		may be some low income programs for those are unable to pay but did not go into detail
Options:	community development block grants- used for sidewalks. Remodel or new: ordinance to build sidewalk. With development.			
	hotel tax			
	fuel tax			
	federal money			
	MDOT- safe route to school			
	low income: bring in CDBG			
	cobble all together			
	MPO- set aside (buy down 10 years of sidewalk gaps)			