



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 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; Stephanie Donovan, City
- Others present:** Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator; members of the public as listed on the sign in sheet.

Public Comment Period:

- a. Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –**
Susan Andersen, a member of the public reported witnessing an incident where a man biking north on the west side of the Shiloh bike path was hit while crossing the Monad roundabout. The yellow crosswalk signs were in use at the time. She suggested installing a yield or stop sign at that location for increased safety. Anna O'Donnell, a BPAC Member, requested her name and number for future contact.

Hank Jagodzinski also spoke about the dangers of pedestrian crossings in roundabouts. He noted that most drivers feel they have the right of way and inquired about the safety features of future roundabouts. He pointed out that many roundabout designs, such as those in the Netherlands, offer better bicycle protection and safety features.

- b. Online comments and comments received by the Active Transportation Planner –**
None

Approval of the meeting minutes of February 27, 2024: Dave Coppock, BPAC member, moved to accept the minutes. Kristi Drake, BPAC member, seconded. All voted in favor.

Old Business:

- a. Mapping March, April, May pedestrian/bicycle crashes. BPAC member discussing.**
The committee reviewed crashes from March, April, and May. Lora Mattox, Transportation Planning Coordinator, said that Emma Hardy would map the crashes on the digital crash data map.
- b. Discussion Update. Letter of support for subdivision regulation updates. BPAC members discussing.**

Stephanie Donovan, BPAC member, updated the committee on the progress of writing the letter of support. She mentioned that Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, informed her that there are already subdivision regulations for pathways going through cul-de-sacs. Elyse also suggested including a broader statement about strong active communities at the end of the letter. Stephanie made these adjustments based on Elyse's feedback, and the letter is now ready for delivery. Lora volunteered to deliver and present the letter to the Planning Board.

c. Public Comment – none

New Business:

a. Active Transportation Planner report

Lora informed the committee about the Commuter Challenge, which starts on June 1. The kickoff event will be held at the Billings Public Library on June 4 and will feature events, food, ice cream, and a tour of the light bike trail. More information is available at <https://www.billingscommuterchallenge.com/>

Lora said that second phase of public outreach for the Pedestrian Bicycle Masterplan will start around the end of June. This phase will include a popup protected bike lane on Poly near Rocky to demonstrate a high-comfort bike facility, accompanied by extensive public outreach.

Lora then informed the committee that Mobilize the Magic City, the public art project, has installed two art pieces. Lora said that there was a ribbon cutting for the piece near Mckinley elementary school and the event was well attended. The third art piece will be installed next to North Park and the ribbon cutting will be held on June 22.

The Safe Streets for All grant, which funds the Safe Routes to School plan and the bikeway project, is currently under federal review.

Finally, Kids in Motion had their final event last week. Elyse will bring statistics and information about the events to the next meeting.

b. Public Comment

Hank had a question about the logistics of the popup protected bikeway. Lora directed him to ask Elyse when she returns.

Other Business:

a. Two-way conversion discussion and back-in angle street parking

Stephanie relayed that the letter has been sent out to Council regarding the two-way conversion. She suggested staying in touch with engineering and the council as there may be future conflicts with businesses that oppose back-in angle parking. Anna O'Donnell acknowledged the safety concerns and potential economic impact on businesses due to back-in angle parking and recommended discussing it with business owners. Stephanie emphasized the importance of protecting the protected lanes and cycle tracks throughout this project and agreed with Anna on the need to speak with store owners to create potential compromises.

Anna inquired about the hesitation in the previous council meeting regarding the implementation of the two-way conversion. Lora explained that the hesitation was related

to funding sources, but due to an increase in funds, it is being reconsidered tonight at the council meeting.

Kristi asked if anyone from BPAC plans to attend the City Council meeting to support the two-way conversion and protected bike lane. Nikki Zimmer, BPAC Chair, volunteered to represent BPAC. Kristi said she would also attend representing Billings Trail Net. Stephanie also volunteered to attend and make a public comment, essentially reiterating the letter.

b. Concerns about stagecoach trail parking

Anna mentioned there have been concerns about the Stagecoach Trail, specifically regarding parking from the neighborhood below Zimmerman. Kristi clarified that the trail has not been designed yet. Lora added that there will be no designated parking in that area, and people using the stagecoach trail are more likely to park at Zimmerman Park.

c. Striping Big-Ditch Trail

Kristi asked if it would be worthwhile to try securing funding for striping the Big Ditch Trail. Lora responded that there might be some pushback, but it is still worth trying.

Future agenda items:

a. Round-a-bout Safety

Kristi suggested adding roundabout safety to next month's agenda. Stephanie recommended that all BPAC members do some research on improving roundabout safety. For example, Anna suggested placing lights further down the streets to give drivers more time to slow down or stop for pedestrians, and Stephanie recommended changing the lights from yellow to red. Stephanie then suggested potentially including this issue in the PSA campaign.

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

