



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2025 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am
Beartooth Conference Room, 5th Floor, 316 N 26th St.

Call to order: Dave Coppock, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:32 am.

Members present: Jason Wood, County; Stephanie Donovan, City; Anna O'Donnell, City, Kristy Halderman, City.

Others present: Elyse Monat, 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, remarked that she was still concerned about the crossings of the shared use path on Shiloh going in as part of the new development by Costco. She stated that the owner of Meadowlark Brewing was also concerned. Elyse Monat, Transportation Planner, said she would pass the concerns along to Engineering. Stephanie Donovan, BPAC member, mentioned a new Parkline Trail in Kalispell has red flashing lights for pedestrians which is highly visible. Elyse shared that pedestrian hybrid beacons are significantly higher cost. Changes to the devices that are currently there, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs), would be outside of the regulations provided by the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) and would require going through the Federal Highway Administration.

Kristy Halderman, BPAC Member, wants to look at crash data and which intersections may be most hazardous based on how many accidents are documented.

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

A parent at Arrowhead Elementary shared concerns with Elyse about U-turns on 38th St. W near Arrowhead Elementary. Elyse shared this with engineering, and notes it is a concern noted within Safe Routes to School plans already.

A resident is concerned about sale of City property including Rimrock Park which they felt could be a parking lot for the future Stagecoach trail. Anna mentioned a neighborhood concern about volume of cars around the top of Zimmerman Trail, potentially needing buffering.

Elyse received a call about a broken shared use path on Alkali Creek Road near Moccasin, and City of Billings Engineering plans to send an inspector to look at the trail and take action if needed.

Motion: Approval of the meeting minutes of February 25, 2025: Anna motioned to approve the minutes. Stephanie Donovan, BPAC member, seconded. All voted in favor.

Old Business:

a. Presentation to the governing bodies

BPAC asked about the status of the 2025 Billings Area Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. Elyse explained that several different bodies vote to forward a recommendation on the plan to the Policy Coordinating Committee that makes the final vote. The Planning Board voted to forward a recommendation of approval and the County Commissioners voted to forward a recommendation of plan denial. A vote on the Plan was tabled by City Council, and then was not removed from the table at the most recent meeting. Stephanie asked if there was any attempt to make edits to the plan to make it something the Council would approve. Elyse said that there was not much discussion from the Council on what could be improved and with the failure to remove the topic from the table, the Council has not expressed interest in discussing the plan further. Jason clarified that the 2017 plan will stay in place. Kristy asked how much of the 2017 plan was still relevant. Elyse said the 2025 plan attempted to be more strategic in its recommendations and provide more flexibility.

The group discussed if they wanted to present to the governing bodies. The Council presentation was moved to June 2nd due to the meeting agenda being too long for the original date. Kristy shared the current presentation with members and asked for edits. Elyse mentioned that the bike lane and trail counts will be available for the committee to use. The group discussed completing a survey between now and the presentation so that they could share those results with the governing bodies. Dave added that placing QR codes around trails could offer opportunities to get the survey out to the community. BPAC decided they would still like to present to the governing bodies and felt June would be a good time. Jason, BPAC Member, agreed to present in June to the Commissioners, and mentioned emphasizing trails getting use, which is valuable for showing that funds are being used effectively. The Planning Board presentation will remain on May 13.

b. PD Crash Mapping

Members reviewed data listed from the December 2024-February 2025 crashes involving people biking and walking. For an incident on Monad and S 29th St, Stephanie pointed out that this is where a bike lane ends. Jason was unsure if data including a person filling up their tire is necessary to map. Dave point out, for the case of N 29th and 2nd Ave N in December or 2024, people should refrain from riding on sidewalks downtown in general.

c. Transportation Planner Report

Elyse shared the following updates with BPAC:

- The Rose Park Trail bids came in under, so the trail will be constructed this summer.

- 21st St. Underpass study will be starting soon. Elyse thanked Stephanie for serving on that committee.
- Several proposals were received for the Safe Routes to School education campaign. Proposals are being evaluated now, and a consultant will be selected shortly. Elyse will ask soon if any BPAC members would like to serve on the committee for this project.
- Zoo Drive Improvement Open House from MDT – Wednesday, April 2 from 2-5 pm at the Hampton Inn& Suites (Madison Room), 3350 Ember Lane
- Two-Way restoration project open house – Thursday, April 10, 4 – 6 pm at Downtown Billings Association (102 N. 29th St.)

Other Business:

a. Big Ditch Trail

Anna asked about the Big Ditch Trail that appears upheveled around Rimrock West Parks. Elyse thought this was fixed a few years ago. Anna said it is still uneven, so Elyse will inform the Parks and Recreation Department of this concern.

Future Agenda Items:

The presentations to governing bodies will be kept on the agenda for future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm. Jason moved to adjourn; Anna seconded. All voted in favor.

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