



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 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 11:31 am.

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

Others present: Elyse Monat, Transportation Planner; Robby Gress, Transportation Planning Intern; Tate Johnson, Neighborhood Planner.

The group began with introductions. Elyse Monat, Transportation Planner, introduced Robby Gress as the new Transportation Planning Intern and Tate Johnson as the new Neighborhood 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, noted that the Big Ditch trail still has lips on it. Elyse mentioned Parks is hiring a contractor to take of these uneven sections, along with a package of other trail/sidewalk repairs. Anna also asked about the stop signs along the Shiloh trail at the development south of Hesper. Elyse said the City requested that the developers move the stop signs to the west side of the trail, and she would follow up on this with Engineering on this topic.

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

Elyse mentioned a resident wrote in with a comment stating cars driving down Prestwick Dr. in Briarwood drive too fast with kids and dog walkers present. The issue was sent into Public Works. Anna mentioned it might be county issue.

Motion: Approval of the meeting minutes of April 22, 2025: During discussion of the minutes from April, Anna mentioned an issue a resident wrote in about on 54th St. W. Anna requested that the cross street (Fieldstone) be added to the minutes. Elyse said she would get this added to the minutes. Elyse noted that most funding for crosswalks is going to those listed in the Safe

Routes to School Plans at this time, but that there is a project in the City's Capital Improvement Plan to redo 54th St. W and crosswalks might be added at this time.

Anna mentioned that there are no crosswalks on N. 32nd St. Elyse noted there would be a crosswalk at N. 32nd St. and Parkhill Dr added as part of the Safe Streets for All project. Anna motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Jason Wood, County member, seconded. All voted in favor.

Old Business:

a. Presentation to the governing bodies

Anna suggested visual edits for the presentation.

Anna noted that BPAC should advocate use of proper trail behavior.

BPAC members made other adjustments to the presentation file, which were reflected in the final presentation.

The group decided to remove partial data from 2025 since the year is not over yet.

The BPAC members discussed the relevance and positions of collision heat map and other crash maps in presentation. Dave suggested BPAC could say they were still figuring out how to use this information in terms of what recommendations to make. BPAC adjusted the positions of the collision heat map and the general map of crash locations in the presentation.

Dave Coppock, BPAC chair, mentioned that there are more bike lanes and trails on the West End and also fewer crashes in that area. BPAC members discussed how the pedestrian and bicycle counts are collected and how to display them during the presentation. The group decided to keep/add the bike lane and trail counts in the presentation. Stephanie Donovan, BPAC member, said it would be helpful to have counts on the new bike lanes downtown and Elyse said the City would be installing permanent counters on these bike lanes thanks to a donation from Billings TrailNet.

Stephanie and Dave discussed their how they would split up the presentation for their presentation to the Planning Board. They decided Dave would give the introduction and Stephanie talk about the maps.

Stephanie suggested mentioning turn and hits during the presentation. The group also discussed crashes at roundabouts. Elyse mentioned that roundabout collisions severity may be less due to vehicle speed and angles.

b. PD Crash Mapping

BPAC examined bicycle and pedestrian collisions with vehicles from April.

BPAC discussed the cause and location of each collision report.

Kristy Halderman, BPAC member, wondered what the procedure for was pursuing a fleeing driver was after being involved in a reported collision. Dave commented that the cyclists and pedestrians might be the ones reporting most of the incidents.

BPAC members touched on multiple points causing vehicle pedestrian collisions, including distracted drivers, distracted pedestrians and a lack of walking and biking amenities.

BPAC members stated that the lack of lighting in certain areas on roadways might cause more accidents where pedestrians dressed in dark colors at night are at more risk.

BPAC members noted that the intersection at Wick and Main Street accounts for many of the collisions with pedestrians.

Anna stated that it is the drivers' duty to look both ways for vehicles and pedestrians crossing the street before attempting to turn.

Stephanie noted that the number of drivers that flee after a collision has risen over the past few years, there are a lot of turn-and-hits, and a lot of close calls. Dave mentioned that pedestrians also disobey traffic laws which leads to more collisions.

BPAC discussed that it was important to mention that sometimes pedestrians and cyclists are at fault, to avoid appearing biased.

c. Transportation Planner Report

The Transportation Alternative program grant applications are going through review. As a reminder, the MPO received two applications, one from Yellowstone County for the Johnson Lane Sidewalk Connector Project, and one for a suite of Safe Routes to School projects from the City of Billings.

The amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program to complete economic analysis of complete streets was approved locally. Staff are waiting for approval from the Federal Highways Administration. Elyse will begin on the scope of work soon.

Staff are also working on developing this year's UPWP. It determines what the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will work on for the fiscal year starting October 1. Some possibilities include:

- a. Household travel survey
- b. Corridor study on Wicks Lane from Hawthorne to Bitterroot
- c. Corridor study on Monad from Daniels to Moore Lane

Staff are conducting multimodal planner interviews. They hope to hire someone soon and then that person will take over BPAC. Elyse and the new person will overlap while the new person gets up to speed.

Highway 3 public meeting - The *Montana 3 Billings Corridor Study* will develop a plan for managing the corridor and identify opportunities to improve the corridor based on needs, public and agency input, and financial feasibility. As part of the study, MDT will also develop an Access Management Plan for the Montana Highway 3 (MT 3) corridor Billings commuter challenge kickoff.

Other Business: None

Future Agenda Items:

Elyse mentioned the possible presentation/discussion with the Billings Police department at the next BPAC meeting to give more insight into crash and accident data.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm. Anna moved to adjourn; Jason seconded. All voted in favor.