



YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF PLANNING

CITY OF BILLINGS AND
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA



AGENDA

FEBRUARY 11, 2025 MEETING TIME: 6:00 p.m.
3rd Floor Conference Room
316 N 26th St, Billings MT

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>
- 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 the Board via email before 12:00 pm on the meeting date. All emails received prior to this time will be entered into the record for the public hearing. Comments may be submitted by:
 - Mail: City/County Planning Division PO Box 1178, Billings MT 59103
 - Email: plnonline@billingsmt.gov
 - NOTICE: All meetings and official activities of the MPO are held in buildings and locations that comply with accessibility standards according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A TTY number for the hearing impaired, 406-657-3079, is available upon request. Special arrangements for participation in the public hearings by individuals with hearing, speech, or vision impairment may be made upon request at least three days prior to the hearing. Please notify the Planning Division Office, at 406-247-8610.
- **In the event a quorum of the Council is present, no City-related decisions will be made during this meeting or event.

1. **CALL TO ORDER - Planning Board President:** Welcome and Introduction of new and returning Board Members.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - including any additions or deletions to agenda.
3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**
Attachments
Minutes of January 28, 2025
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** -- As required (3 minute maximum per person). *Any member of the public may be heard on any subject that is not on the agenda. The Planning Board will not take any action on these items at this time, but could choose to add an item to the next meeting's agenda for discussion.*
 - 4a) **Comments on items not on agenda and requests to add items to future agendas**
 - 4b) **Comments on items on the non-public hearing agenda items**
5. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
6. **DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION**
7. **OLD BUSINESS** (Agenda items that were not discussed or not completed in a previous meeting or items requiring action).
 - a. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES.** The County Planning Board welcomes public input on matters brought before the Board. To ensure a fair and effective public comment process, we ask that you consider the following guidelines when presenting your comments: Address the Planning Board directly. You must state your name and address before commenting. This is an opportunity to explain how you will be affected by the decision and why that is an important consequence. By state law, the Planning Board must consider only certain criteria when reviewing subdivisions (76-3-608(a), MCA). Please see the attached guidelines for the criterion. Thank you for participating!

- b. **Public Hearing. Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. Elyse Monat, Transportation Planner**

Attachments

Ped/Bike Plan

- 8. **NEW BUSINESS:** (Agenda items new to this meeting).

- a. **Presentation. West Billings Groundwater Study Modeling Results - Elizabeth Meredith, Hydrogeologist, Ground Water Investigation Program, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology**

- 9. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- a. (Standing Item) Long Range Strategic Issues and an overview of future City and County issues and projects.

- 10. **ADJOURNMENT**

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

3rd Floor Conference Room

316 N 26th St, Billings MT



Public Hearing Participation Guidelines

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The County Planning Board welcomes public input on matters brought before the Board. To ensure a fair and effective public comment process, we ask that you consider the following guidelines when presenting your comments: **Address the Planning Board directly. You must state your name and address before commenting.** This is an opportunity to explain how you will be affected by the decision and why that is an important consequence. Be informed of the process and the requirements of the Board. If you are commenting about a subdivision, please limit your comments to the review criteria.

By state law, the Planning Board must consider only certain criteria when reviewing subdivisions (76-3-608(a), MCA). These criteria include: Effect on agriculture and agricultural water user facilities; Effect on local services; Effect on the natural environment; Effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat; Effect on public health and safety.

Provide specific information about why you are concerned about the pending application, how the decision will impact the review criteria listed above, and provide suggestions on how to minimize or eliminate the impact.

Respect the right of others to participate. Wait until the previous speaker has completed their comments before making your own comments. Do not talk over the person commenting or with other people in attendance.

The public hearing is not an opportunity to question or accuse the applicant or their agent. If you have questions of the Board, the applicant or the agent, ask questions directly to the Board during the public hearing portion of the meeting. The Board will respond or request the applicant or agent to respond after the public comment portion of the hearing is closed.

After the public comment portion of the hearing is closed, no further comments are allowed unless you are addressed directly by a Board member.

You should expect the Board to make a balanced recommendation in accordance with its statutory responsibilities. The Board's ability to make reasonable and thoughtful recommendations is dependent on a fair consideration of everyone's interests.

Thank you for participating.

Date: 02/11/2025
Title:
Presented by:
Department: Planning & Community Services
Presentation:

Information

RECOMMENDATION

MEETING MINUTES: January 28, 2025

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

ALTERNATIVES

City Council may:

- Approve; or,
- Not Approve

FISCAL EFFECTS

Attachments

Minutes of January 28, 2025

CITY/COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:00pm

	Position	01/14/2025	01/28/2025	02/11/2025	02/25/2025	03/11/2025	03/26/2025	04/09/2025	04/22/2025	05/13/2025	05/28/2025	06/10/2025	06/24/2027	07/08/2025	07/22/2025	08/12/2025	08/26/2025	09/09/2025	09/23/2025	10/14/2025	10/28/2025	11/12/2025	11/26/2025	12/09/2025	12/23/2025
Jim Ronquillo	Billings Ward I	1	A																						
Roger Gravgaard President	Billings Ward II	1	1																						
Dennie Stephenson	Billings Ward III	1	1																						
John Staley Vice President	Billings Ward IV	V	1																						
David Nordel	Billings Ward V	A	V																						
Troy Boucher	YC District 1	A	A																						
Dennis Cook	YC District 2	A	1																						
Vacant	YC District 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vacant	YC District 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woody Woods	YC District 5	1	1																						
Alexis Bonogofsky	YC District 6	1	1																						
Morgan Tuss	YC District 7	A	A																						
Vacant	Y County Cons. District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scott Reiter	Ex-Officio SD2	A																							

Please note: "A" stands for excused absence, "1" stands for present, "V" stands for Zoom participation.

Call the Meeting to Order: President Gravgaard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

Introduction of Planning Board Members and Planning Department Staff

President Gravgaard called for introductions of the members of the Planning Board and staff.

Participating Planning staff members: Wyeth Friday, Planning & Community Services Director; Anna Vickers, Planning Division Manager; Dave Green, Planner; Hunter Kelly, Planner; Brenda Berns, Planning Clerk

1. Others in Attendance: Dennis Randall, Gary Armstrong, Gary Owen, Taylor Kasperick, Ronni Tallerico, John Halverson, Aaron Redland, Lynne Taylor, Greg McCall

2. Approval of Agenda: The board approved the agenda as presented by unanimous consent.

Motion

Motion made by Board member Staley, seconded by Board member Stephenson to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. Approval of Minutes: January 14, 2025

Motion

Motion made by Board member Stephenson, seconded by Board member Cook to approve the minutes of January 14, 2025 as submitted. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

4. Public Comment: As required (3 minutes maximum per person). Any member of the public might be heard on any subject that is not on the agenda. The Planning Board will not take any action on these items at this time but could choose to add an item to the next meeting agenda for discussion. There were no comments from the public.

5- 6. Disclosure of Outside (Ex-Parte) Communication or Conflicts of Interest.

There were no disclosures.

7. Old Business

8. Public Hearing

b. Annafeld Subdivision 6th - Preliminary Major Plat Review and Board Discussion.

The proposed subdivision creates 87 lots for development. The subject property is generally located south of Elysian Road and east of East Lane. The property is zoned PUD and is currently vacant. TAX ID: A37619

Hunter Kelly mentioned that phase 1 of the development will consist of 49 single-family homes and 22 townhomes, while phase 2 will add 15 more single-family lots. The full buildout of the project is expected to generate a total of 762 average weekday trips. An annexation petition is also being processed to bring areas outside the city limits into the City. Both the development and annexation proposals will be presented together at the City Council meeting on February 24, 2025. The project is planned to be completed in three phases, with construction scheduled to begin immediately and continue until November 1, 2030.

Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed subdivision, subject to the four (4) conditions of approval as presented in the staff report. City Council will review and act on the preliminary plat on February 24, 2025.

Questions:

Board member Bonogofsky requested clarification on the funds allocated for traffic improvements at intersections. Mr. Kelly explained that the funds are determined based on a percentage and are reserved specifically for those improvements.

Gary Owen, Sanbell stated that they calculated the cash based on the traffic impact study and create a percentage of the proportionate amount of vehicles attributable to the subject subdivision.

Board member Staley asked who maintains the city parks. Mr. Owen stated the maintenance is covered by a private parks maintenance district.

Greg McCall of McCall Homes mentioned that the parks were originally public but have since been returned to private status and are now maintained by the HOA. Board member Staley expressed appreciation for their commitment to the parks.

President Gravgaard opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. President Gravgaard closed the public hearing.

Motion

Motion made by Board member Staley, seconded by Board member Woods to recommend approval and forward to City Council. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

c. High Sierra Subdivision 22nd - Preliminary Major Plat Review and Board Discussion.

The subdivision creates 76 lots for residential development. The subject property is generally located north of Matador Avenue, west of Modera Avenue & Ortega Street, and east of High Sierra Subdivision 14th filing. The property is zoned Neighborhood 3 (N3). Tax ID: A37726

Dave Green provided a brief overview of the development. The current zoning, N3, permits larger single-family lots. The applicant is proposing a cash payment in lieu of parkland, as there is a 5-acre park located south of the property. The streets will extend throughout the subdivision and into the next filing. All utilities will be provided by the City, and a masterplan storm drainage system is in place to effectively manage the additional water flow generated by the development.

Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed subdivision, subject to the five (5) conditions of approval as presented in the staff report. City Council will review and act on the preliminary plat on February 24, 2025.

Landy Leep, High Sierra; Mr. Leep stated this is another phase that will connect to the next phase with 40-60 homes being built per year.

President Gravgaard opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. President Gravgaard closed the public hearing.

Motion

Motion made by Board member Stephenson, seconded by Board member Woods to recommend approval and forward to City Council. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

d. Platinum Commercial Park Subd- Preliminary Major Plat Review and Board Discussion.

The subdivision creates 14 lots for commercial/industrial development. The subject property is generally located on the northeast corner of the intersection of South 72nd Street and Danford Road. The property is outside of County Zoning jurisdiction.

Dave Green gave an overview of the development. Mr. Green stated the subject property has been used for farming purposes, there will be no effect on the water users downstream from this property. The subdivision will be served by individual wells or alternative water source and wastewater disposal systems as submitted and approved by MDEQ. Access to the subdivision shall be from proposed approaches on Danford Road and South 72nd Street West. An RSID will be created to maintain the roads. The property is within the BUFSA boundary and will have a dry hydrant tank installed. The storm water drainage will be collected onsite using a combination of swales and the natural slope of the land. This proposed commercial/industrial subdivision will not have an impact on schools and is not required to provide parkland.

Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed subdivision, subject to the seven (7) conditions of approval as presented in the staff report. The Board of County Commissioners are scheduled to review and act on the preliminary plat on February 18, 2025.

The applicant is requesting two variances as a part of the proposed subdivision.

A Variance is requested from the requirement to provide connections to adjacent properties in relation to the subject area's eastern boundary. The proposed use of this subdivision will be commercial and industrial, so by limiting/omitting connection to 68th Street West, heavy truck and equipment traffic associated with these uses will not unduly be mixed with residential traffic along 68th Street West.

A second Variance is requested from the 600' minimum spacing of connections to adjacent properties in relation to the property to the north of the proposed subdivision. A connection to the adjacent property to the north is proposed with the subdivision (Palladium Way) which will enable connection to the adjacent parcel for residents and owners to utilize to go from one subdivision to the other if desired. As the proposed subdivision is intended to be utilized for commercial and industrial uses, limiting the number of connections to the adjacent property to the north will actually serve to potentially limit having heavy truck and equipment traffic intermingling with residential traffic.

Questions:

Board member Bonogofsky inquired about the definition of "impact" on agriculture and the justification for denying a subdivision. Mr. Friday responded It is hard to gauge what constitutes impact on agriculture as we also have to be cognizant of right to develop private property. Adding that while the community is supportive of preservation, there is currently no mechanism in place to collaborate with local agricultural providers.

Ms. Vickers said that the subdivision review criteria within state code talks about reviewing subdivisions with specific, documentable, and clearly defined impact on agriculture, agriculture water user facilities, local services, the natural environment, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and public health and safety, but specifically further states, “excluding any consideration of whether the proposed subdivision will result in a loss of agricultural soils.” While it’s hard to evaluate the impact on agriculture as Wyeth stated, the state law specifically states that loss of agricultural soils is not a valid reason to deny a subdivision.

Board member Staley sought clarification on adding signage along 72nd, a main arterial road from Grand Ave., expressing concern about truck traffic and its potential impact on the high-speed flow of additional traffic. Mr. Kasperick explained that the traffic impact study takes into account the road's speed, turning elements, and the projected number of trips. A calculation, based on a percentage of these factors, helps determine the need for additional turn lanes and signage.

Ms. Vickers clarified with Mr. Kasperick that approach permits for individual lots had not yet been obtained. She mentioned that the County could implement truck signs through a resolution with the Commissioners, if needed. While the subdivision regulations do not permit it, the issue would typically be evaluated during the approach permits process. The developers will also be creating CCRs for the subdivision and plan to occupy a unit within the commercial park.

President Gravgaard opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. President Gravgaard closed the public hearing.

Motion

Motion made by Board member Stephenson, seconded by Board member Woods to recommend conditional approval with the finding of facts and requested variances and forward to County Commissioners. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

President Gravgaard asked for the boards discussion to be captured within the staff report and meeting minutes. Ms. Vickers affirmed that it would be provided to the County Commissioners.

9. Other Business

Upcoming Items in 2025

Mr. Friday noted that several items are currently in progress. The department is completing a review of 2024 to provide an update on recent activities, which will be presented to the Planning Board at the end of the month. A contract will also be submitted to the City Council to support the implementation of the

Montana Land Use Map, starting in February 2025. Additionally, starting in March, meetings will be held on the 5th floor, with the exact conference room locations to be announced.

10. Future Agenda Items

February 11, 2025 - Presentation on the West End Groundwater Study from the Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology.

Staff is continuing to monitor the federal freeze on funds and various Senate bills in legislation that may have an impact, but there is nothing specific to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:09PM

Draft to be approved by motion at the next scheduled meeting.

Brenda J Berns, Planning Clerk

Planning Board

Date: 02/11/2025
Title: Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Review and Public Hearing
Presented by: Elyse Monat
Department: Planning & Community Services
Presentation: Yes

Information

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning Board (PB) receive a presentation of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, and conduct a public hearing to collect public testimony regarding the Master Plan. The Planning Board at its February 25th meeting will take formal action on the plan to forward a recommendation to the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC).

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

The Billings Yellowstone County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) conducted a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (Plan) with Alta Planning + Design as the prime consultant and Sanbell as the sub-consultant. The Plan sought to identify and prioritize projects that will improve the safety and convenience of walking, biking, and rolling in the Billings area, and establish strategies for implementing the projects and programs in the future. The six chapters of the Plan cover the following topics:

- Chapter 1: Introduction, Vision & Goals
- Chapter 2: Progress Report
- Chapter 3: Existing Conditions
- Chapter 4: Community Input
- Chapter 5: Recommendations
- Chapter 6: Implementation Strategy

The Plan sets out several goals of the Billings Area Pedestrian and Bicycle system, including making useful connections, serving a wide variety of people, increasing the safety and health of the community, enabling efficient and sustainable implementation, and expanding transportation choices. Chapter 3 evaluates both the Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress and Pedestrian Level of Traffic Stress which is a network-wide data-driven analysis of roadway segments and how safe it feels to walk or bike on or along them. There is also documentation of existing facilities and pedestrian and bicycle counts. Chapter 4 reports community participation, which included 201 survey responses, 375 map comments over two phases of public outreach, and the results of an in-person poll. Top themes from the survey included infrastructure improvements, connectivity, and safety.

The recommendations in Chapter 5 are split into two categories: High Comfort and Supplemental. While the specific type of facility is not specified, some of the high comfort routes will be shared-use paths and providing high comfort facilities for pedestrians. Additional possible types of facilities include neighborhood bikeways, bike lanes, buffered bike lanes, and separated bike lanes. The decision as to the exact facility type will be made during design with the goal of providing a facility for users of all ages and abilities. Supplemental facilities will be bike facilities that help make a connection, and will likely consist mostly of striped bike lanes and shared lane markings. Recommendations also include suggestions for programs and policies that could make walking, biking, and rolling safer and more appealing in the Billings area. The final chapter uses prioritization criteria established by the steering committee to group projects into four buckets including short term, high priority; long term, high priority; opportunistic priority, and low priority.

STAKEHOLDERS

Development of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan has included a wide range of stakeholders throughout the process, from City staff, MDT, TrailNet, LIFTT, other local organizations, City Council and the the general public. A Mid-Plan Progress report was provided to the City Council and Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), as were notices for public events. The content of this Plan will provide great information for existing and future Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects, Safe Routes to School (STRS) efforts, the Transportation System Master Plan work, and other efforts to make our community safer for all users.

ALTERNATIVES

The Planning Board may:

- Forward a recommendation of approval to the Policy Coordinating Committee; or,
- Forward a recommendation of approval to the Policy Coordinating Committee with recommended changes; or

- Not forwarding a recommendation of approval. Since this project was included in the adopted Unified Planning Work Program for the MPO and approved by MDT and FHWA, not forwarding a recommendation of approval would be inconsistent with past work plan approvals and could create issues with the use of federal PL funds spent on the project.

FISCAL EFFECTS

There are no fiscal effects. This is a plan only. However, the City, County, State, MPO, or other parties, may choose to program funds to implement project recommendations in the future. This project was approved for completion by the governing bodies in the FY23 UPWP and is 100% funded through Federal PL funds; no local funds were used for this project.

Attachments

Ped/Bike Plan

2025

Billings Area Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan



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APPENDIX A

Planning Level Cost Estimates

APPENDIX B

Full Project List

Disclaimers: This is a planning level document only. It is not intended to obligate or mandate development of the projects in the plan or obligate any jurisdiction to implement any or the entire document. In addition, this document does not assume prioritization or commitment of any local funds unless authorized by local or state government agency.

This document outlines project recommendations as of the adoption date. However, the City of Billings is considering conducting a system-wide plan which, when completed, may contradict some of the recommendations in the Billings Area Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. If the new, system-wide plan contradicts this plan, the new plan will take precedence. If this is the case, the Billings Area Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan may be edited to eliminate contradictions between the two plans.



CHAPTER 1

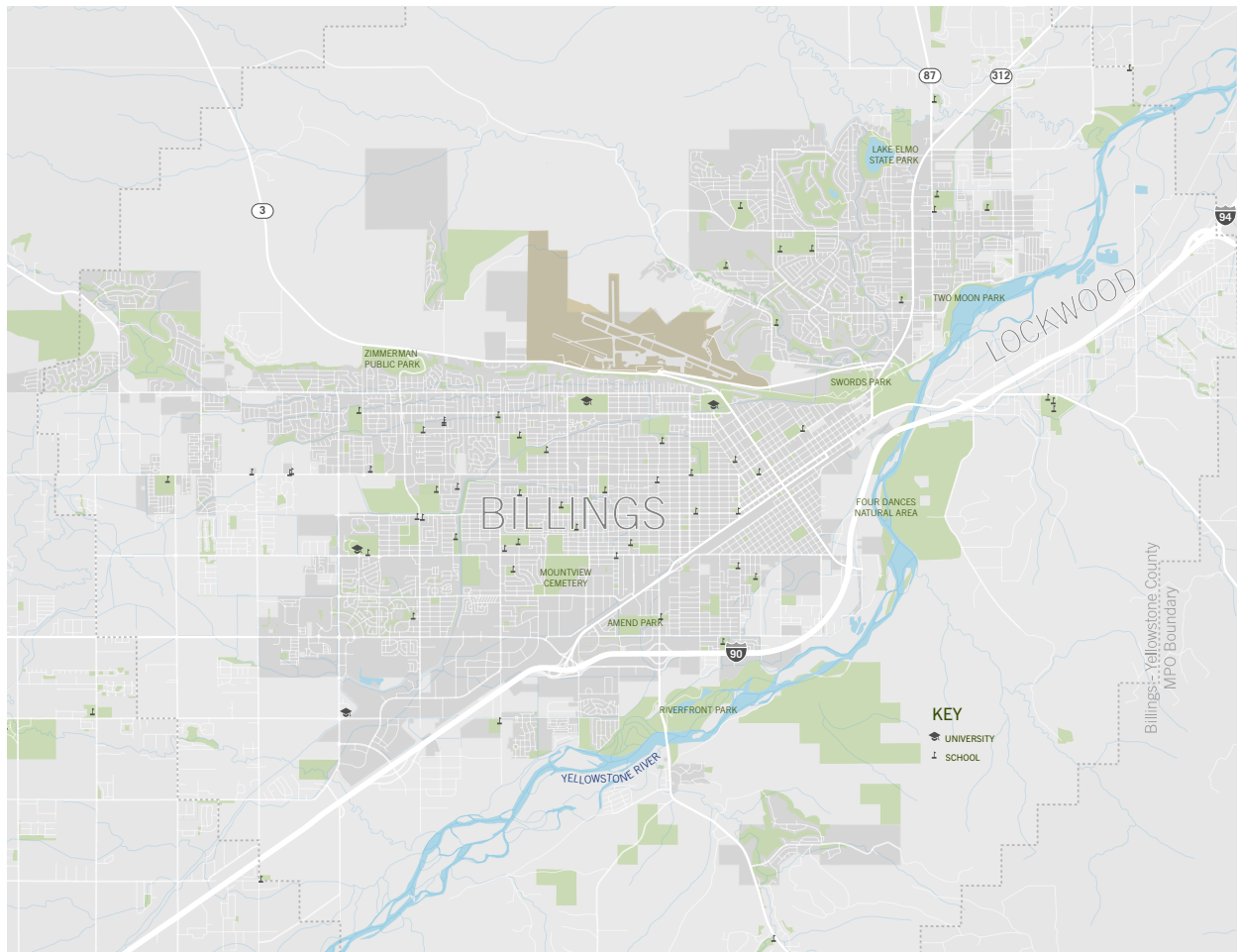
**Introduction,
Vision & Goals**

Introduction

Formerly named the Billings Area Bikeway & Trails Master Plan (2017), the **2024 Billings Area Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan** serves as an update to the 2017 plan, and provides the region with a blueprint for improving conditions for active transportation looking forward. The intent of this plan is to identify progress on the system since 2017, identify and prioritize projects that will improve the safety and convenience of walking, biking, and rolling* in the Billings area, and establish strategies for implementing next steps in the process.

This plan combines both pedestrian (shared use path) recommendations and bicycle (neighborhood bikeways, bike lanes, buffered bike lanes, protected bike lanes, and shared use paths) into two categories: high comfort and supplemental. These categories are discussed more in Chapter 5. New in this plan, a Pedestrian Level of Traffic Stress Analysis was conducted for road segments. Chapter 5 also references design guidance for pedestrian crossings. Figure 1.1 shows a map of the study area, which encompasses the City of Billings and immediately adjacent, unincorporated areas served by the Billings-Yellowstone County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

FIGURE 1.1 - MAP OF STUDY AREA



* **Rolling** refers to the use of any personal mobility device outside of traditional pedal cycles, including wheelchairs, scooters, skateboards, one-wheels, or other human-powered and electric devices. While the spectrum of personal mobility devices continues to expand, the infrastructural needs remain similar to those of pedestrians and bicyclists based on speeds and required space.



Billings Pedestrian + Bicycle Master Plan Update Vision

The Billings community envisions a safe, convenient, and connected active transportation network consisting of bikeways, trails, and sidewalks that serve people of all ages and abilities and trips of all purposes, improving the economic, physical, and mental health of the community and its citizens.

The Billings Area Pedestrian + Bicycle System* should...



Make useful connections

- To transit
- To schools
- To commercial and civic destinations
- To parks, trailheads, destination trails (e.g., Marathon Loop), and recreation areas
- Close gaps between facilities



Serve a wide variety of people

- The overall network should include a connected **all-ages-and-abilities** network that everyone from young children to seniors feel comfortable and safe using
- Infrastructure should be clean, easy to understand, and **accessible** (ADA & PROWAG (Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines) compliant)
- The system should benefit both **recreational and commuter/utility trips**
- Emphasis should be placed on **demographics that rely on active transportation** for their daily needs



Increase the safety and health of the community

- The system should enable **physical activity** as part of everyday life
- Improvements should contribute to a **reduction in the number of crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians** and aim to make streets safer for all roadway users
- The system should **increase awareness and visibility** of pedestrians and bicyclists
- The system should contribute to **improved air quality** and a healthier environment



Enable efficient and sustainable implementation

- Policies and initiatives should allow the City and MPO to build the pedestrian/bicycle network **at a faster rate** than in previous years
- The network should be expanded in a way that can be **successfully maintained based on local resources**



Expand transportation choices

- The system should **reduce reliance on motor vehicles**
- The system should contribute to an **increase in walking and bicycling mode share**

**The Pedestrian + Bicycle System refers to both the infrastructure (the physical network) and non-infrastructure (policies, programs, and practices) initiatives that enable safe walking/bicycling in the community.*



CHAPTER 2

Progress Report



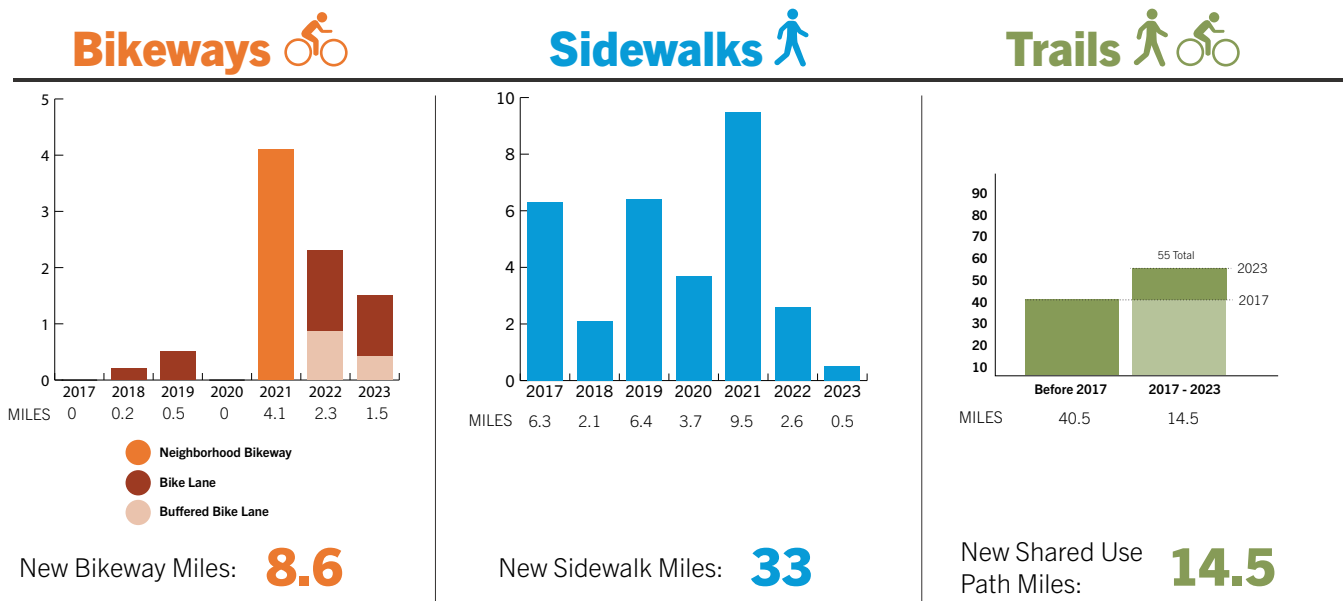
What has happened since 2017?

Much has changed since the adoption of the 2017 Billings Area Bikeway & Trails Master Plan, including the completion of several projects and initiatives based on the plan’s recommendations. This chapter provides a snapshot of recently completed projects; policies, programs, and other initiatives that have been implemented; and changes in the demographics and travel behaviors of residents over the last six years.

Projects Completed Since 2017

Over the last six years (2017–2023), over 61 miles of active transportation facilities have been constructed in the Billings area, including new on-street bikeways, paved trails, and sidewalks (See Figure 2.1). Figure 2.2 illustrates the locations across the area where these investments have been made.

FIGURE 2.1 – BIKEWAYS, PAVED TRAILS, & SIDEWALKS



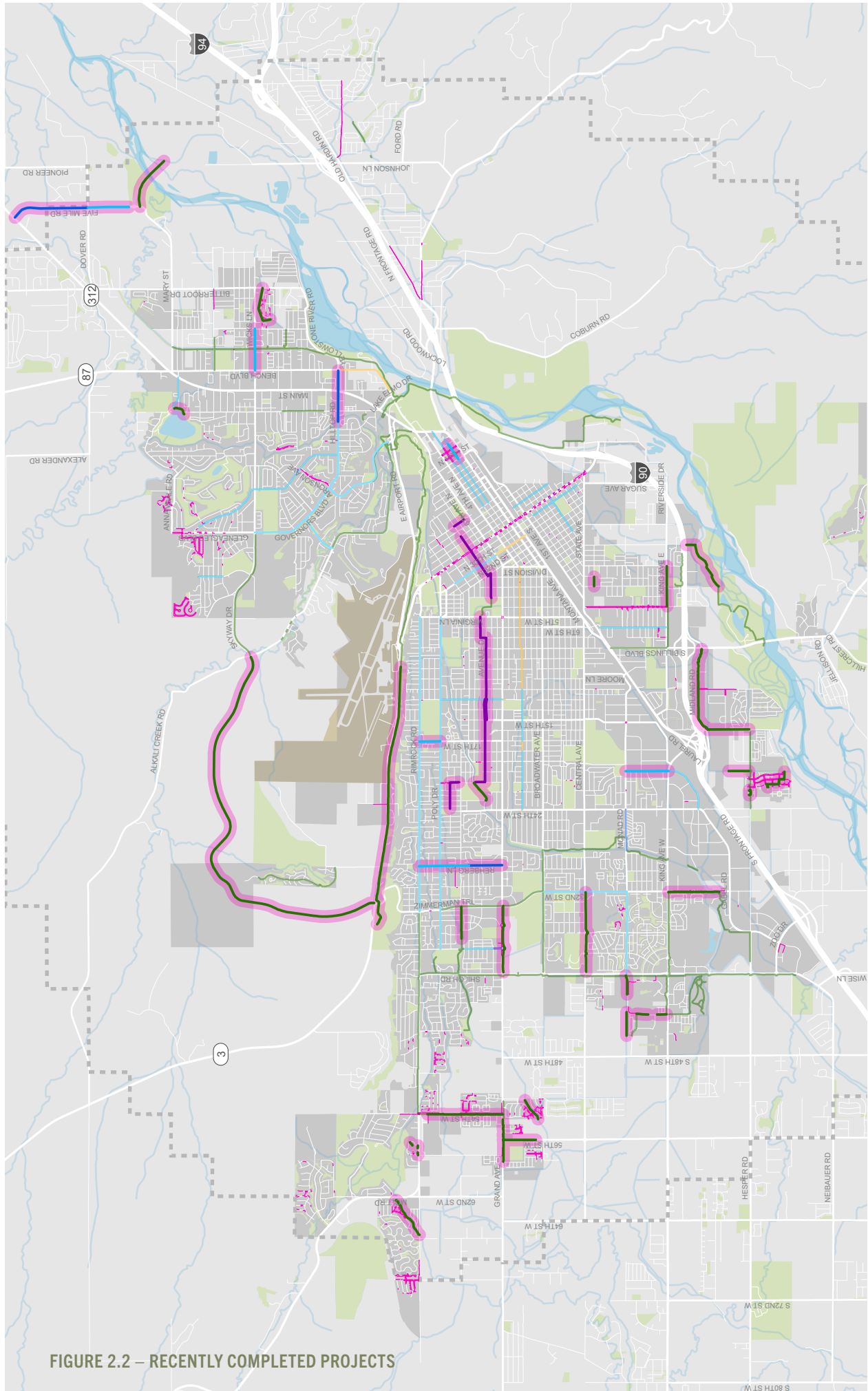


FIGURE 2.2 – RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

PROJECTS COMPLETED SINCE 2017

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

This map highlights Pedestrian and bicycle projects that have been completed since the adoption of the 2017 Billings Area Bikeway and Trails Master Plan.

EXISTING FACILITIES

- Shared Use Path
- Buffered Bike Lane
- Bike Lane
- Neighborhood Bikeway
- Shared Lane Marking

- Shared Use Path (in progress)
- Built Since 2017
- Sidewalks completed since 2017
- Billings-Yellowstone Co MPO Boundary
- City of Billings Boundary



DRAFT

Policies, Programs, & Other Initiatives

In addition to investments in physical infrastructure, the City, MPO, and County have dedicated time and resources to the development of new policies, programs, and other initiatives that support active transportation in the Billings area. Table 2.1 summarizes the efforts that were recommended in the 2017 Plan.

TABLE 2.1 – PROGRESS ON POLICIES, PROGRAMS, & OTHER INITIATIVES RECOMMENDED IN THE 2017 PLAN






TYPE	PROGRAM & DESCRIPTION	PROGRESS SINCE 2017
 <p>EQUITY</p>	<p>BICYCLE GIVE-A-WAYS</p> <p>Local businesses and organizations, including Billings TrailNet, Lockwood PTA, Merrill Lynch, and Edward Jones, among others, collaborate to provide funding to give away bicycles to the community. These events have proved to be very popular.</p>	<p>The Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District gives away a few bikes a year to students in need. Kids In Motion (KIM), a free bike repair program for students in Billings Public Schools, helps keep bikes that students already have rideable. In 2023, HDR engineering firm donated 24 bicycles to kindergartners at Highland elementary school.</p>
 <p>ENCOURAGEMENT</p>	<p>MUNICIPAL BIKE FLEET</p> <p>Promote work-related trips by bicycle; reduce daytime auto trips. Bike Share systems in the United States have become a popular form of micromobility (sometimes referred to as small things on wheels). While these systems were initially implemented primarily in large U.S. cities, they are now being implemented in small to mid-size cities like Billings. Rather than implement a municipal bike fleet, the City/County should assess the feasibility of implementing a bike share system.</p>	<p>Bike and Scooter Share Feasibility study was completed in 2020. Several companies have approached Billings about bringing shared micromobility (bike and/or scooter share) to town. However, staff plan to set guidelines by issuing an Request for Proposals (RFP) for a provider. As a smaller community, this will help to make expectations clear up front.</p>
 <p>ENCOURAGEMENT</p>	<p>BICYCLE AND TRAILS MAP (2011 PLAN RECOMMENDATION)</p> <p>Provide route and facility information and highlight walking and bicycling destinations. Entities should coordinate to ensure that the maps distributed have consistent information. A meeting should be held annually to revise maps as needed. TrailNet should continue maintaining the online interactive map on their website.</p>	<p>The Metropolitan Planning Organization added an app with route and facility information</p>

TABLE 2.1 – POLICIES, PROGRAMS, & OTHER INITIATIVES (CONT.)

TYPE	PROGRAM & DESCRIPTION	PROGRESS SINCE 2017
 <p>ENCOURAGEMENT</p>	<p>SAFETY EQUIPMENT USE ENCOURAGEMENT</p> <p>Encourage the use of bicycle lights, helmets and reflective clothing by promoting the use of this equipment and hosting equipment giveaways. Organizations and school districts should coordinate their efforts, share resources, establish best practices and determine program development costs</p>	<p>Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District gives away some helmets and reflective slap bands to 4th graders in May. Previously, the school district had a grant from St. Vincent Healthcare (now Intermountain Health) to sell helmets to students at \$5/helmet. The funding for the discounted helmets was exhausted. Both hospitals sell low cost helmets, but they are not free.</p>
 <p>ENCOURAGEMENT</p>	<p>CONDUCT WALKABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND PARK AUDITS</p> <p>Conduct audits in the city’s parks to assess accessibility conditions, lighting and improve safety. To identify assets and barriers in park access, safety and connectivity to other parks</p>	<p>Healthy By Design created a Parks RX program where they evaluated two parks and creating walking route maps showing conditions on the trails. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is currently a priority for the City and some parks have received CPTED audits with more audits possible in the future.</p>
 <p>ENFORCEMENT</p>	<p>INCREASE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT</p> <p>Increase the budget for traffic enforcement in the City of Billings to allow additional officers to be assigned to traffic detail.</p> <p>The community consistently stated that traffic enforcement for all road users in the Billings Area was perceived to be minimal.</p>	<p>A mill levy that passed a couple of years ago provided more funding for police officers, including traffic enforcement. More officers have been added as a result.</p>
 <p>EVALUATION</p>	<p>ESTABLISH COMPREHENSIVE COUNTS PROGRAM</p> <p>Data on walking and bicycling is necessary to track growth in these modes and determine where investments are necessary. The city should continue collecting data on bicycling and trail use using manual and automated counters.</p>	<p>In recent years, Billings has shifted entirely to automatic counts. This means not as many pedestrian counts have been taken. A new people-counter downtown under Skypoint was installed, but is out of commission. There is also one new set of permanent bike lane counters on Poly. A new permanent counter was also installed on the HWY 87 path which is through the Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District.</p>

TABLE 2.1 – POLICIES, PROGRAMS, & OTHER INITIATIVES (CONT.)

TYPE	PROGRAM & DESCRIPTION	PROGRESS SINCE 2017
 EVALUATION	<p>VISION ZERO</p> <p>The goal of the program is to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries to zero.</p>	<p>The Billings Area Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP) was updated in 2021 with Vision Zero goals. The CTSP focused on behaviors such as lack of restraint, impaired drivers, and inattentive driving, with a focus on young drivers.</p>
 EVALUATION	<p>MEASURING THE STREET</p> <p>Before and after the installation of new bikeway or trail facility, data should be collected on bicycle, pedestrian and motor vehicle volumes, crashes, and motor vehicle speeds. This data can be used to evaluate how effective new bikeways or trails are in achieving goals</p>	<p>This process of data collection was utilized when implementing the new neighborhood bikeway, which set a precedent to continue this type of evaluation on future facilities.</p>
OTHER	<p>DEVELOP SYSTEM-WIDE WAYFINDING PLAN</p> <p>A wayfinding system should identify destinations that should be signed to, identify trails and bicycle boulevard routes to be signed, adopt standard placement practices for wayfinding signs, and install signage along priority routes</p>	<p>Billings adopted a wayfinding plan in February 2020. Wayfinding signage has been installed along Ave D neighborhood bikeway.</p>
OTHER	<p>BICYCLE PARKING</p> <p>A bike parking code should be part of a future Zoning Code update to standardize rack type and placement practices, and ensure bike parking is installed with new development. A bike parking program, focused on Downtown and other areas of the community, allows the community to request the placement of racks on public lands, and property owners to request racks on their private land (otherwise, these racks may never be installed in areas where they are needed, such as auto-oriented 'strip-mall' developments in the western part of Billings).</p>	<p>Bike parking is now required by City zoning code in some districts. The city established a downtown bike parking program, but the program has run out of funding and is now dormant.</p>

Trends in Travel

Since 2017, the number of people who call the City of Billings home has increased from 109,894 to 118,849 (8% growth over six years, not including unincorporated population growth), placing more pressure on the transportation system and its ability to serve a growing population. Figure 2.4 highlights travel trends based on available American Community Survey (ACS) data, which shows limited changes in mode share. ACS data considers only commute trips to work, and does not account for other daily trips for errands, social life, etc. So while overall biking and walking trips to work decreased between 2014 and 2021 according to ACS data, user count data along Billings' bikeways and trails, as shown in Chapter 3, suggests an upward trend in walking and biking over the last five to six years.

FIGURE 2.3 – POPULATION GROWTH

Source: 2023 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan

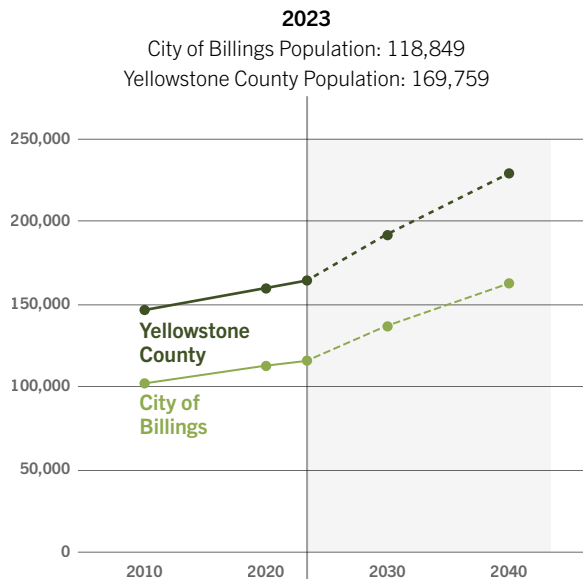
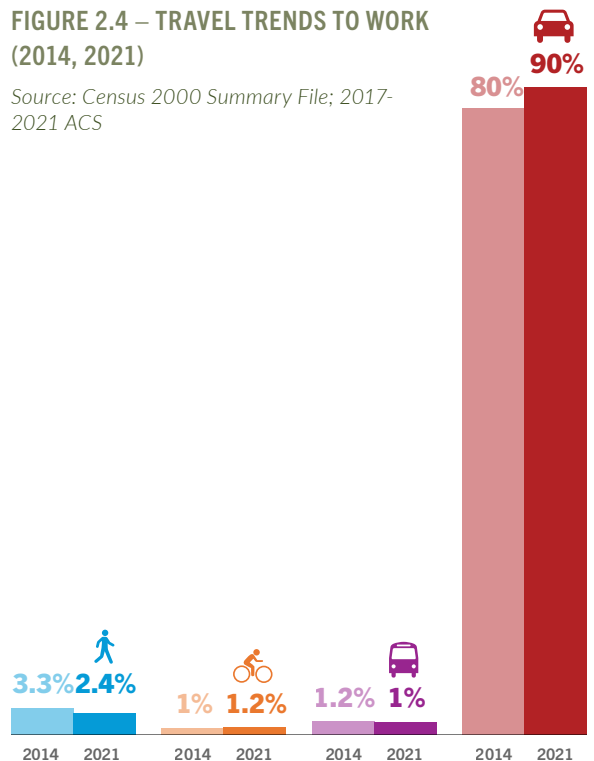


FIGURE 2.4 – TRAVEL TRENDS TO WORK (2014, 2021)

Source: Census 2000 Summary File; 2017-2021 ACS



2017 Recommendations Audit

An audit of the 2017 Plan's recommendations was conducted to identify lessons learned during the last six years of implementation and opportunities to refine the City and MPO's approach moving forward. Both infrastructure (bikeway and trail network) and non-infrastructure (programs, policies, and other initiatives) recommendations were reviewed.

Network Recommendations

Figure 2.5 shows a map of existing bikeways and trails, projects recommended in the 2017 Plan, and priority projects identified in 2017. Some of the questions considered in reviewing the 2017 network recommendations and lessons learned include:



What were some of the primary funding sources for projects that were completed since 2017?

- Local street maintenance funds
- Local gas tax
- Local owner assessments
- Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- State Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Recreational Trails Program Grant
- Federal BUILD Grant (now called RAISE Grant)

Why were some of the 2017 priority projects implemented while others were not?

- Avenue D Neighborhood Bikeway was implemented because it was a new facility type and the top ranked neighborhood bikeway from the plan
- Small section of BBWA Canal Trail between Woody Dr. and 21st St.: no right-of-way constraints; grant received from Recreational Trails Program, with matching contributions from Billings Trail Net, Public Works, and Parks
- Limiting factor for priority projects that were not completed were funding and staff capacity

What led to non-priority projects being completed?

- Several non-priority projects were completed opportunistically in conjunction with Public Works' Pavement Preservation Plan and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Several shared use paths along roadways (sidepaths) were constructed as part of Public Works' policy that a 10' shared use path (sidepath) is required as part of the reconstruction of any arterial
- The Skyline Trail was pursued because it was a good candidate for a federal BUILD grant

For those projects that were designated in 2017 as “visionary long range bikeways,” has anything changed that would lead us to more specific recommendations?

- Some sections of Grand Avenue are not currently part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), but there have been discussions to add them
- There have been discussions about dedicating funding for concept/feasibility studies for these corridors

Are there any previously recommended projects that are slated for near-term implementation?

- Skyline Trail and Inner Belt Loop were completed while this plan was being developed
- See 5-year CIP and Pavement Preservation Plan

In general, what have we learned over the last six years about developing the active transportation network? Is there anything about the approach that should change?

- External funding is available for larger projects, and Billings was successful in being awarded a handful of grants, but staff capacity can be a limiting factor in taking advantage of all the state and federal grant opportunities
- Public Works is doing a good job of referencing the Master Plan to make sure planned bicycle and pedestrian improvements are included in maintenance and new construction projects
- The prioritization process for this plan should consider Public Works’ CIP project list
- Billings’ Complete Streets Policy has guided Public Works consideration for active modes in implementing the CIP



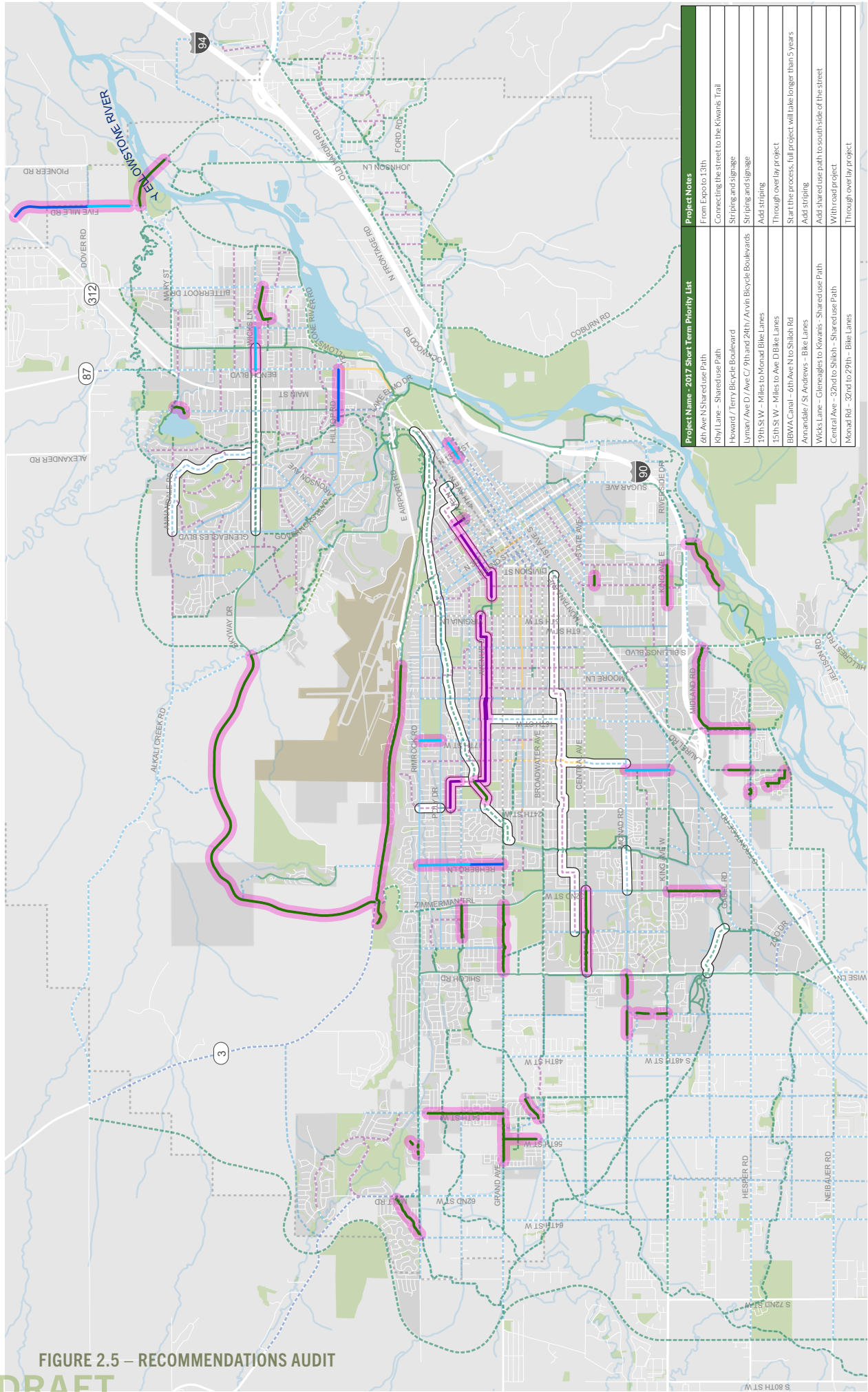


FIGURE 2.5 – RECOMMENDATIONS AUDIT

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Policy & Program Recommendations

In addition to recommendations for expanding the physical bikeway and trail network, this plan also explores lessons learned from progress made over the last six years in implementing the policies, programs, and other initiatives recommended in the 2017 Plan. Of the 52 initiatives recommended, 32 have seen progress or been completed. Some of the lessons learned from investigating the progress and status of these efforts include:

- The City and MPO have been diligent in pursuing additional planning efforts recommended in 2017, including the completion of the Billings Area Wayfinding and Signage Plan, the Billings Area Bike and Scooter Share Feasibility Study, adding vision zero goals to the 2021 Community Transportation Safety Plan, etc.
- Lack of funding and staff capacity are the primary reasons for some policies, programs, and other initiatives not being implemented; some of these initiatives are no longer priorities, while others

remain important to pursue

- Related to staff capacity, closer coordination between Planning and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) divisions would benefit efforts to keep data and online mapping resources organized and up to date
- It is important to get buy-in from partnering departments or agencies before committing to an initiative in the plan. This can help ensure there is consensus about the proposed recommendations.

See Table 5.2 in Chapter 5 for a complete list of previously recommended policies and programs, their current status, and future recommendations.



Area of Focus	Crash/Injury Totals											
	Total	Fatalities	Major Injuries	Minor Injuries	Property Damage Only	Other	Uninsured/Underinsured	Drunk Driving	Speed	Impaired Driver	Wrong Way	Other
Young driver involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uninsured/Underinsured involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impaired driver involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speed involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrong Way involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uninsured/Underinsured involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drunk Driving involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speed involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrong Way involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uninsured/Underinsured involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drunk Driving involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speed involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrong Way involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uninsured/Underinsured involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drunk Driving involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speed involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrong Way involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other involved	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

BILLINGS COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN (2022)

The original Billings Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP), adopted in 2016, was a collaborative effort between the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and the MPO. The ongoing purpose of the CTSP is to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries in the Billings MPO area. This process uses a data-driven approach to identify safety issues and determine areas in need of increased focus and strategies to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

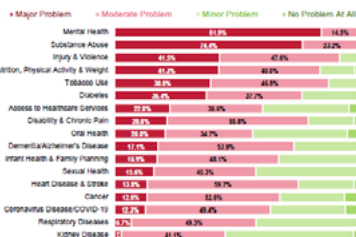


THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT (2022)

The National Community Survey (or NCS) report is about the “livability” of Billings. The survey captures residents’ opinions considering ten central facets of a community, including health and wellness, parks and recreation, community design, and mobility, among others.

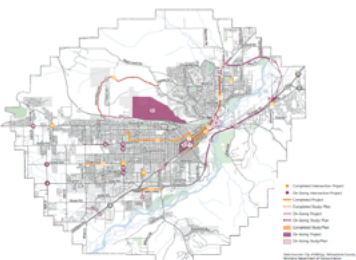
COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT (2023)

This Community Health Needs Assessment is a systematic approach to determining the health status, behaviors, and needs of residents in Yellowstone County, Montana. This information may be used to inform decisions and guide efforts to improve community health and wellness, including serving as the basis for the county’s Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). A Community Health Needs Assessment provides information so that communities may identify issues of greatest concern and decide to commit resources to those areas, thereby making the greatest possible impact on community health status.



BILLINGS URBAN AREA LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (2023)

The Billings Planning Area Long Range Transportation (LRTP) is a framework to guide the continued development and implementation of multimodal transportation system projects for the Billings planning area. The LRTP is updated every five years, and the previous iteration was completed in 2018. This LRTP assesses today’s (2023) land use and transportation conditions to forecast the future (year 2045) conditions, which aids in identifying and strategizing transportation improvements for the region.



A nighttime photograph of a street scene. In the background, there is a brick building with a gabled roof. To the right, a street lamp post holds a 'WELCOME BILLINGS DEPOT' sign and a pedestrian crossing sign. A silver car is visible on the left side of the road. The foreground shows a paved road with manhole covers. A large green circular overlay is centered on the image, containing the text 'CHAPTER 3 Existing Conditions'.

CHAPTER 3

**Existing
Conditions**

Existing Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

As outlined in Chapter 2, the network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Billings area continues to grow. The types of bicycle facilities that exist in Billings today include conventional bike lanes, buffered bike lanes, shared use paths, neighborhood bikeways, and shared lane markings. Figures 3.1 and 3.2 show maps of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Billings area.



SHARED USE PATH 55 MILES IN BILLINGS AREA

Shared use paths, also referred to as Sidepaths when adjacent to a roadway, are paved off-street facilities that are physically separated from roadways and design to accommodate two-way, non-motorized travel. Billings has additional miles of paths that are narrower than 10 feet.



BIKE LANE 41 MILES IN BILLINGS AREA

Conventional bike lanes are on-street bikeways that are visually separated from motor vehicle traffic with white striping. They also include pavement markings and signage.



NEIGHBORHOOD BIKEWAY 5.7 MILES IN BILLINGS AREA

Neighborhood bikeways are mixed traffic facilities—meaning bicyclists and motor vehicles share the same roadway space—that prioritize bicyclist safety and comfort. They are planned along low-volume residential streets and include shared lane markings and bicycle wayfinding signage. In some cases, enhanced crossings and/or traffic calming features are included to create a low-stress bicycling experience. 5.7 miles includes all sharrows in Billings.



BUFFERED BIKE LANE 3 MILES IN BILLINGS AREA

Buffered bike lanes are conventional bike lanes that include additional striping, creating a visual buffer and greater separation between the bike lane and motor vehicle traffic. Buffered bike lanes currently exist in locations such as Monrad Rd., Hilltop Rd., Rehberg Lane and Five Mile Rd.

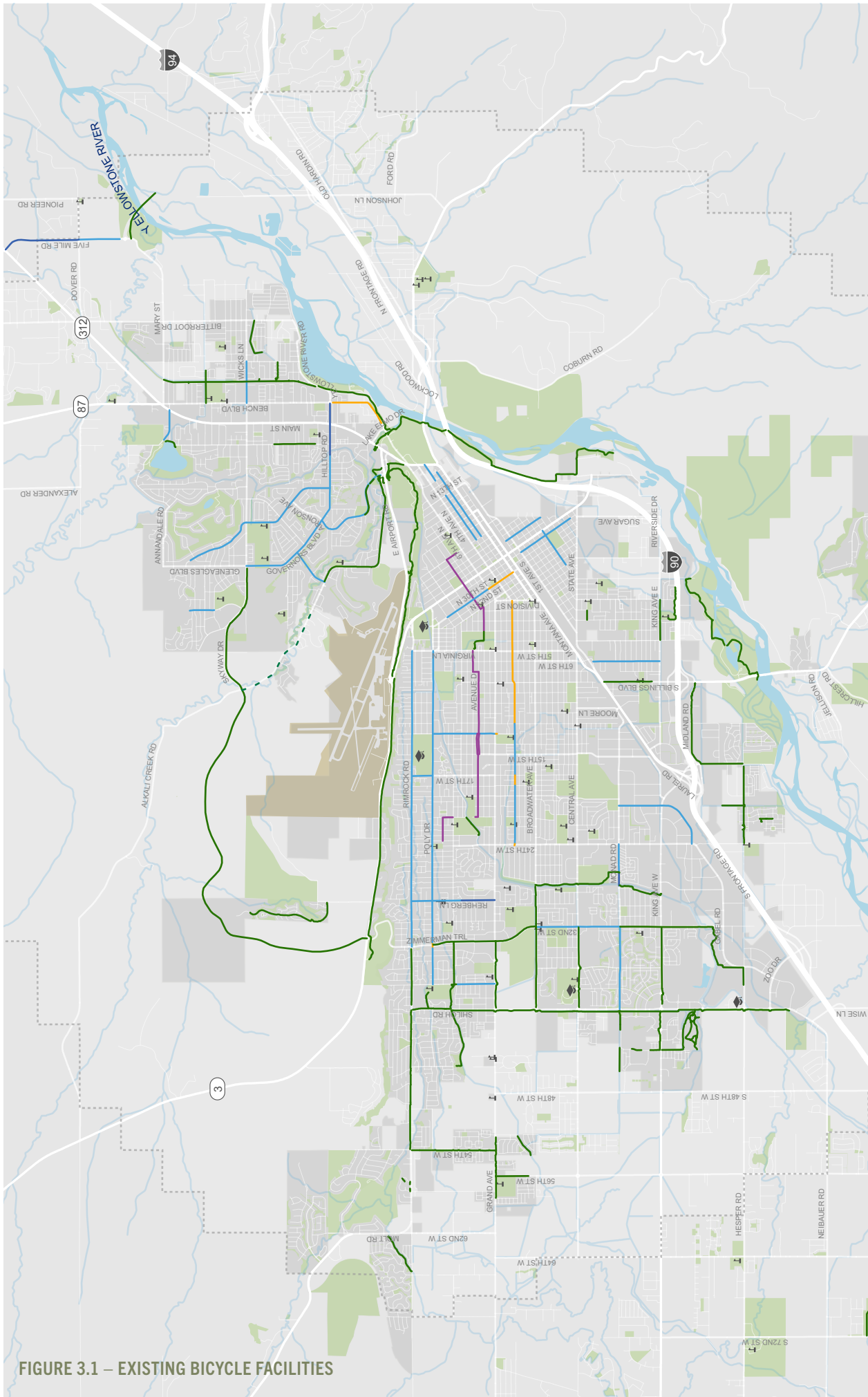
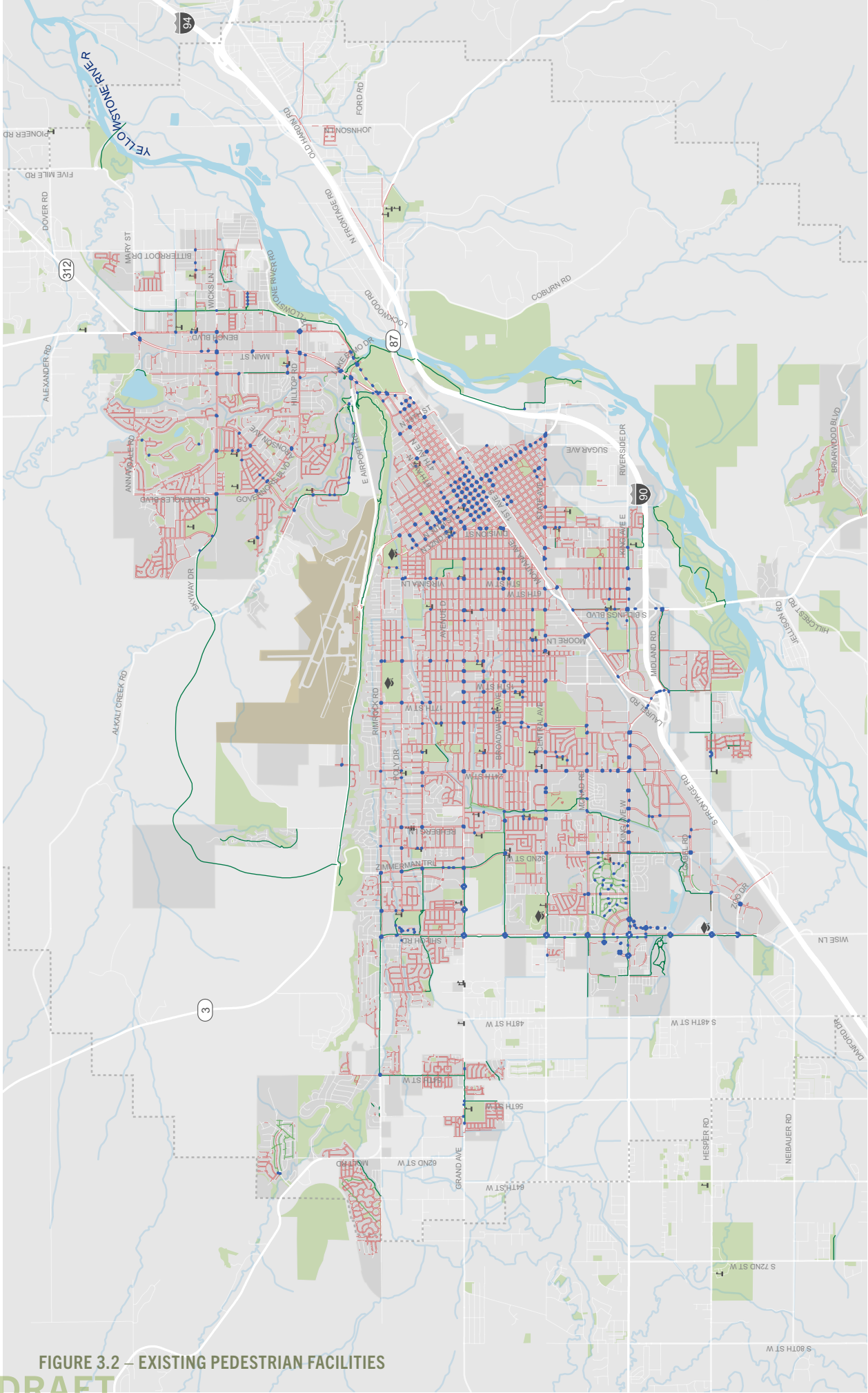


FIGURE 3.1 – EXISTING BICYCLE FACILITIES

- EXISTING**
- Bike Lane
 - Buffered Bike Lane
 - Neighborhood Byway
 - Shared Lane Marking
 - Shared Use Path
- Parks
 - Schools
 - Colleges
 - City of Billings Boundary
 - MPO Boundary

EXISTING BICYCLE FACILITIES

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN



EXISTING PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

- Crosswalks (1154)
- Sidewalks
- Shared Use Path
- Neighborhood Trail
- Parks
- + Schools
- + Colleges
- City of Billings Boundary
- MPO Boundary



FIGURE 3.2 – EXISTING PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

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Network Analysis

The existing network maps help to identify existing gaps and opportunities for connections; however, further network analysis and mapping of user count data aid in understanding parts of the network that might benefit from future improvements. This section explores takeaways from analyzing the network’s Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) for both pedestrian and bicycle networks, crash history and safety, and documented use of Billings’ bikeways and trails.

Level of Traffic Stress

A Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) analysis is a method that seeks to quantify the amount of stress a bicyclist or pedestrian is likely to experience on a given corridor, especially related to exposure to motor vehicle traffic. In other words, it gauges how comfortable the network is for people bicycling and walking. LTS analysis is based on research related to bicyclist preferences and behavior, which finds that most people (51–56%) who are interested in using a bicycle for transportation are concerned about safety and prefer lower-stress environments, typically characterized by quiet neighborhood streets or facilities that provide physical separation from motor vehicle traffic. This group is referred to as “interested but concerned” and will usually choose not to ride a bicycle if low-stress bicycle facilities are not provided. Because they make up the majority of the population,

the “interested but concerned” group is the target design user when planning and designing bicycle networks. Figure 3.1 on pg. 25 highlights design user profiles of adults who have stated an interest in bicycling, based on national research. Of note, both LTS analyses only evaluate the roadway segments, not specifically the crossings. Future Plans may evaluate crossings.

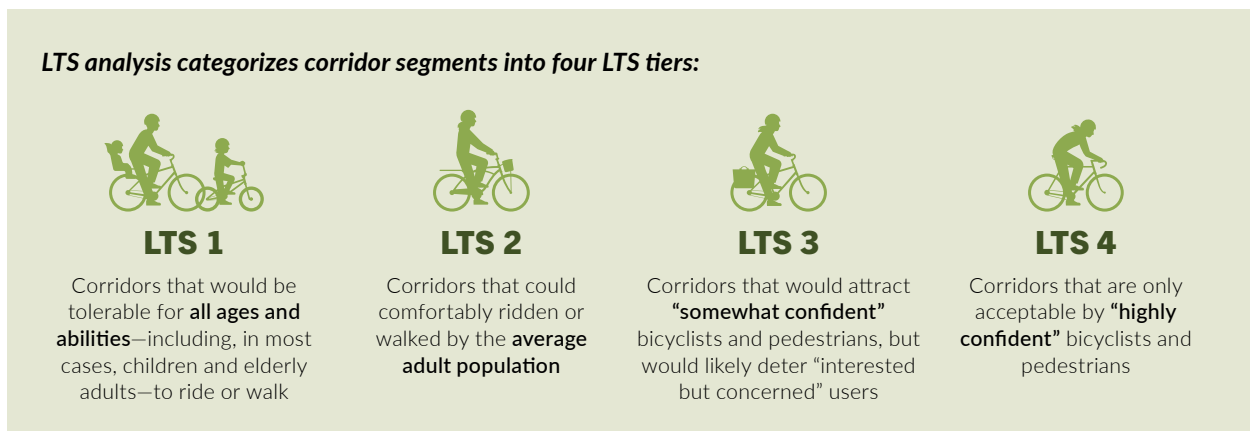
BICYCLE LEVEL OF TRAFFIC STRESS

Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress (BLTS) is measured by evaluating variables such as roadway speeds, traffic volumes, roadway widths (number of lanes), and bicycle facility characteristics. The methodology used for this plan is based on the 2012 Minnesota Transportation Institute (MTI) Report 11-19: Low-Stress Bicycling and Network Connectivity. Figure 3.3 illustrates the results of the BLTS analysis.

PEDESTRIAN LEVEL OF TRAFFIC STRESS

Similar to BLTS, the Pedestrian Level of Traffic Stress (PLTS) analysis considers factors such as sidewalk presence, sidewalk width, sidewalk buffer, roadway speed, motor vehicle volume of the adjacent roadway and roadway width to evaluate the pedestrian experience along a given corridor and is dependent upon the availability and accuracy of existing data. The methodology used for this plan is based on the methodology used by the Oregon Department of Transportation in their Analysis Procedures Manual. Figure 3.4 shows the results of the PLTS analysis for the Billings area.

FIGURE 3.1 – DESCRIPTION OF LTS



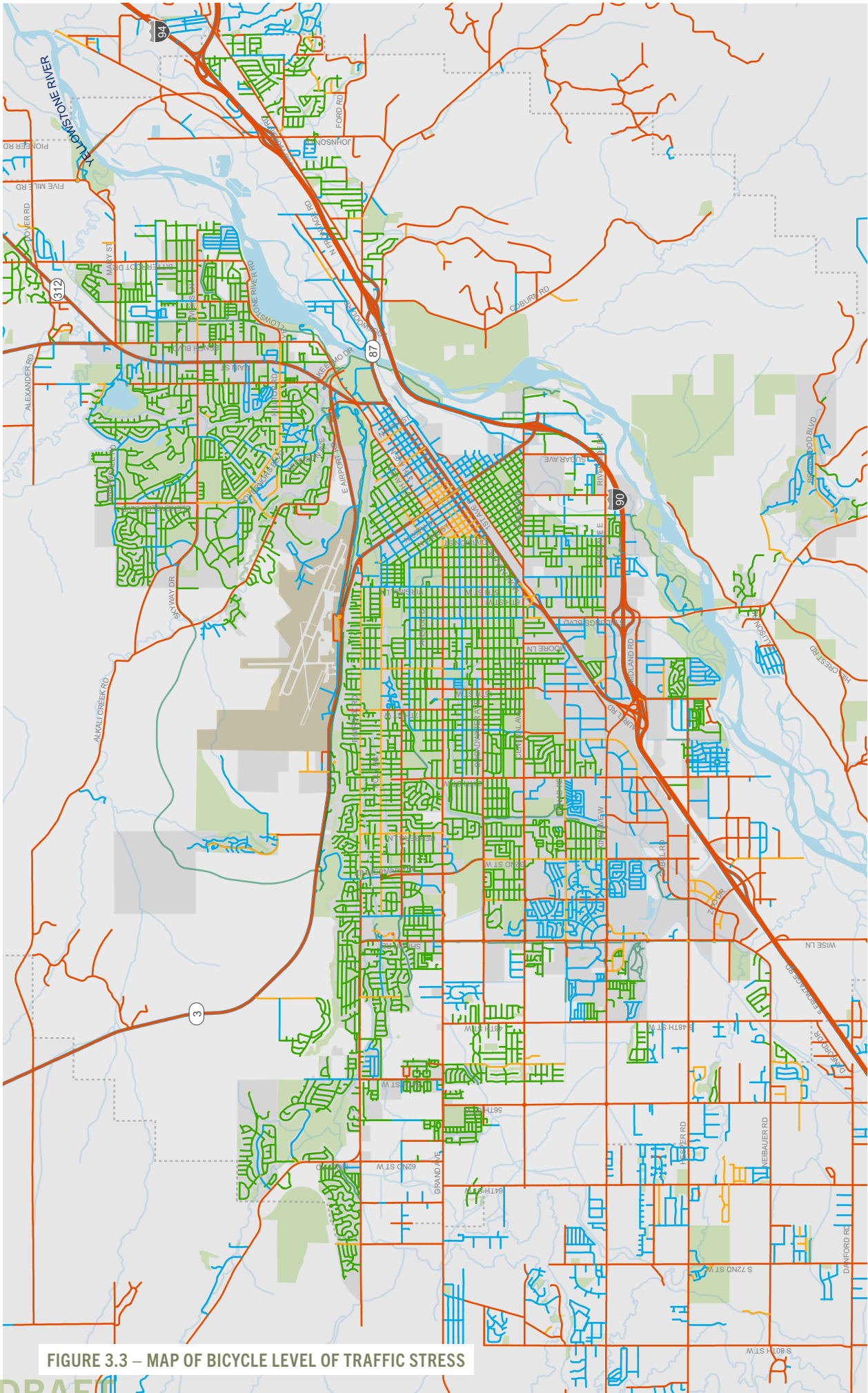


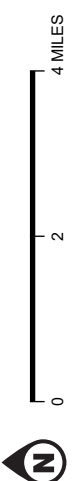
FIGURE 3.3 – MAP OF BICYCLE LEVEL OF TRAFFIC STRESS

BICYCLE LEVEL OF TRAFFIC STRESS

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

The Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress analysis only evaluates road segments and not crossings. This is evaluated using system-wide data, however, when project move into the design phase careful attention must be paid to factors that affect BLTS.

- LTS SCORE**
- 1 - All Ages and Abilities
 - 2 - Most Adults
 - 3 - Enthusiased and Confident
- 4 - Strong and Fearless
- Shared Use Path
- MPO Boundary
- City of Billings Boundary



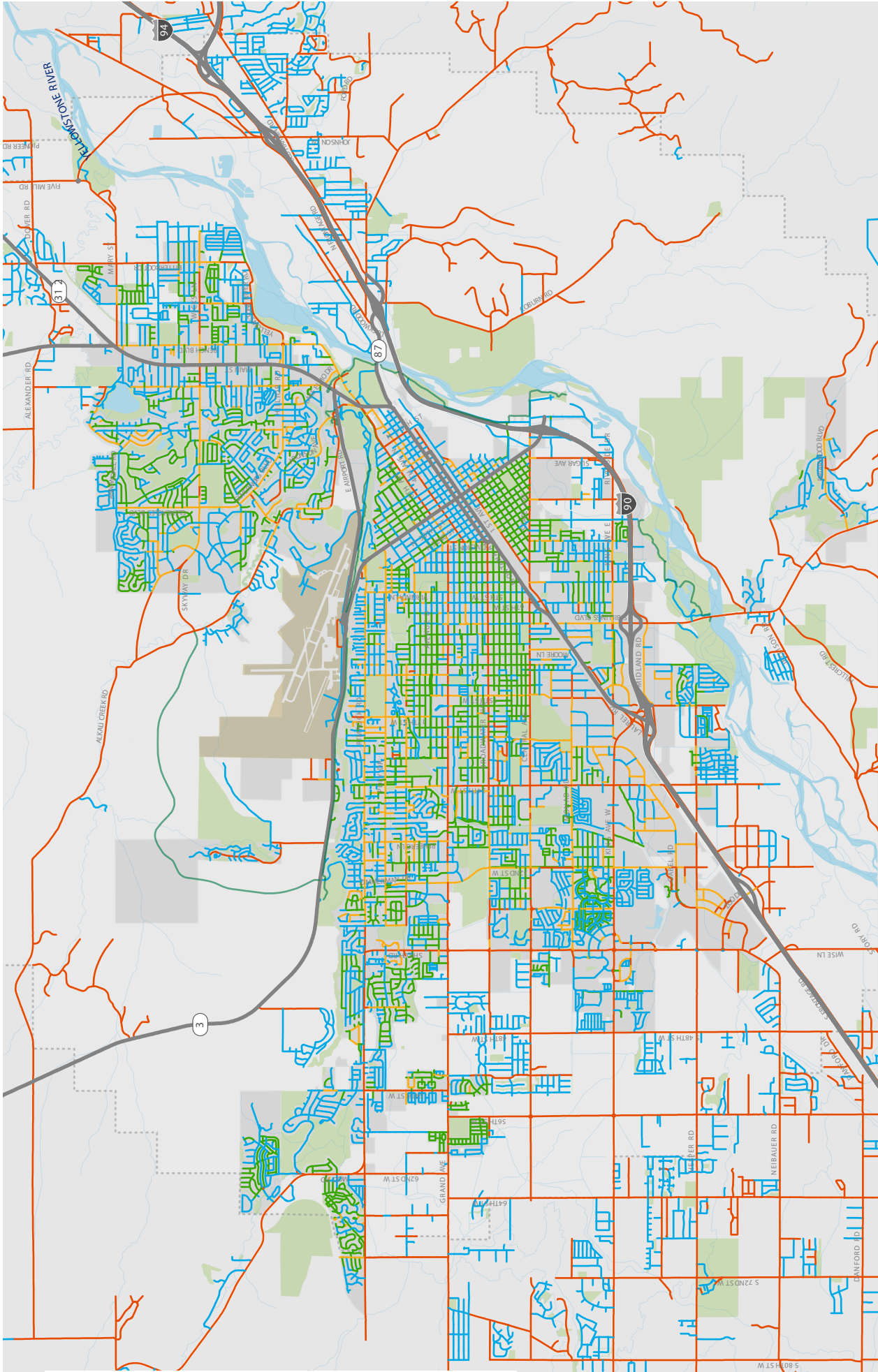


FIGURE 3.4 – MAP OF PEDESTRIAN LEVEL OF TRAFFIC STRESS

PEDESTRIAN LEVEL OF TRAFFIC STRESS

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

The Pedestrian Level of Traffic Stress analysis only evaluates road segments and not crossings. This is evaluated using system-wide data, however, when project move into the design phase careful attention must be paid to factors that affect BLTS.

- LTS SCORE**
- 1 - All Ages and Abilities
 - 2 - Most Adults
 - 3 - Enthusiased and Confident
 - 4 - Strong and Fearless
- Other Features:**
- Shared Use Path
 - MPO Boundary
 - City of Billings Boundary

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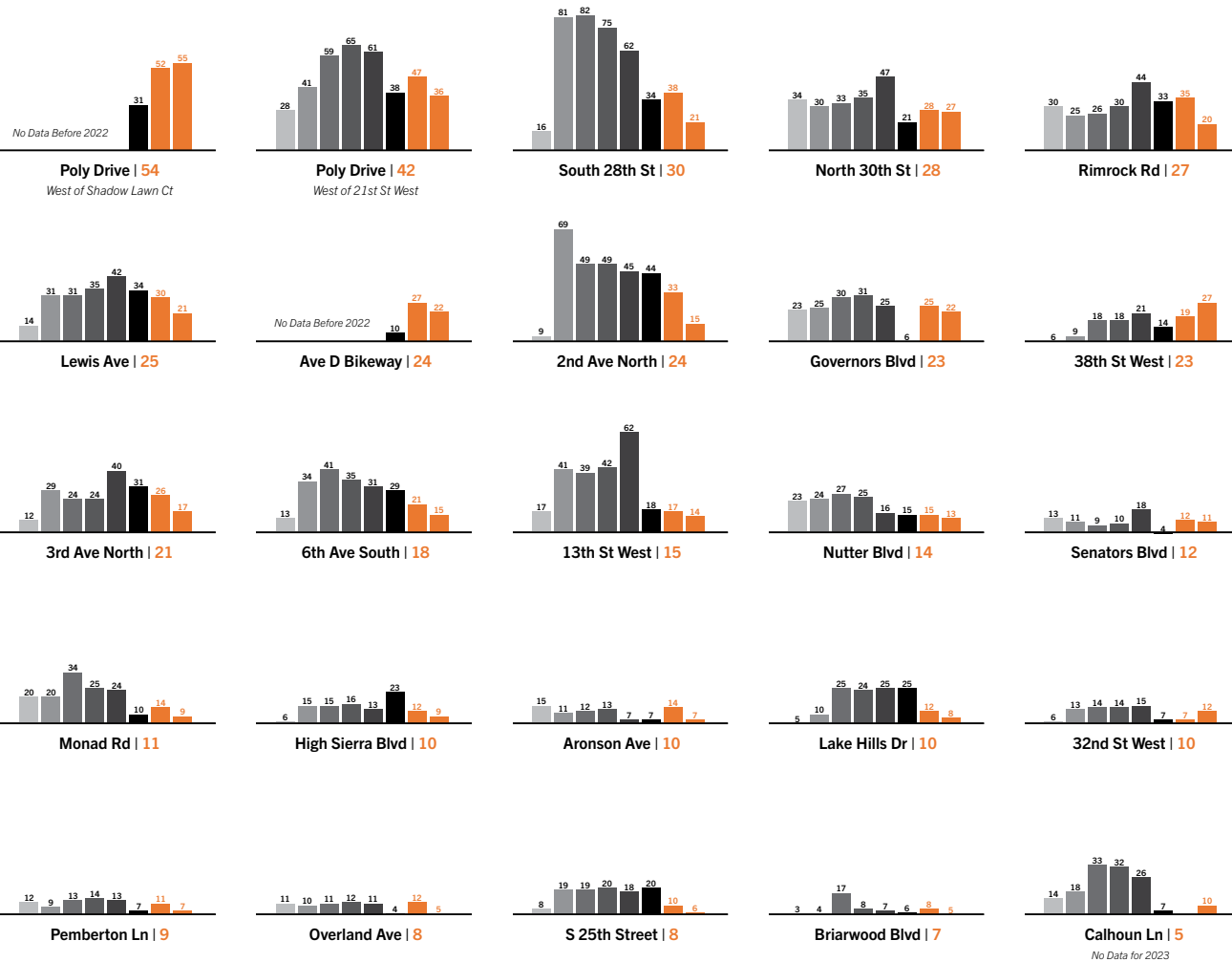
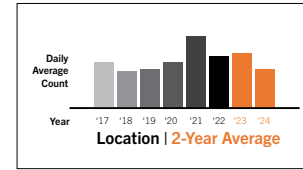
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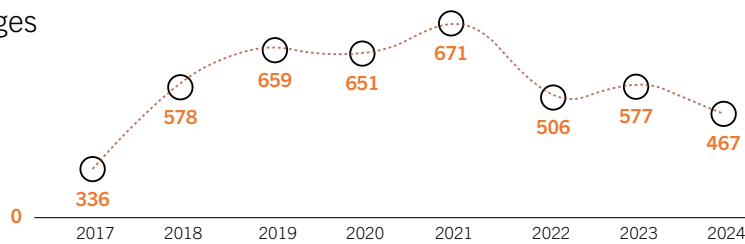
User Count Data

Bike Lane Counts

Daily Average Counts: 2017-2024



Total Daily Averages



Bike lane counts peaked in many locations during the COVID-19 pandemic bicycling boom of 2020-2021, where many residents turned to biking, walking, and rolling outside to safely stay active, see friends, and relieve stress.

Bike lane counts tend to be higher in areas with a more connected bikeway network, rather than in areas where bike facilities were isolated.

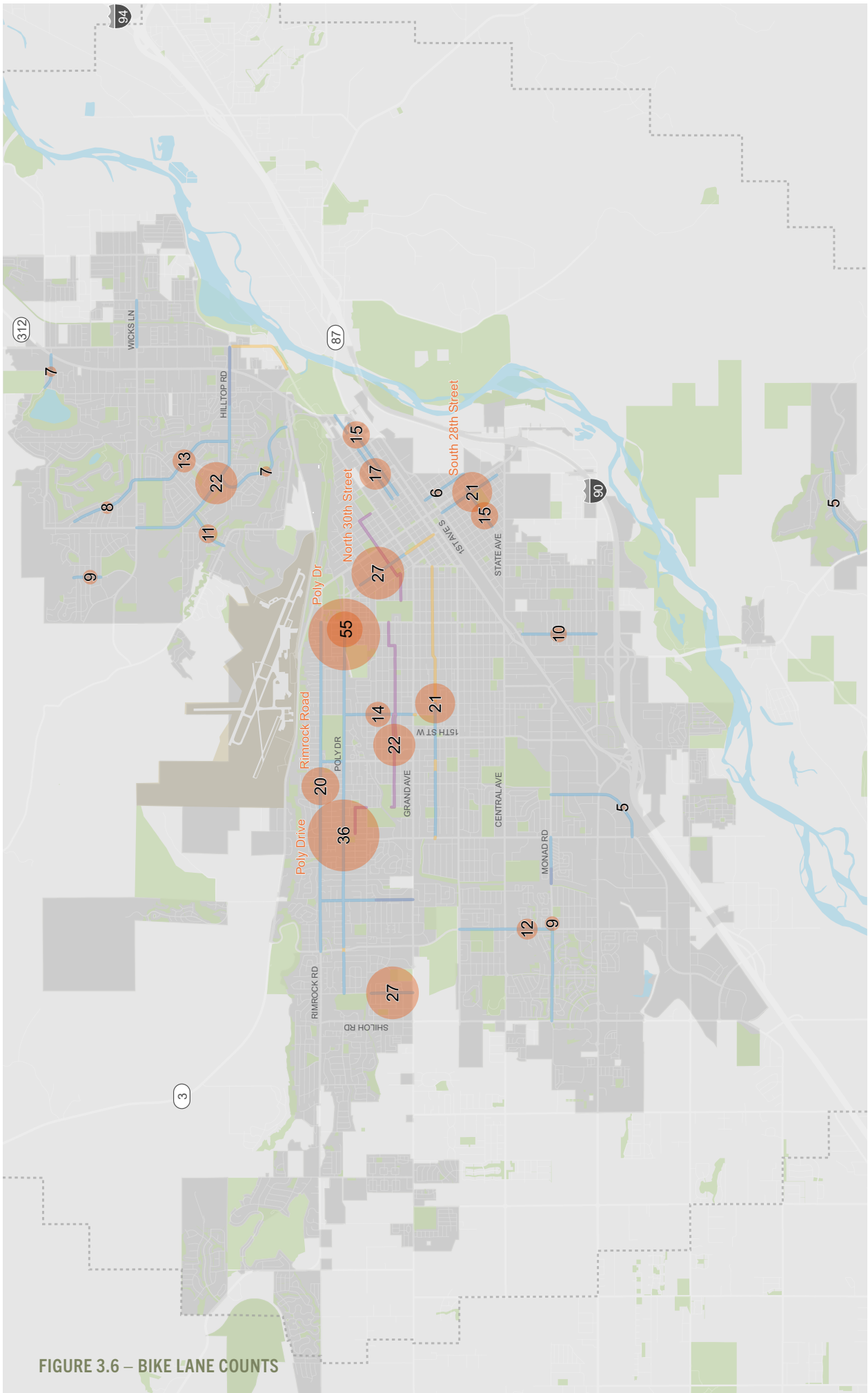


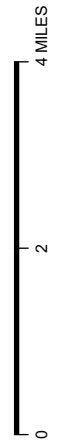
FIGURE 3.6 – BIKE LANE COUNTS

BIKE LANE COUNTS

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

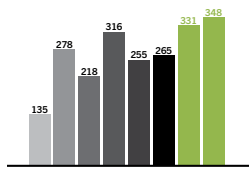
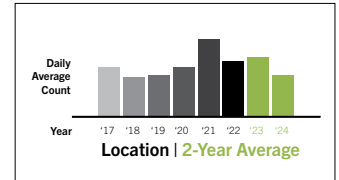


- Neighborhood
 - Bikeway
 - Bike Lane
 - Buffered Bike Lane
 - Shared Roadway
- MPO Boundary
 - City of Billings Boundary

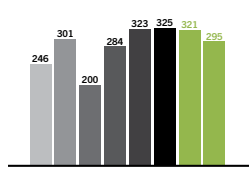


Trail User Counts

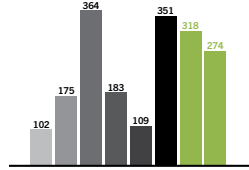
Daily Average Counts: 2017-2024



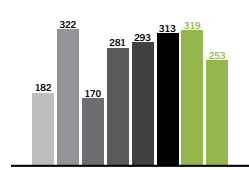
Big Ditch Trail | 340



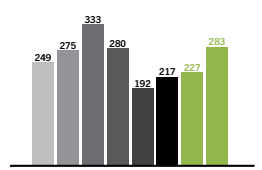
Descro Park Trail | 308



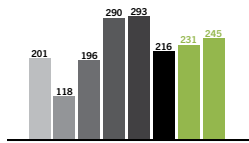
Two Moon Park Trail | 296



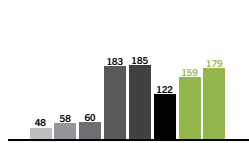
Pioneer Park Trail | 286



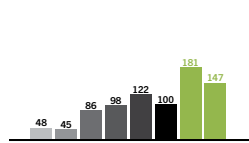
Kiwanis Trail | 255



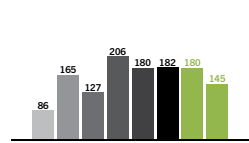
Swords Park Trail | 238



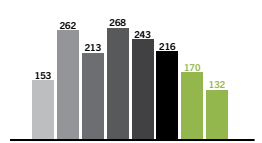
Stewart Park Trail | 169



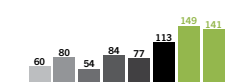
54th St West Trail | 164



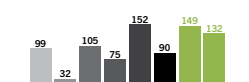
Metrapark Trail | 162



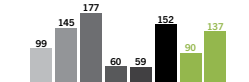
Norm's Island Trail | 151



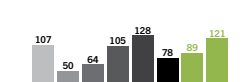
Alkali Creek Rd | 145



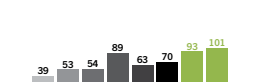
Rimrock Rd Trail | 141



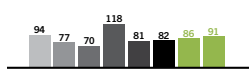
Will James Cut | 114



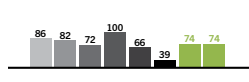
Mystic Park Trail | 105



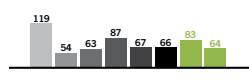
Rehberg Estates Trail | 97



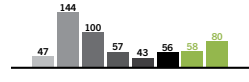
Lampman Strip Park | 89



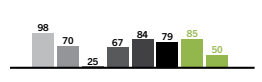
Shiloh North | 74



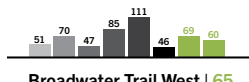
Broadwater Trail East | 73



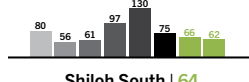
Cabela's Trail | 69



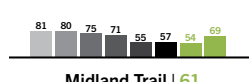
Bannister Drain Trail | 67



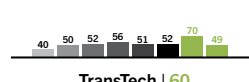
Broadwater Trail West | 65



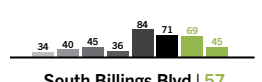
Shiloh South | 64



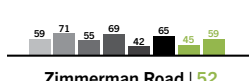
Midland Trail | 61



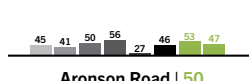
TransTech | 60



South Billings Blvd | 57



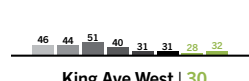
Zimmerman Road | 52



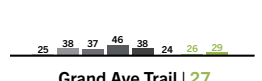
Aronson Road | 50



Coulson Park | 41

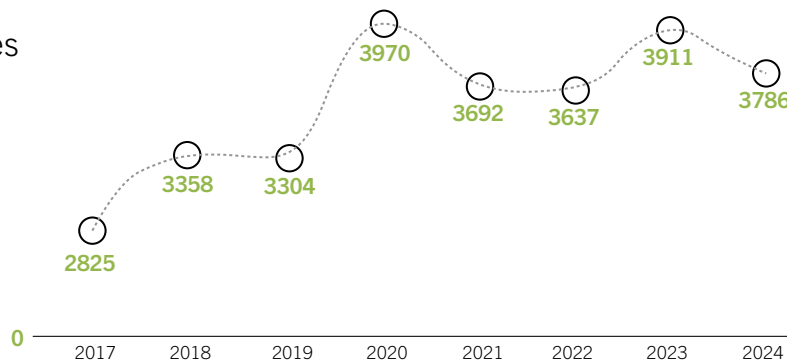


King Ave West | 30



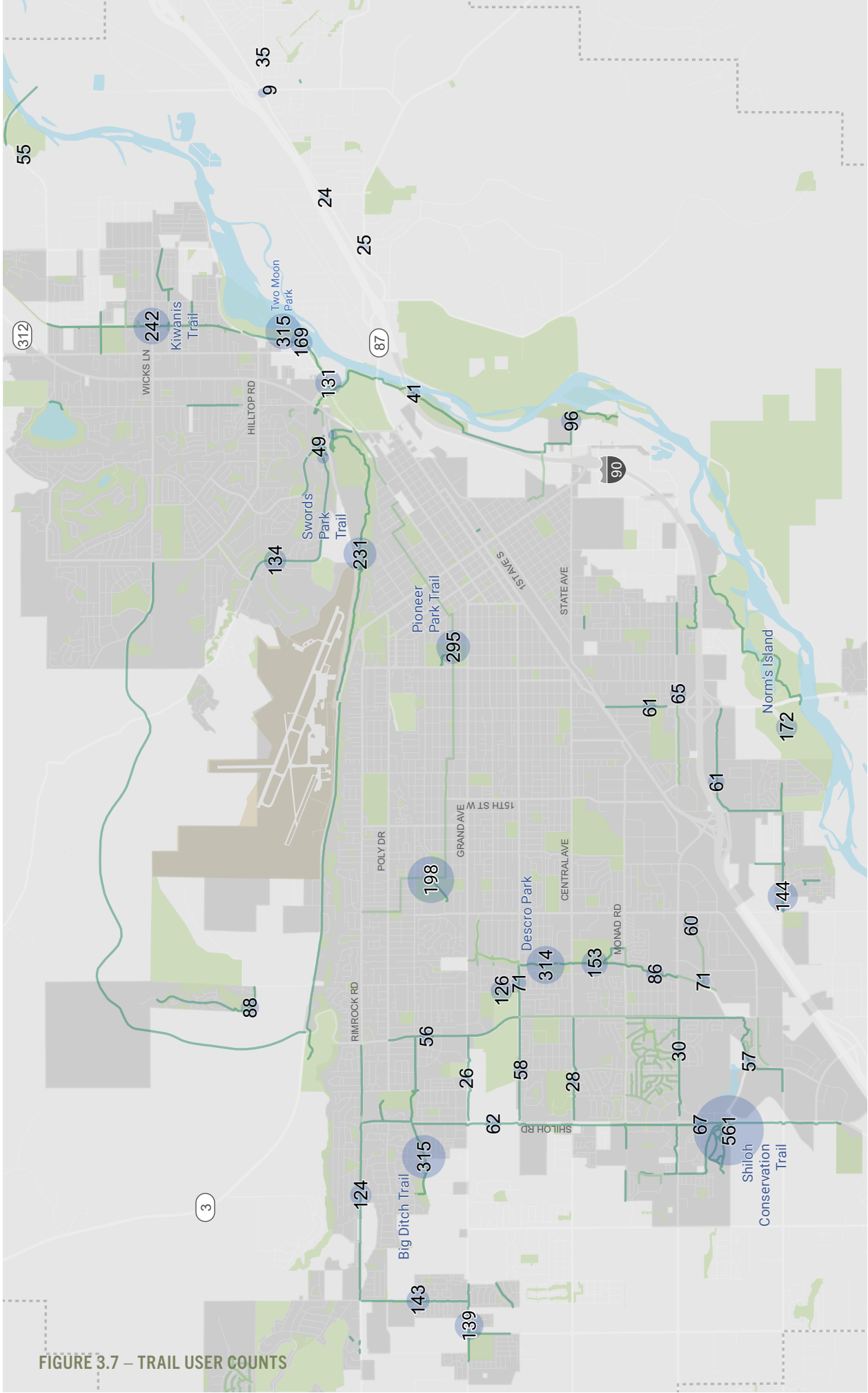
Grand Ave Trail | 27

Total Daily Averages



While Shared Use Path (trail) counts peaked during the COVID-19 pandemic, they remain high at less than a 5% decrease in 2024 over 2020.

Shared use paths appeal to a wide variety of users, as can be seen by their high volume of use.



- Shared Use Path
- Neighborhood Trail
- MPO Boundary
- City of Billings Boundary



TRAIL USER COUNTS

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

*Includes all trail users (pedestrians, cyclists, etc.)

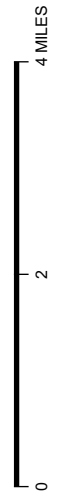



FIGURE 3.7 – TRAIL USER COUNTS



First - what are the most important places to connect to?

Second - Which corridors could be good options to make these connections?

- Consider previous recommended routes and other routes not previously identified
- Are there barriers? If so, is there an alternative routing option?



DATE: 2 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #2 1 NOVEMBER 6, 2012

Diane Tolhurst
Diane Tolhurst



CHAPTER 4

Community Input



RECOMMENDATIONS
WATER PLAN

4 MILES

EXISTING FACILITIES

- Sports Club Plaza
- Millbrook Area Land
- Hwy 101
- Hwy 101/102 Interchange
- Strategic Corridor Marking

Phase I Outreach

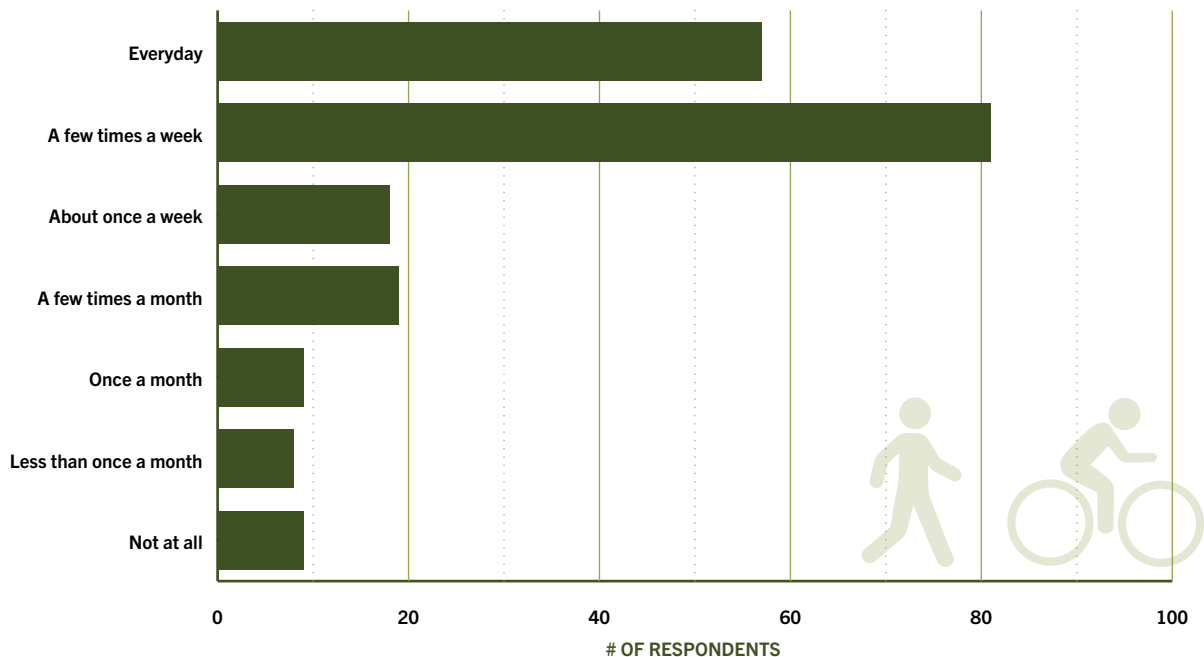
From mid-November 2023 to early January 2024, the general public was engaged in both online and in-person settings to provide input on preference, challenges, and opportunities surrounding bicycle and pedestrian mobility in the Billings Area. Public input was solicited via an online survey and interactive comment map. The in-person open house held in November mirrored the same input opportunities as the online options and are included in this summary of what was heard.

Phase I Participation

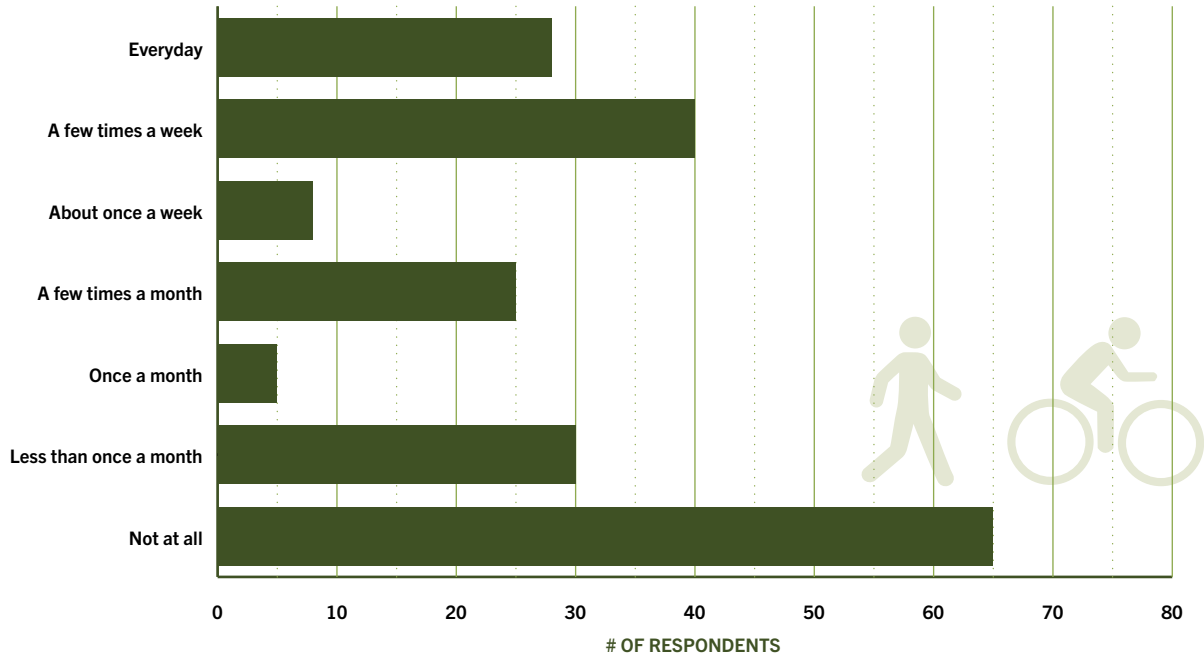
-  **201** survey responses
-  **189** map comments from approx. **64** IP addresses
-  **74** event attendees
-  **1800** website visits from 10/13/23-6/1/24
-  **839** unique website users

Online Survey Results

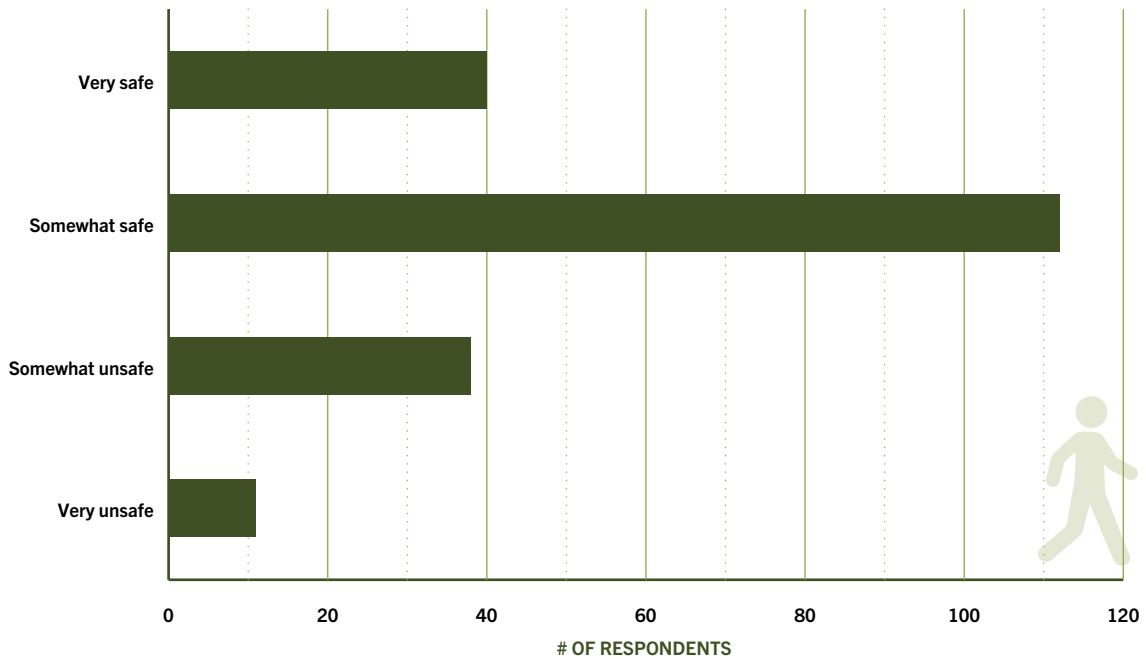
On average, how often do you walk or bike for recreation?



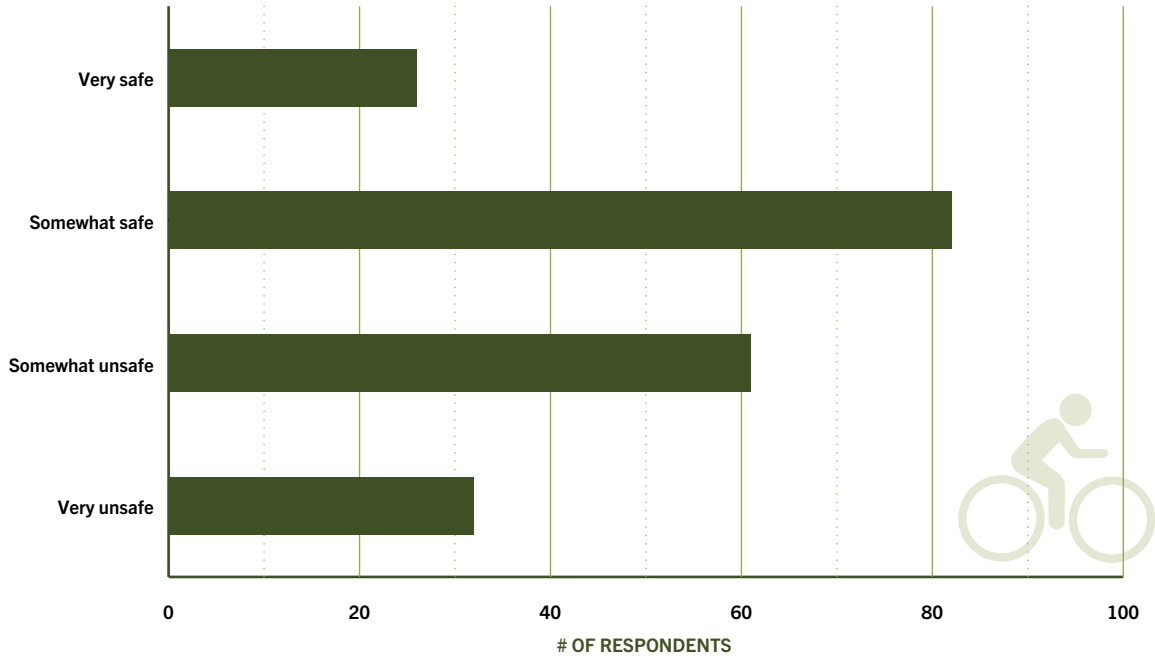
On average, how often do you walk or bike for transportation, including to access transit?



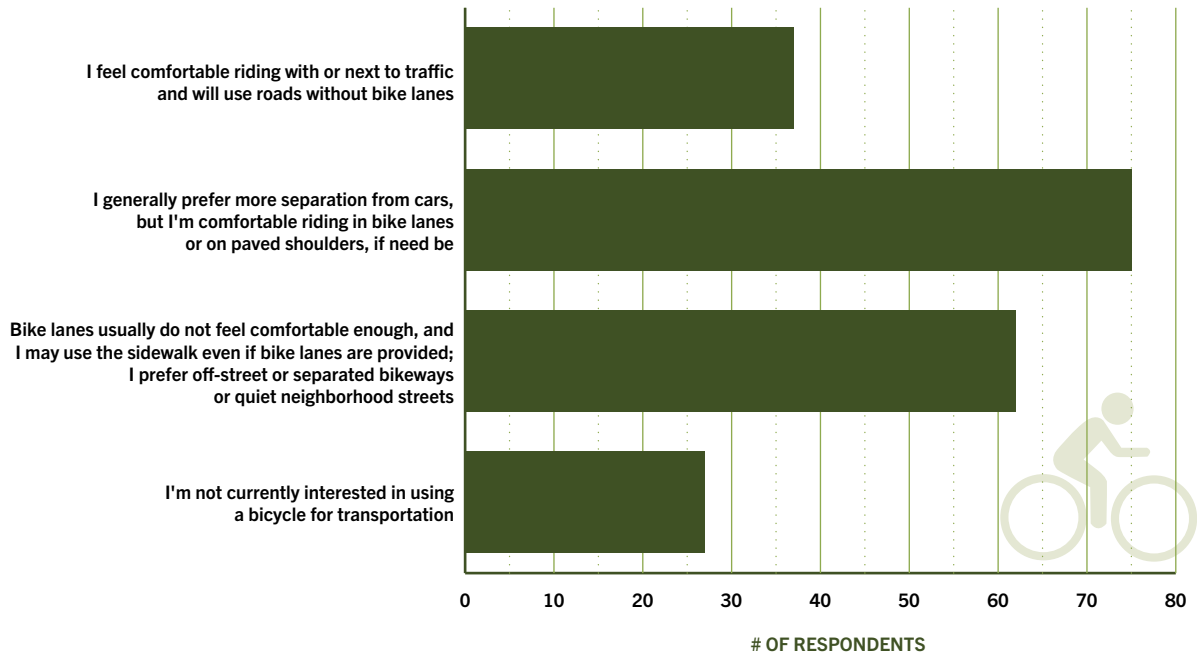
In general, how safe do you feel when walking in Billings?



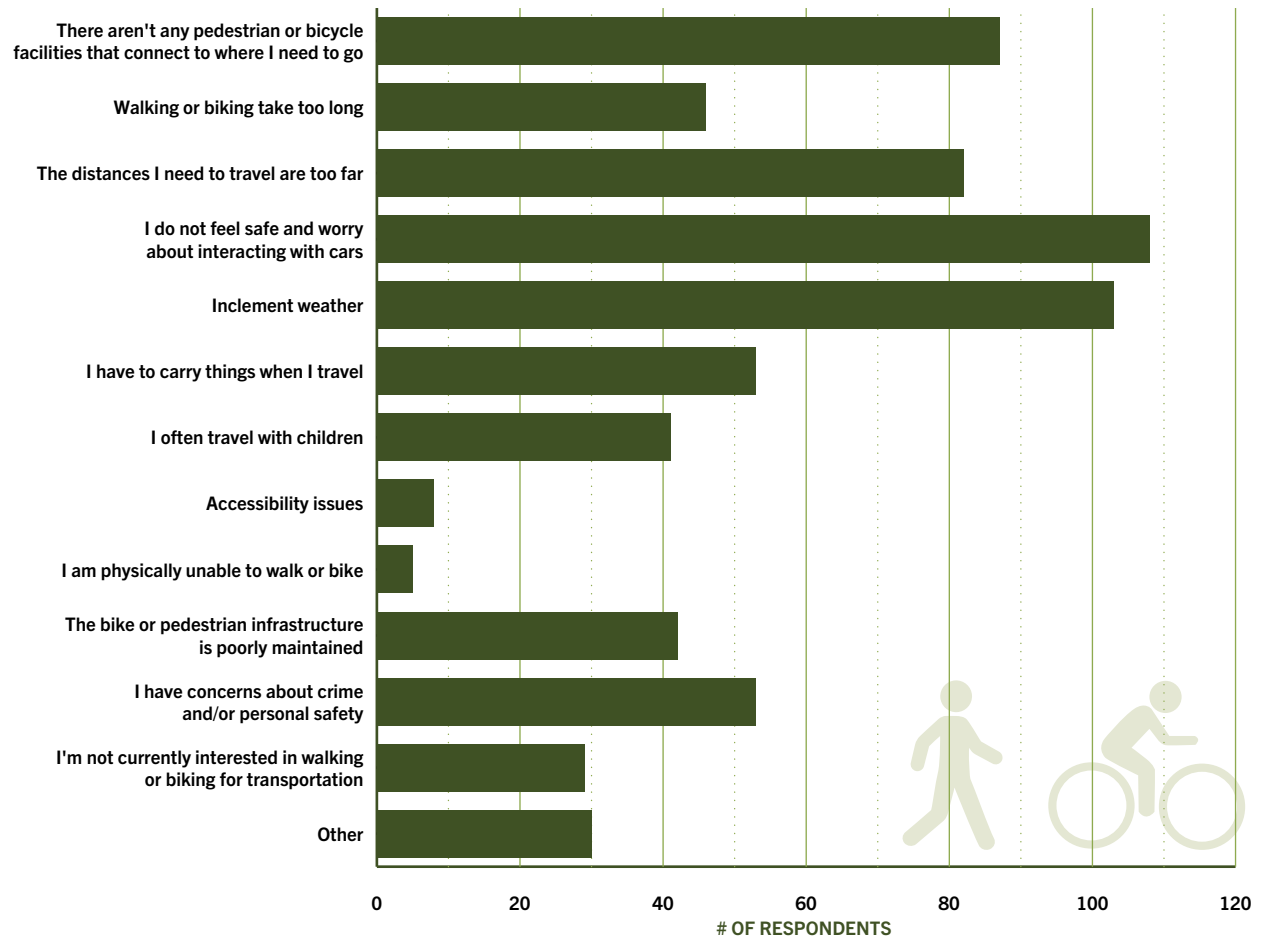
In general, how safe do you feel when biking in Billings?



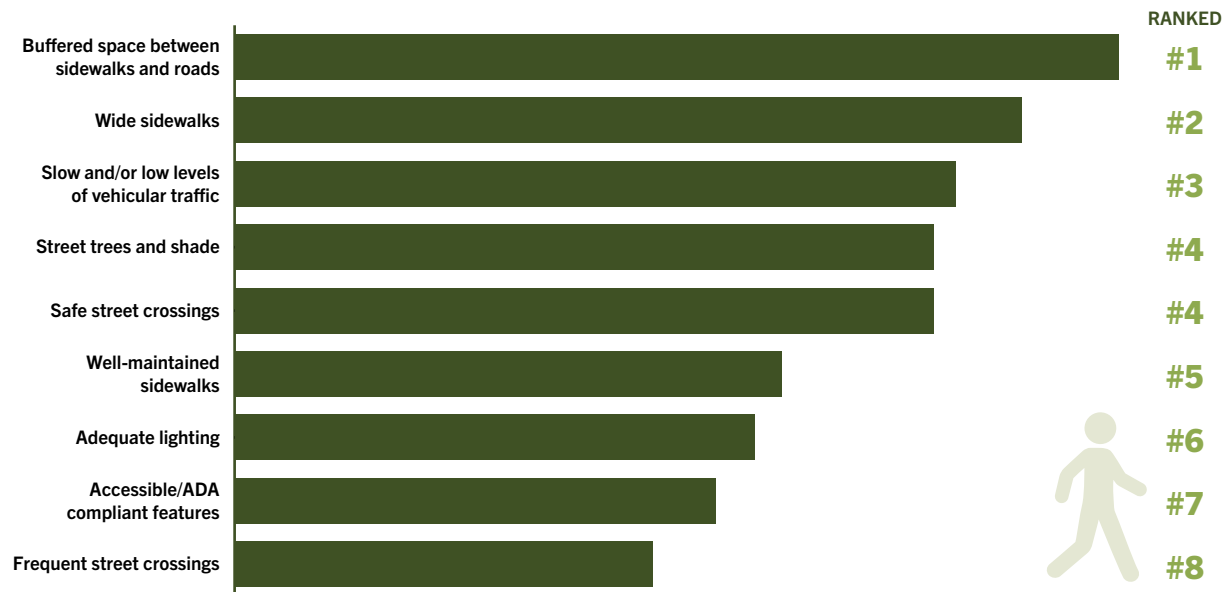
How would you describe yourself when it comes to riding a bicycle?



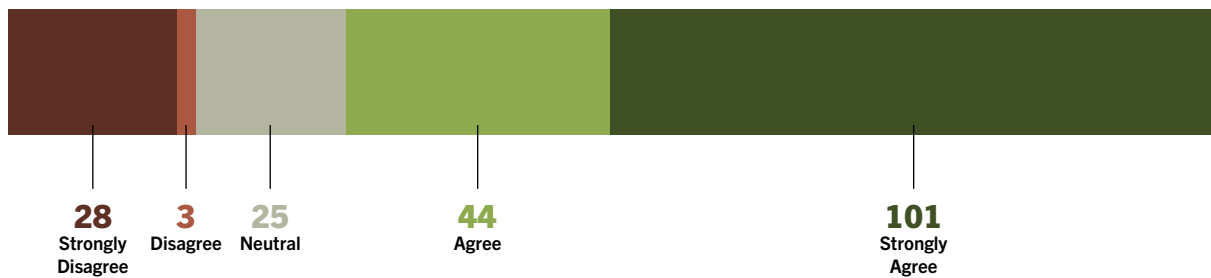
What are some things that prevent you from walking or biking more often?



What is most important to you for a comfortable walking experience? (Ranking question)



I would like to dedicate more investment dollars towards bicycle or pedestrian facilities such as walkways, paved pathways, restrooms, wayfinding signage, etc.



Open-ended Question Response Themes

What would encourage you to walk or bike for transportation more often?

RESPONSE THEME	# COMMENTS	CRITERIA
Infrastructure Improvements	81	Responses indicating a desire for changes in the physical infrastructure , such as the construction of new bike lanes, trails, improved crossings, and general enhancements to support walking and biking.
Connectivity	52	Responses emphasizing the need for improved connectivity between existing paths and trails , including requests for better-connected routes to destinations like workplaces and shopping areas.
Safety	49	Any response that primarily expressed concerns related to personal safety or the potential danger of biking and walking in certain areas.
Weather and Terrain	21	Feedback related to weather conditions impacting the feasibility of walking or biking, as well as comments on the state of sidewalks, trails, and paths in different weather conditions.
Amenities and Comfort	21	Responses indicating a desire for additional amenities , such as benches and trees, along walking and biking routes, as well as requests for bike parking and storage facilities.
Traffic Management	14	Concerns or suggestions regarding traffic management , including speeding issues and recommendations for better traffic control in neighborhoods.
Travel Distance	10	Concerns related to the distance between destinations and ease of getting to destination
Crime and Homelessness	9	Feedback addressing concerns about crime and suggestions related to addressing homelessness , with a focus on how these factors impact safety for pedestrians and bikers.
Public Awareness and Education	8	Any suggestion or concern related to the education of both drivers and the general public regarding pedestrian and bike safety , including calls for awareness campaigns.
Equipment	6	Owning equipment that functions properly or fits the needs of the individual.
Cultural Shift and Community Engagement	4	Responses indicating a desire for a cultural shift to promote walking and biking , as well as suggestions for community engagement initiatives.
Incentives and Workplace Support	3	Suggestions or requests for workplace incentives to encourage walking or biking to work , as well as comments on the availability of bike-friendly facilities at workplaces and tax incentives.
Specific Trail Requests	3	Explicit requests for the development or improvement of specific trails or paths , such as the Skyline Trail or East-West trails.
Public Transportation	2	Feedback expressing a desire for improved public transportation options , especially for commuting purposes, and suggestions for enhancements to existing systems.
Concerns About Tax Spending	2	Dissatisfaction or concerns related to how funds are allocated and the perceived shift from grant-funded projects to taxpayer-funded initiatives.
Physical Limitations	2	Physical limitations that hinder the individuals ability to bike or walk more frequently or for longer distances

What do you like about current walking and biking facilities (trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, neighborhood bikeways, etc.) in Billings and why?

RESPONSE THEME	# COMMENTS	CRITERIA
Trail Quality	111	General comments regarding preference for or state of the trails and paths . For example: Separated from roadways, dedicated bike lanes, well lit areas, wayfinding ease, maintenance of trails/paths, scenic views, specific attributes about trails/paths/routes
Existing Routes	66	Specific comments about existing trails, paths, or routes that are enjoyed or appreciated .
Accessibility and Connection	52	Remarks about connectivity and access to trails/paths/routes , with emphasis on networks of interconnected trails/paths/routes, low- to no-cost, and number of trails/paths.
Infrastructure and Development	26	Feedback on the development of new biking and walking facilities , suggestions for infrastructure improvements, such as better signage, lighting, and overall design, requests for more trails/paths, especially connecting different parts of the City, requests for more dedicated bike lanes to enhance safety, requests for improved connectivity between neighborhoods and various parts of the City.
Concerns	23	General concerns about safety , especially in high vehicle traffic areas, tax burdens, reckless drivers, general concerns with biking/walking in Billings.
Community Health and Recreation	21	Recognition of health benefits of walking and biking , enjoyment of recreational opportunities provided by paths/routes, and general statements about using paths/trails/routes for recreation.

What do you think could be improved about walking and biking facilities (trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, neighborhood bikeways, etc.) in Billings and why?

RESPONSE THEME	# COMMENTS	CRITERIA
Infrastructure Enhancement	96	Responses indicating a desire for changes in the physical infrastructure , such as the construction of new bike lanes, trails, improved crossings, signage, general lighting upgrades, and general enhancements to support walking and biking.
Connectivity and Accessibility	54	Remarks about connectivity and access to trails/paths/routes , with emphasis on networks of interconnected trails/paths/routes, low- to no-cost, number of trails and paths.
More Parks and Paths	36	Suggestions and comments requesting additional parks, build out of paths .
Safety	33	Any response that primarily expressed concerns related to personal safety , the potential danger of biking and walking in certain areas, or crime prevention tactics. Requests for enhanced safety measures such as upgrades/changes to intersections, 4-way stops, flashing crosswalks, lighting for safety purposes, etc.
Education and Awareness	17	Responses indicating a desire for a cultural shift to promote walking and biking , as well as suggestions for community engagement initiatives. Any suggestion or concern related to the education of both drivers and the general public regarding pedestrian and bike safety , including calls for awareness campaigns. Publicizing and encouraging the use of trails.
Traffic Management	16	Concerns or suggestions regarding traffic/vehicle management , including speeding issues and recommendations for better traffic control in neighborhoods.
Maintenance and Cleanliness	14	Requests and general comments regarding the general upkeep of bike lanes and paths , regular litter pickup, and enhanced maintenance.
Amenities and Comfort	14	Responses indicating a desire for additional amenities , such as benches, shade trees, water stations, bathrooms, trash cans, etc. along walking and biking routes, as well as requests for bike parking and storage facilities.
Prioritization	7	Requests for prioritizing infrastructure efforts for active transportation over purely recreational use, and encouragement for cooperative efforts between city and county areas.
Funding	6	General comments regarding the funding of new paths , maintaining paths, or putting funding/dollars towards activities other than biking/walking infrastructure.
Public Transportation	5	Feedback expressing a desire for improved public transportation options , especially for commuting purposes, and suggestions for enhancements to existing systems.

Online Interactive Map

The online interactive map allowed the public to explore the existing bicycle and pedestrian network as well as previously planned projects that have yet to be implemented. Participants were prompted to drop markers and draw lines on the map to voice opinions about locations that need bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Map comments are illustrated in Figures 4.1 and 4.2, and are categorized into one of seven categories:

△ ACCESSIBILITY (6 COMMENTS)

These comments included concerns about barriers to access important destinations or facilities, pointed out facilities that need improvements to accommodate young or inexperienced riders, or identified constrained sidewalks or bike lanes that do not currently meet the needs of all users

⬡ CONNECTIVITY (19)

Concerns regarding connectivity focused on connecting the pedestrian and bike network to important origins and destinations, connecting existing fragmented segments and filling in gaps to create a more complete network, leveraging partnerships with developers and local organizations to fill in gaps, coordinating with transit infrastructure to provide multi-modal integration.

◇ INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE (14)

Residents pointed out specific infrastructure needing maintenance or otherwise not currently meeting the needs of cyclists and pedestrians. These comments also included proposed improvements to existing infrastructure or desired additions.

⊕ PROTECTION FROM VEHICLES (28)

These are largely areas that feel unsafe for biking and walking due to a lack of protection from cars. Many of these are unprotected intersections or sections of roads with heavy traffic. Many concerns mentioned speeding as well as overly aggressive or distracted drivers as a barrier to walking and biking, and called for traffic calming, lower speed limits, and physically separated facilities.

☆ CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS (34)

Comments around crossing improvements focused on locations that lack safe pedestrian crossings. These include areas where additional crosswalks are needed or crossings need additional facilities to make them safer, such as more signage, curb bulbouts, or lights. Some residents also suggested grade separated crossings.

□ PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE (7)

Many comments stated the importance and need for an improved pedestrian experience, such as pointing out gaps in the sidewalks, or calling attention to places where adding wider sidewalks, trees, benches, or art would make walking more enjoyable.

● OTHER (7)

Some of the comments didn't quite fit into the above categories. These included concerns about poor visibility, confusion about trail routes, or questions about specific policies.

LINE SEGMENTS

Some residents chose to draw lines on the map to illustrate their concerns or ideas. These fell into one of two categories: **needed improvements on existing routes**, and **desired new connections**. Needed improvements included comments on trails that need maintenance, better protection from traffic, or other safety improvements to make the experience of walking and biking more comfortable and enjoyable. Comments pointing to new desired connections focused on connecting important origins and destinations that are currently difficult to reach, and suggested extensions of current trails. Corridors that received the most attention included Poly Dr, Broadwater Ave, 6th Ave N, Central and Grand Ave in the West End, and the Yellowstone River.

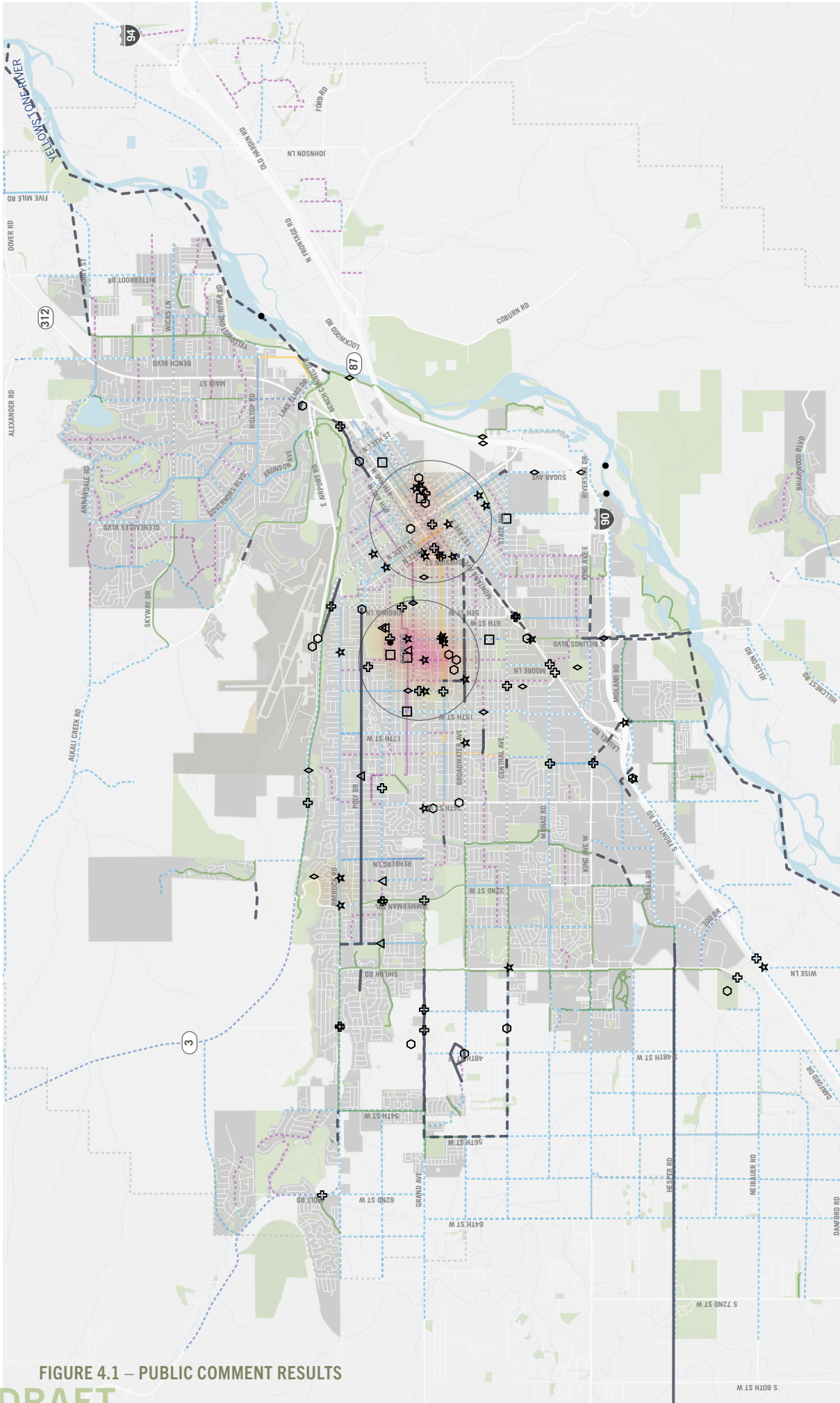


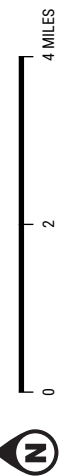
FIGURE 4.1 – PUBLIC COMMENT RESULTS

DRAFT

PUBLIC COMMENTS

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN BICYCLE MASTER PLAN &

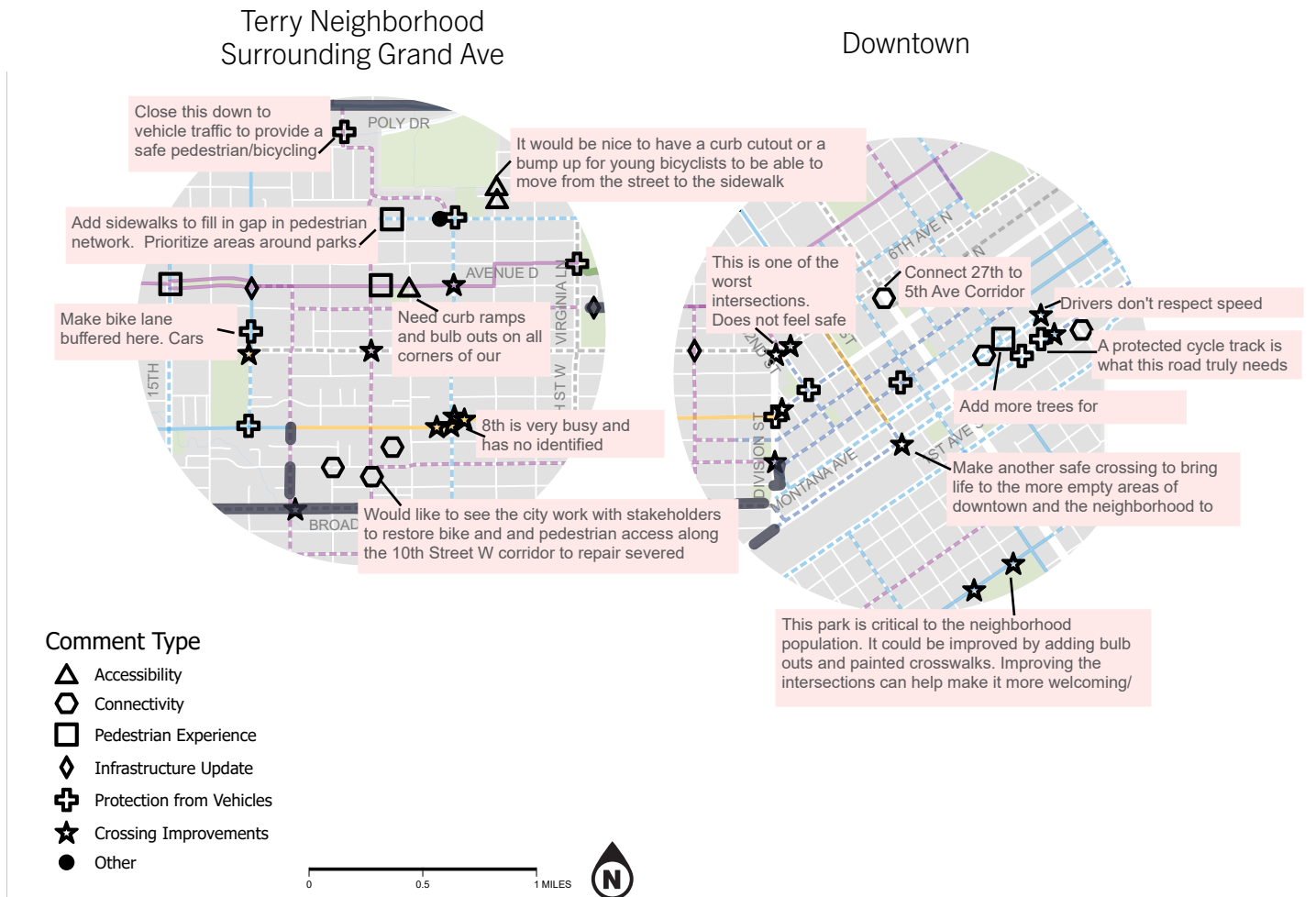
COMMENT CATEGORIES		EXISTING BIKE FACILITIES		PROPOSED FACILITIES	
△	Accessibility	—	Buffered Bike Lane	—	Buffered Bike Lane
○	Connectivity	—	Bike Lane	—	Bike Lane
□	Pedestrian Experience	—	Neighborhood Bikeway	—	Neighborhood Bikeway
◇	Infrastructure Update	—	Shared Lane Marking	—	Shared Lane Marking
⊕	Protection from Vehicles	—	Share Use Path	—	Visionary
★	Crossing Improvements				
●	Other				
□	High Density Areas				
—	Improve Existing				
- - -	New Connection				



Summary

Overall, Billings residents expressed a strong desire for more protection for pedestrians and cyclists, especially young or less experienced riders. Many residents have concerns about speeding cars and distracted drivers and do not feel like popular streets are comfortable without physical buffers and separation from traffic. Many also suggested reduced speeds would help with safety. Lewis Ave, Broadwater Ave, and Division Street were commonly cited as difficult to cross with current infrastructure, traffic speeds and volumes. Montana Ave, Grand Ave, and the downtown area stood out as places where many residents are calling for more protection.

FIGURE 4.2 – AREAS OF FOCUS



Phase II Outreach

Phase II public outreach took place during the month of July 2024; the public was asked to give feedback on the recommended network. Feedback was gathered via the same online interactive mapping tool used in Phase I. In addition to online outreach, the City facilitated a pop-up event along Poly Drive near Veterans Park to drive more traffic to the online comment map and test ideas for a protected bike lane along Poly Drive using temporary materials. MPO staff also talked with more than 200 people at the 2024 Strawberry Fest about what makes a comfortable walking experience.

Phase II Participation



203
map users



186
map comments
from 48 IP
addresses



310
total event
attendees



990
website visits from
7/1/24-8/5/24



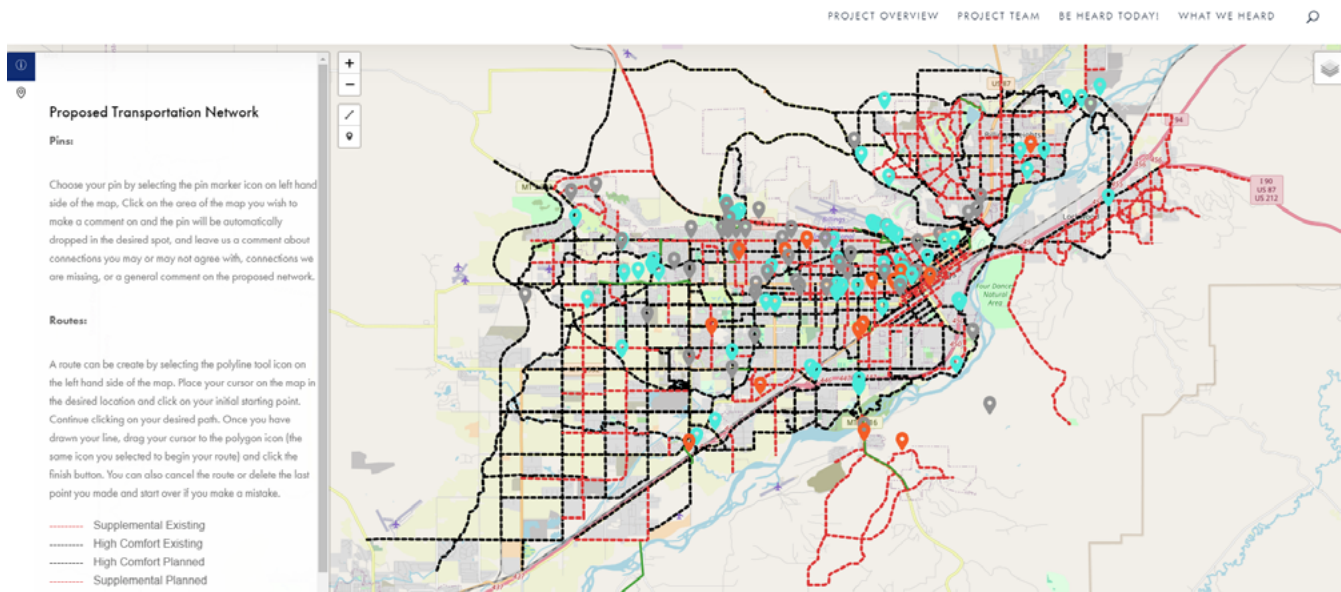
724
unique website users

Online Interactive Map

Similar to Phase I's online interactive map, the Phase II map provided the public with the opportunity to provide feedback on the recommended high-comfort and supplemental networks. Participants were prompted to drop pins along proposed routes and provide feedback to voice support, opposition, or general comments about the project. Figure 4.3 shows a screenshot of the interactive web map. In total, 203 people interacted with the online map and 186 comments were left. Respondents identified things like missing connections and crossings, dangerous path and bike lane conditions, inadequate or poor quality infrastructure, and high speed corridors, among many others. They also indicated what proposed routes they disagreed with and the changes they would make.

Each suggestion from the interactive web map was evaluated by planning and public works staff and considered for inclusion in the final network recommendations based on feasibility and the goals of the plan. Public suggestions that aligned with the plans goals and were evaluated as feasible additions to the network were flagged as “highly possible” or “possible”, while others were flagged for further evaluation or no action at all. In all, 11 projects were added to the recommended network based on public suggestions. Figure 4.4 shows the specific locations and feasibility of all the comments that were received.

FIGURE 4.3 – PHASE II PUBLIC COMMENT RESULTS



Strawberry Festival

In July, the MPO set up a booth at the annual Strawberry Festival, Billings' largest street festival. Staff gathered input and feedback on people's priorities related to what makes a comfortable walking experience in the City. To engage with the public, they used a pinto bean polling activity, in which each resident who engaged was given three beans to vote on what aspects of comfort were most important to them. 792 votes were cast, and approximately 264 people were engaged during the festival, with the table below providing the details of respondents priorities.

Please note, temperatures topped 100 degrees the day of the outdoor event, which may have influenced the top rank of street trees and shade. During the online outreach, participants said that buffered space between sidewalks and roads, wide sidewalks, and slow and/or low levels of vehicular traffic were most important for a comfortable walking experience. In comparison, Strawberry event attendees were more focused on the condition of the sidewalks and street crossings, in addition to street trees and shade.

What is most important to you for a comfortable walking experience?

PRIORITIES	TOTAL VOTES	PERCENT OF TOTAL VOTES
Street trees and shade	194	24.49%
Well-maintained sidewalk	124	15.66%
Safe street crossings	118	14.90%
Adequate lighting	100	12.63%
Buffered space between sidewalks and roads	66	8.33%
Wide sidewalks	60	7.56%
Slow and low traffic	54	6.82%
Accessibility/ADA compliant features	51	6.44%
Frequent street crossings	25	3.16%



Pop-up Protected Bike Lane

On July 10th, the MPO hosted a pop-up protected bike lane along Poly Dr. near Veterans Park using temporary materials like traffic candles and hay bales. The goal was to test ideas for potential protected bike lanes, promote the plan, and direct more people to the online public comment map for providing feedback on the overall network. In all, 46 people engaged with the demonstration. Feedback on the event was largely positive with attendees remarking that they enjoyed the additional protection from traffic. One attendee remarked that the drivers also seemed more comfortable in their lanes with the additional space afforded to people biking and that drivers tended to swerve away less from the bike lane, indicating that they felt there was a safe distance provided between them and bicyclists in the lane.



CHAPTER 5

Recommendations

The Network

The recommended bicycle and pedestrian network for the Billings Area builds on previously planned improvements from the 2017 Plan, the existing conditions analysis, and public input. Guided by the goals of this plan, the approach to developing the network was focused on establishing an all-ages-and-abilities network that connects to important destinations in the area. As illustrated on the map in Figure 5.2, planned route improvements are organized into two categories: the high-comfort network and the supplemental network. Please note, recommendations in this plan are subject to change based on development of the upcoming future land use map required by state law and the Transportation Master Plan in development by the City of Billings.

High-Comfort Network

The high-comfort network is meant to be the backbone of the bicycle and pedestrian network and aims to serve a wide variety of bicyclists and pedestrians by emphasizing facility quality and low exposure to motor vehicle traffic. While “high comfort facilities” generally refers to bike facilities in transportation planning vocabulary, high comfort facilities in this plan could include multi-use trails, which are shared by both people who walk and people who bike and roll. Where multi-use trails are implemented after consideration of the surrounding land use and expected user profile, additional

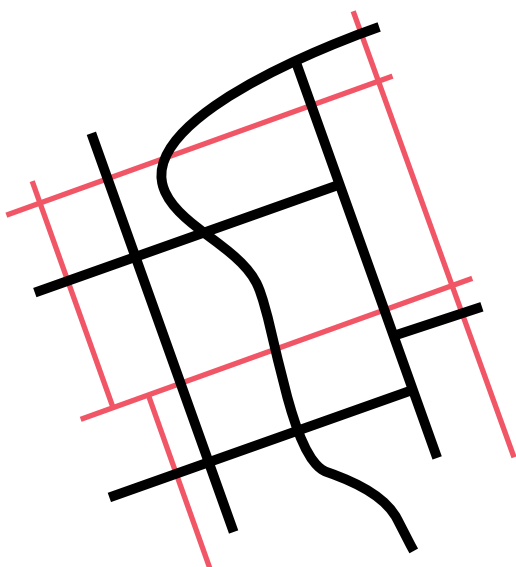
consideration should be given to pedestrian crossings of the street.

When implemented, high comfort routes are intended to provide a high-comfort experience where people of all ages and abilities feel confident and safe. Each route in the high-comfort network will require further engineering analysis and public input to determine what specific improvements are appropriate and feasible, but should aim to achieve a post-construction Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) score of LTS 1. It is understood that when design begins, there may be constraints that make it not possible to achieve LTS 1 for some facilities or parts of facilities. If a significant portion of the proposed route is unable to meet LTS 1, Figure 5.1, which is adopted from the *Bikeway Selection Guide from the Federal Highway Administration* (FHWA), may be used to determine alternative solutions.

High-comfort network improvements are typically prioritized before other connections, but may require more effort and resources to implement. See pages 54-60 for more guidance on selecting the appropriate facility.

Supplemental Network

The supplemental network augments the high-comfort network and includes other connections to destinations. It emphasizes making connections, even if high-comfort facilities are not provided; however, high-comfort facilities should always be considered when implementing the supplemental network. The supplemental network will likely consist primarily of striped bike lanes and shared lane markings. While investments should be focused first on completing the high-comfort network, supplemental network improvements may be implemented before high-comfort connections as opportunities arise (e.g., pavement preservation projects, new development, etc.).



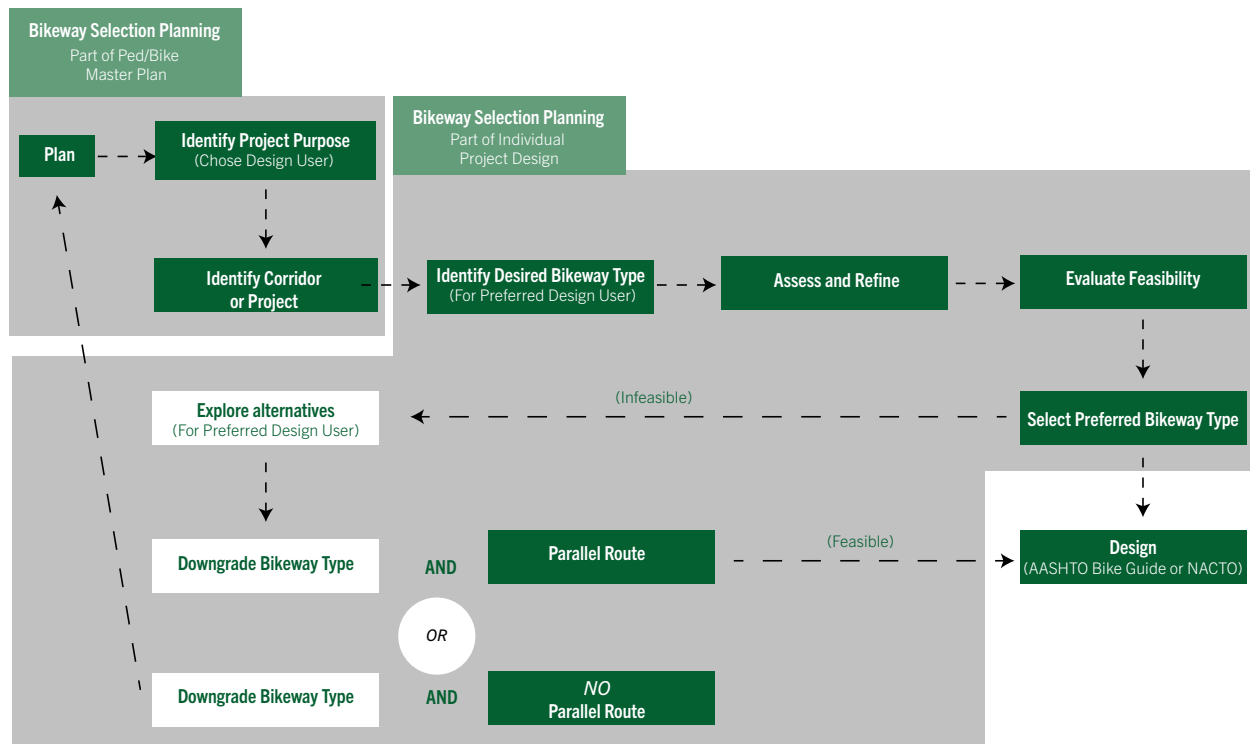
High-Comfort Routes

- Intended to serve all ages and abilities by mitigating exposure to motor vehicle traffic
- Physical separation may not be required depending on roadway context

Supplemental Routes

- Provides additional connections
- May not be feasible or practical to implement high-comfort facilities

FIGURE 5.1 - SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR SELECTING FACILITY TYPE
ADOPTED FROM FHWA BIKEWAY SELECTION PROCESS AND GUIDE OUTLINE



Pedestrian Considerations

Everyone is a pedestrian at some point in their journey, regardless of whether their primary mode is driving, bicycling, riding transit, or walking. Therefore, the Billings area aims for every roadway and trail corridor to be accessible and safe for people walking and using mobility devices. Improvements to the bikeway and trail network inherently benefit both bicyclists and pedestrians. On-street bikeways create a slower, calmer environment for all roadway users, including pedestrians, and shared use paths provide

a physically separated pedestrian way. Converting one-way streets to two-way can help slow traffic and increase pedestrian level of comfort.

Pedestrian improvements should be considered on all routes, not just the network identified in Figure 5.2. As previously mentioned, some of these high comfort routes, in the form of shared use paths, are expected to serve pedestrians as well as people biking. Where shared use paths are implemented, designers can consult, "Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian" or STEP safety counter measures as a guideline for

improving pedestrian crossings. STEP measures are one tool to use in conjunction with other design guidance and federal requirements. STEP measures come from the Federal Highway Administration and include:

- Raised Crosswalks
- In Street Pedestrian Signs
- Advanced “yield here to” Markings and Signage
- Pedestrian Refuge Islands
- Curb Extensions and Bulbouts
- Road Diets
- Grade Separation

Appropriate countermeasures based on speed, volume, and roadway configuration can be determined by reviewing the following tables for uncontrolled crossings.

While this plan groups pedestrian projects with bike projects, previous and future planning efforts specify

or will specify additional pedestrian improvements, such as missing sidewalks and enhanced crosswalks. The Safe Routes to School Plan Update, Phase 1 and Phase 2, both completed by the MPO, address pedestrian and biking projects around schools in the urbanized area. Additionally, the standard is to include sidewalks with new streets, the City of Billings Complete Streets Policy ensures all modes are considered on arterial road projects, and the City of Billings subdivision regulations require shared-use paths to be installed with some subdivisions.

Additionally, soon after the completion of this plan the City of Billings will develop a Transportation Master Plan, which may include more robust standards and guidelines for the design and construction of pedestrian facilities along Billings’ roadways.

While covered by other documents such as the subdivision regulations, some considerations to guide development of recommended pedestrian realm

TABLE 5.1 – FHWA APPLICATION OF PEDESTRIAN CRASH COUNTERMEASURES BY ROADWAY FEATURE

Roadway Configuration	Posted Speed Limit and AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic)								
	Vehicle AADT <9,000			Vehicle AADT 9,000–15,000			Vehicle AADT >15,000		
	≤30 mph	35 mph	≥40 mph	≤30 mph	35 mph	≥40 mph	≤30 mph	35 mph	≥40 mph
2 lanes (1 lane in each direction)	① 2 4 5 6	① 5 6 7 9	① 5 6 7 9	① 4 5 6 7 9	① 5 6 7 9	① 5 6 7 9	① 4 5 6 7 9	① 5 6 7 9	① 5 6 7 9
3 lanes with raised median (1 lane in each direction)	① 2 3 4 5	① ③ 5 7 9	① ③ 5 7 9	① 3 4 5 7 9	① ③ 5 7 9	① ③ 5 7 9	① ③ 4 5 7 9	① ③ 5 7 9	① ③ 5 7 9
3 lanes w/o raised median (1 lane in each direction with a two-way left-turn lane)	① 2 3 4 5 6 7 9	① ③ 5 6 7 9	① ③ 5 6 7 9	① ③ 4 5 6 7 9	① ③ 5 6 7 9	① ③ 5 6 7 9	① ③ 4 5 6 7 9	① ③ 5 6 7 9	① ③ 5 6 7 9
4+ lanes with raised median (2 or more lanes in each direction)	① ③ 5 7 8 9	① ③ 5 7 8 9	① ③ 5 8 9	① ③ 5 7 8 9	① ③ 5 7 8 9	① ③ 5 8 9	① ③ 5 7 8 9	① ③ 5 8 9	① ③ 5 8 9
4+ lanes w/o raised median (2 or more lanes in each direction)	① ③ ① ③ 5 6 7 8 9	① ③ ① ③ 5 6 7 8 9	① ③ ① ③ 5 6 8 9	① ③ ① ③ 5 6 7 8 9	① ③ ① ③ 5 6 7 8 9	① ③ ① ③ 5 6 8 9	① ③ ① ③ 5 6 7 8 9	① ③ ① ③ 5 6 8 9	① ③ ① ③ 5 6 8 9
<p>Given the set of conditions in a cell, # Signifies that the countermeasure is a candidate treatment at a marked uncontrolled crossing location. ● Signifies that the countermeasure should always be considered, but not mandated or required, based upon engineering judgment at a marked uncontrolled crossing location. ○ Signifies that crosswalk visibility enhancements should always occur in conjunction with other identified countermeasures.*</p> <p>The absence of a number signifies that the countermeasure is generally not an appropriate treatment, but exceptions may be considered following engineering judgment.</p>					<p>1 High-visibility crosswalk markings, parking restrictions on crosswalk approach, adequate nighttime lighting levels, and crossing warning signs 2 Raised crosswalk 3 Advance Yield Here To (Stop Here For) Pedestrians sign and yield (stop) line 4 In-Street Pedestrian Crossing sign 5 Curb extension 6 Pedestrian refuge island 7 Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB)** 8 Road Diet 9 Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB)**</p>				

treatments in the Transportation Master Plan include:

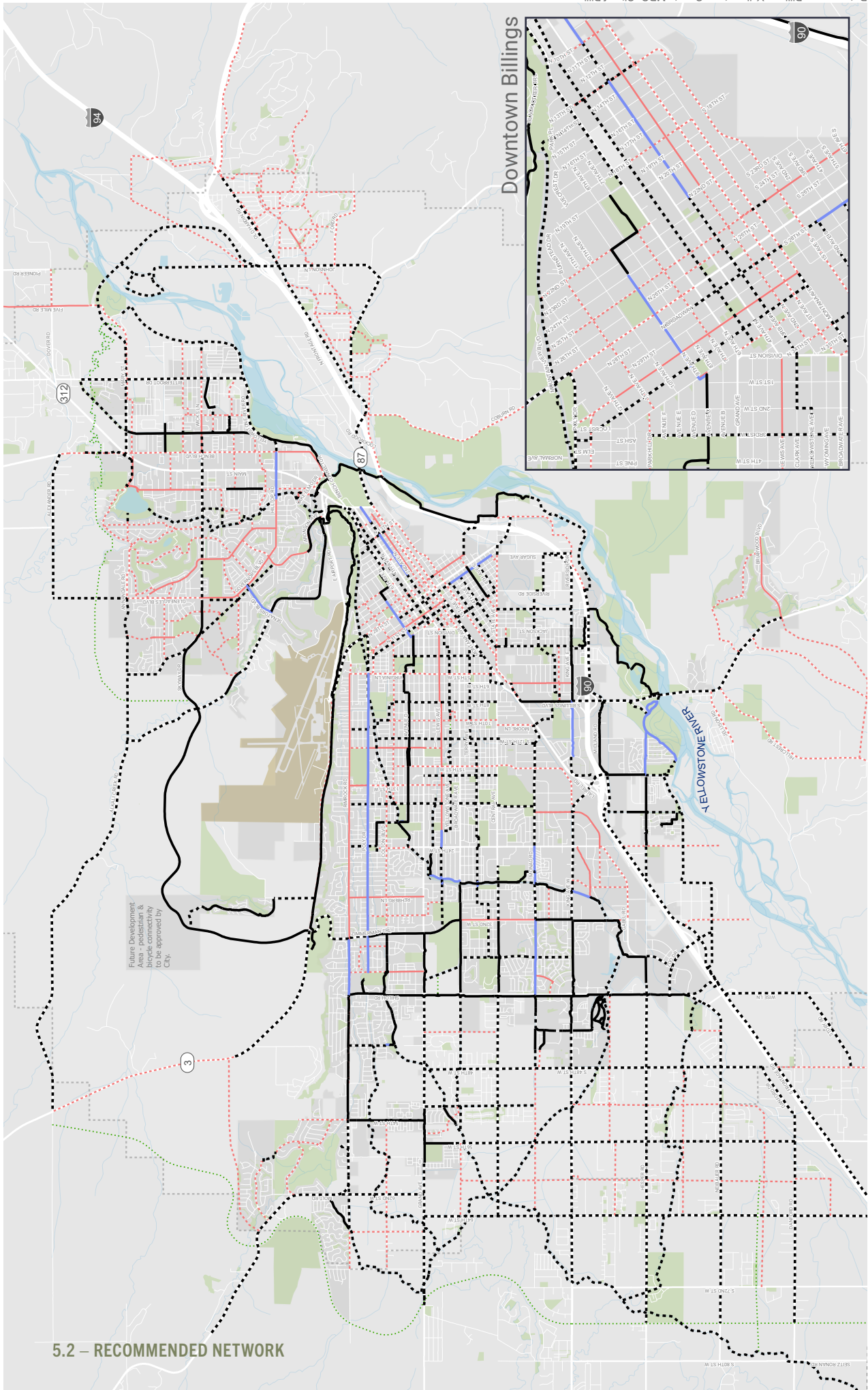
- Sidewalk widths
- How buffer zones, and building frontage zones (if applicable) should react to both pedestrian demand and vehicular roadway characteristics
- Levels of pedestrian demand based on adjacent land uses and by the presence of transit stops. Corridors with a higher density of fronting land uses and transit service typically require greater allocation of space for wider sidewalks, buffer/amenity zones, and space between storefronts and the travelled pedestrian way. Lower intensity adjacent land uses, such as single-family residential neighborhoods, experience less pedestrian demand.

Based on public input from both phases, residents show a clear preference for boulevard sidewalks. Boulevard sidewalks have a buffer, generally 5 feet wide, between the sidewalk and the street which helps increase the level of comfort.

Residents also show a preference for traffic calming, and safe street crossing based on the fact that the highest number of survey respondents responded that they “do not feel safe and worry about interacting with cars” when asked what prevents them from walking and biking more. Slow and/or low levels of vehicular traffic ranked as #3 for the online survey when asking what is most important for a comfortable walking experience. Safe street crossings ranked as the third most important factor for a comfortable walking experience from the Strawberry Festival poll.

TABLE 5.2 – SAFETY ISSUES ADDRESSED PER COUNTERMEASURE

COUNTERMEASURES	CONFLICTS AT CROSSING LOCATIONS	EXCESSIVE VEHICLE SPEED	INADEQUATE CONSPICUITY/VISIBILITY	DRIVERS NOT YIELDING TO PEDESTRIANS	INSUFFICIENT SEPARATION FROM TRAFFIC
Crosswalk visibility enhancement	X	X	X	X	X
High-visibility crosswalk markings	X		X	X	
Parking restriction on crosswalk approach	X		X	X	
Improved nighttime lighting	X		X		
Advanced “yield here to” markings and signage	X		X	X	X
In-Street Pedestrian Crossing sign	X	X	X	X	
Curb extension	X	X	X		X
Raised crosswalk	X	X	X	X	
Pedestrian refuge island	X	X	X		X
Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon	X	X	X	X	
Road Diet	X	X	X		X
Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon	X		X	X	X



5.2 – RECOMMENDED NETWORK

Future Development
Areas are subject to
City approval

RECOMMENDED NETWORK

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

- Notes:
1. Route alignments and facility types are subject to change pending further study and public input process.
 2. "High-comfort" facility types vary depending on context, but imply physical separation from motor vehicle traffic OR a low-speed, low-volume mixed traffic environment.
 3. For "supplemental" routes, high-comfort facilities should always be considered and studied for feasibility.

- High Comfort: Existing, to remain
- High Comfort: Existing, future improvement
- - - High Comfort: New connection
- Supplemental: Existing, to remain
- - - Supplemental: New connection
- · · High Comfort: Future concept

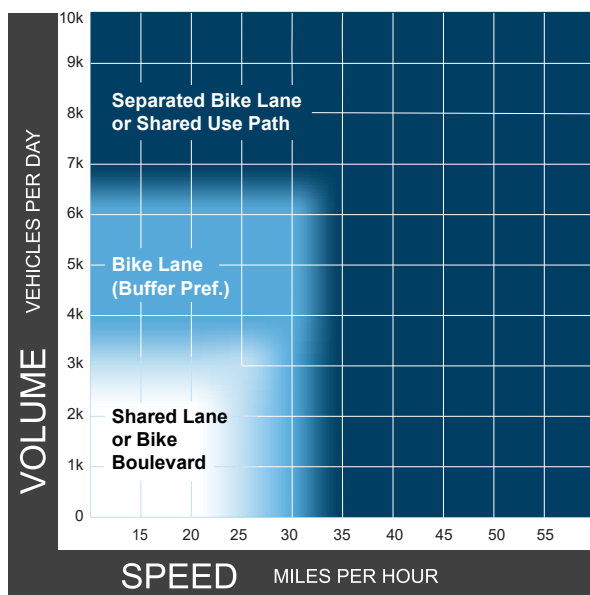


Selecting the Appropriate High Comfort Facility

Figure 5.2 does not identify specific facility types, but instead indicates where the MPO intends to prioritize high-comfort facilities. Each project will be addressed individually and assessed for available right-of-way, public support, and any engineering constraints impacting project feasibility. Figure 5.3 is a resource developed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to guide decision making for appropriate facility type selection based on roadway speeds and volumes.

FIGURE 5.3 – FHWA BIKEWAY SELECTION MATRIX

Chart assumes operating speeds are similar to posted speeds; use operating speeds if available



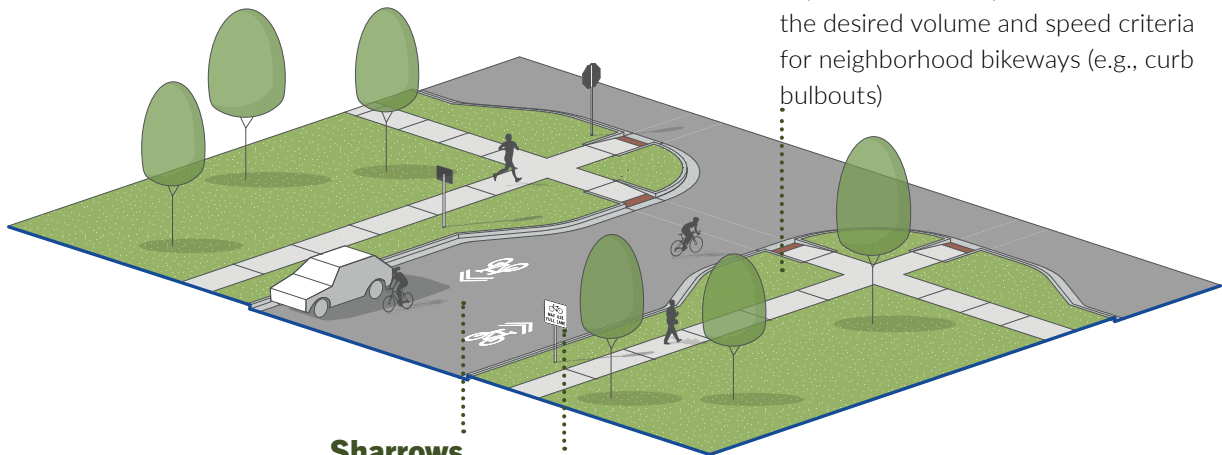
While there is flexibility in the chart above, the [Separated Bike Lanes on High Speed Roadways](#) report from FHWA notes that “The FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide advises planners to propose separated bike lanes on all higher speed roads in order to meet an all-ages-and-abilities goal” and later states that “Higher speed roadways were defined for the purpose of this guide as roadways with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or greater.”

Facility Toolbox

The following pages outline best practices for various bicycle and pedestrian facility types. Thresholds for roadway speeds and volumes are based on national guidance for achieving a high-comfort, or all-ages-and-abilities, network. The designs referenced below are for high comfort facilities; the supplemental network may use facilities like bike lanes on roads with high speeds and volumes than listed below.

When implementing improvements to a route, engineering judgement should be used to determine the most appropriate facility type based on available right-of-way, roadway characteristics, land use context, and public input. In addition to the considerations in this chapter, the City of Billings references the *Heritage Trail Design* document when designing trail and bikeway facilities. Those design standards can be found here: <https://mt-billingspublicworks.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/101/Design-Standards-PDF>. The latest standards for high comfort facilities can be found in publications such as the *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) or the *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* from the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO). New versions of both of these documents were published in late 2024 and early 2025 respectively. Additional design guidance from governmental agencies such as FHWA may be referenced during the design process

Neighborhood Bikeways



Traffic Calming

Traffic calming measures can be implemented as required to achieve the desired volume and speed criteria for neighborhood bikeways (e.g., curb bulbouts)

Sharrows

Shared lane markings (sharrows) may be used to assist cyclists with lateral positioning, to alert road users, etc

Signage

Branded wayfinding signage from the approved Billings Wayfinding Signage Plan and regulatory signage as required by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) marks the route

Neighborhood Bikeways are generally quiet neighborhood streets with lower vehicle volumes & speeds. Bicyclists and pedestrians are prioritized by managing speeds and volumes via traffic calming elements. Signage, pavement markings, and safe crossings at busy streets are also incorporated. These improvements will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis, studied, and recommended by the project designer.

FHWA High-Comfort Guidelines



Volume: ≤ 3,000 vehicles per day



Roadway Speed: ≤ 25 MPH



If Need, Paired With: Traffic Calming, Wayfinding

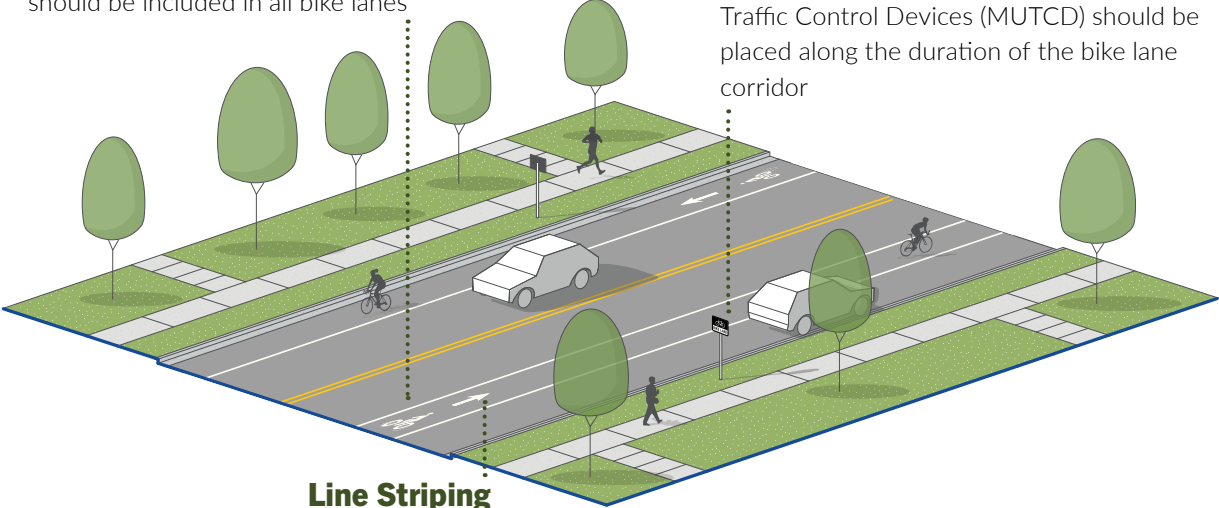
Bike Lanes

Bike Lane Symbol

The standard bike lane pavement legend should be included in all bike lanes

Signage

Branded wayfinding signage from the approved Billings Wayfinding Signage Plan and regulatory signage as required by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) should be placed along the duration of the bike lane corridor



Line Striping

Striped lines should be placed to visually separate vehicle traffic and parking spaces from bike lane traffic

Bike Lanes designate exclusive space for bicyclists through the use of striping, pavement markings, and signage. They are located adjacent to motor vehicle travel lanes and are typically used in the same direction of traffic flow, however contra-flow lanes are sometimes implemented along one-way streets. More width should be provided adjacent to on-street parking.

FHWA High-Comfort Guidelines



Volume: ~2,500-less than 7,000 vehicles per day



Roadway Speed: ~25-less than 35 MPH

Width

Refer to latest *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* from AASHTO or *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* from NACTO

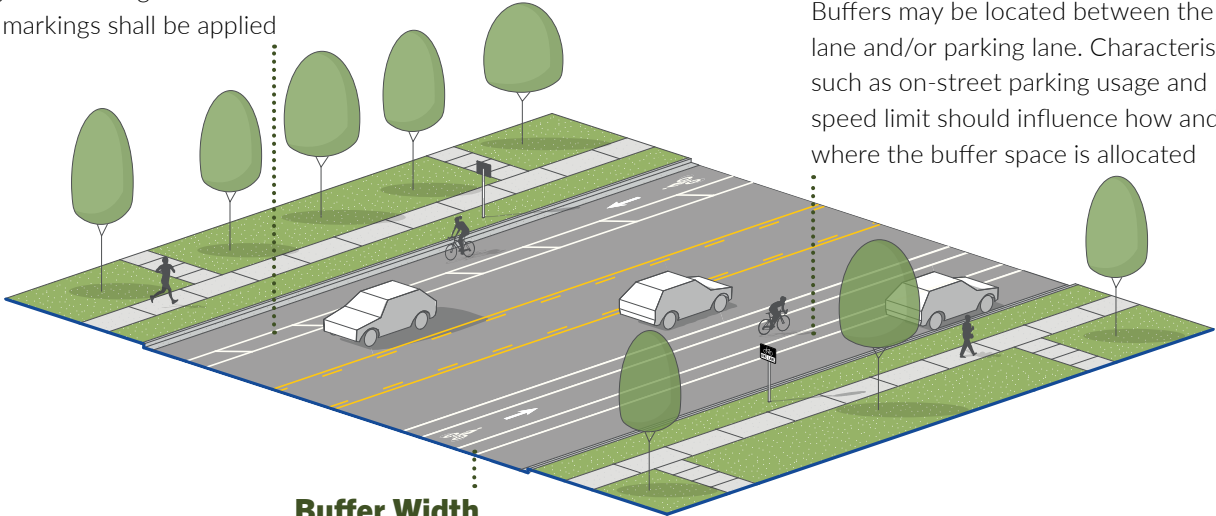
Buffered Bike Lanes

Buffer Striping

If a buffer is wider than 3', diagonal hatching or chevron markings shall be applied

Buffer Placement

Buffers may be located between the bike lane and/or parking lane. Characteristics such as on-street parking usage and speed limit should influence how and where the buffer space is allocated



Buffer Width

Buffers should be a minimum of 18" in width. However, wider is preferred

Buffered Bike Lanes are similar to bike lanes, but include an additional striped buffer to provide visual separation between the bike lane and the adjacent motor vehicle travel lane and/or parking lane.

FHWA High-Comfort Guidelines



Volume: ~2,500-less than 7,000 vehicles



Roadway Speed: 25-less than 35 MPH

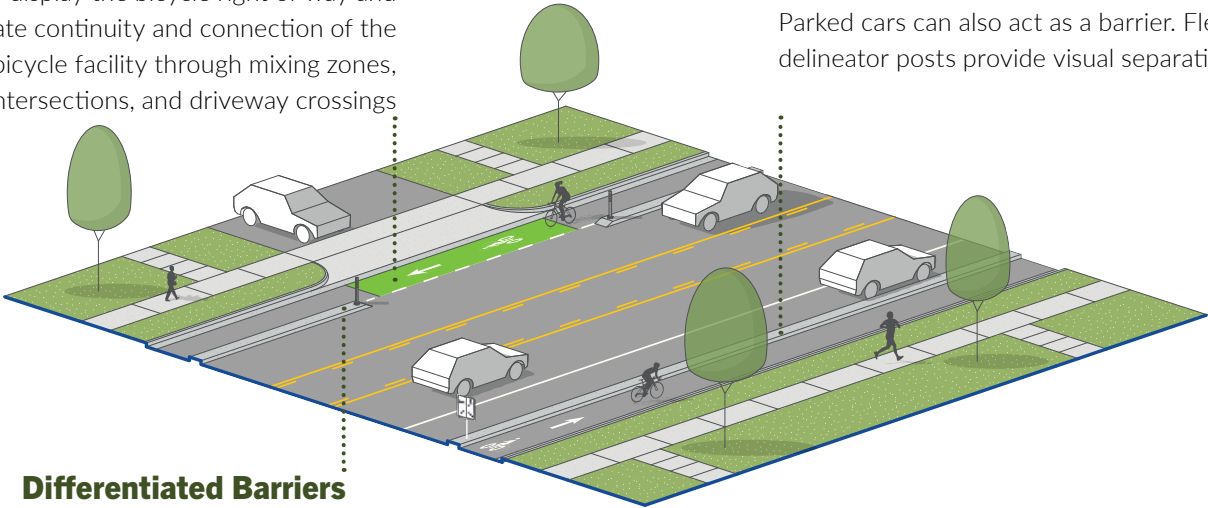
Width

Refer to latest *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* from AASHTO or *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* from NACTO

Separated Bike Lanes

Conflict Markings

If included, green conflict markings display the bicycle right of way and create continuity and connection of the bicycle facility through mixing zones, intersections, and driveway crossings



Physical Barrier

Materials for barriers may include concrete curbing, jersey barriers, bollards, planters, on-street parking, or other rigid materials. Parked cars can also act as a barrier. Flexible delineator posts provide visual separation

Differentiated Barriers

A physical barrier should be clearly marked at an intersection or driveway through the use of a colored surface and/or delineators

Separated Bike Lanes are on-street bikeways that are physically separated from vehicle traffic by a vertical element between the bikeway and vehicular travel lane. They typically share the same elevation as the travel lanes, but the bikeway could also be raised above the street level, either at or below sidewalk level.

FHWA High-Comfort Guidelines



Volume: 7,000+ vehicles per day



Roadway Speed: 30+ MPH

Width

Refer to latest *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* from AASHTO or *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* from NACTO

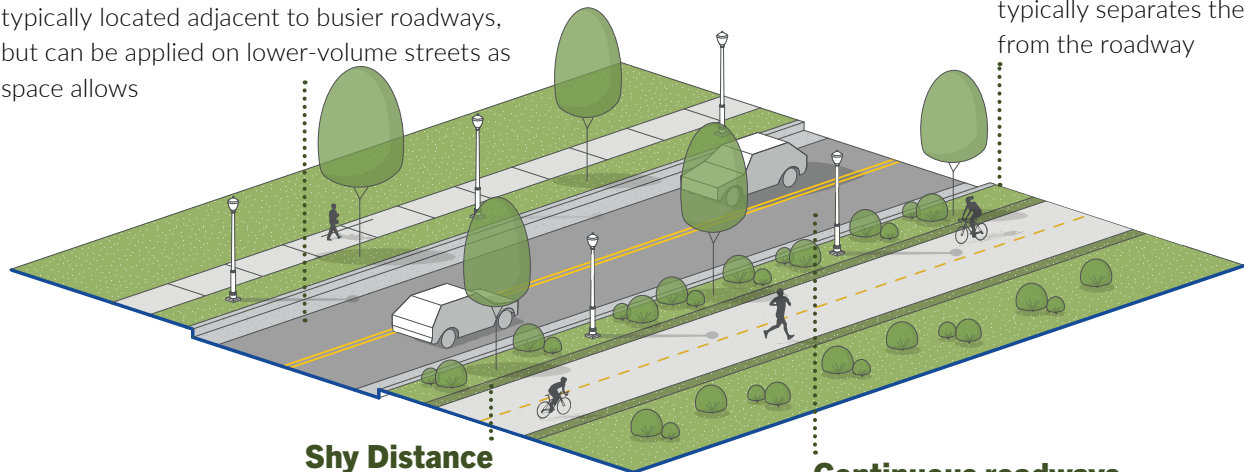
Shared Use Path (Parallel to Roadway)

Typical Location

Shared use paths parallel to roadways are typically located adjacent to busier roadways, but can be applied on lower-volume streets as space allows

Buffer

A paved or landscaped buffer typically separates the sidepath from the roadway



Shy Distance

A clear or shy zone between edge of sidepath and any vertical obstructions such as utility poles, signs, or trees allows the full width of the trail to be used effectively

Continuous roadways

Sidepaths are applied most effectively on roadways with limited driveway entrances/exits. At driveways, sidepaths should maintain the grade wherever possible

Shared Use Paths, parallel to roadways, are paved off-street pathways that run alongside roadways and are designed to accommodate two-way, non-motorized travel, including bicyclists, pedestrians, skaters, wheelchair users, joggers, and other users. They are preferable for bicyclists of all skill levels due to their separation from traffic.

FHWA High-Comfort Guidelines



Volume: 7,000+ vehicles per day



Roadway Speed: 30+ MPH

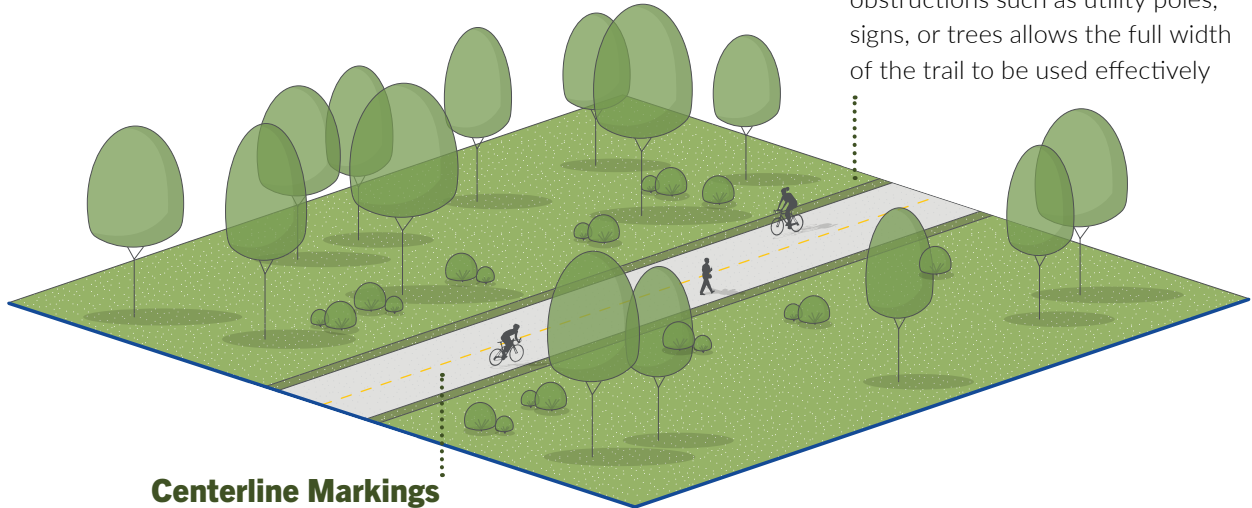
Width

Refer to latest *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* from AASHTO or *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* from NACTO or local subdivision regulations

Shared Use Path

Shy Distance

A clear or shy zone between edge of sidepath and any vertical obstructions such as utility poles, signs, or trees allows the full width of the trail to be used effectively



Centerline Markings

Centerline markings may be used, and are especially recommended in congested areas, at intersection approaches, or where visibility concerns exist

Shared Use Paths, or trails, are paved off-street pathways that are completely separated from the roadway and can serve both recreation and transportation-related trips. When located away from roadways, they are desirable for all skill levels, given minimal street crossings.

Width

Refer to latest *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* from AASHTO or *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* from NACTO or local subdivision regulations

Program & Policy Recommendations

In addition to making physical improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian network, the Billings Area is committed to improving the safety and convenience for people walking and bicycling through non-infrastructure initiatives, or programs and policies. Table 5.3 provides a list of program and policy recommendations that aim to make the Billings Area a more walkable and bikeable area.

TABLE 5.3 – PROGRAM & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

PROGRAM NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS
Bicycling Skills Training	Education	Provide bicyclists with needed road and riding skills	Current efforts include: Kids In Motion (KIM) curriculum still being distributed to Health Enhancement Teachers prior to KIM visits; Waves and Wheels at the Oasis and the education provided by the Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District. City staff are unsure how many Health Enhancement teachers implement the KIM curriculum. Having a dedicated staff member to provide the teach the lessons to students would be a benefit.	Organize staff member visits to schools
Road User Respect Campaign	Education	Increase respectful behavior between bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists	Take the Hi Road PSAs, which were a partnership between TrailNet and Public Works still sometimes run.	Discuss with Billings TrailNet to see if they would consider running additional PSAs.
Education about traffic laws and how to use new infrastructure	Education	Educate both drivers and walkers/bikers about the laws related to sharing the road	A Safe Routes to School educational campaign funded by a Safe Streets for All grant from the US Department of Transportation will address this.	Develop campaign. In addition to covering laws such as yielding to crosswalk users, consider educating pedestrians on how to use ped activated lights (RRFBs)
Share the Trail Campaign	Education	Encourage responsible, respectful behavior by trail users	Trail etiquette signs are beginning to be implemented as part of the wayfinding signage. Funding and time is needed to map out signs.	Continue implementing signage and explore other outlets such as social media.
Bicycling and Trails Website	Education	Provide Billings bicycling information on a single website	Website exists, but some information is old	Continue to update

PROGRAM NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS
Coordination with MET Transit	Education and Encouragement	Promote MET Transit to help residents extend active trips	The Commuter Challenge includes MET Transit and recent outreach events, including for this plan, have targeted MET Transit riders. Use of the bike racks on MET buses has skyrocketed from 8,662 uses in 2023 to 14,421 uses in 2024.	Continue to encourage use of MET Transit and explore options to introduce walkers, bikers and rollers to using MET for longer trips or in the winter.
Bike Month	Encouragement	Encouraging bicycling to work and school through fun, social activities and incentives	The program is in progress. In May, RiverStone Health helps organize bike/walk to school competitions. Commuter Challenge takes place in June, which is mainly for adults.	Continue program while brainstorming ways to involve businesses and partners. It may be possible to combine with bicycle benefits program.
Bikeshare System	Encouragement	Promote work-related trips by bicycle; reduce daytime vehicle trips	Bike and Scooter Share Feasibility study completed in 2020. Several companies have approached Billings about bringing shared micromobility to town. Staff want to develop an RFP for potential providers.	City to consider development of an RFP to define priorities and implementation.
Bicycle Benefits Program	Encouragement	Create incentives for bicycling by partnering with local businesses to provide discounts on purchases for registered bicyclists	Incentives offered annually as part of Commuter Challenge but not year round.	Explore options for combining program with Bike Month.
Bicycle and Trails Map	Encouragement	Provide route and facility information, as well as highlight walking and bicycling destinations	An app has also been created. Multiple different entities distribute their own materials. Consolidation of information would ensure consistent information is distributed.	Continue to distribute maps and update app.
Walking to School Promotion	Encouragement	Facilitate activities that get students excited about walking to school.	RiverStone Health currently runs a committee that helps get walking school buses started, "Walktober", and more.	Continue supporting walk to school activities.

PROGRAM NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS
Wayfinding Signage	Encouragement	Increase navigability of the shared use path and bikeway system	Wayfinding signage is being implemented with new shared use path and bikeway projects.	Continue implementing wayfinding signage along new and existing facilities.
Safety Equipment Use	Encouragement	Encourage the use of bicycle lights, helmets, and reflective clothing by promoting the use of this equipment and hosting equipment giveaways	Lockwood Ped. Safety District gives away some helmets and reflective slap bands to 4th graders in May. Previously, the school district had a grant from St. Vincent Healthcare (now Intermountain Health) to sell helmets to students at \$5/helmet, but the grant funding was exhausted. Both hospitals sell low cost helmets, but they are not free. Gifted and talented students from grades 2-3 in Billings Public Schools developed a campaign to fund free helmets and as of this writing have fundraised for about 270 helmets.	Encourage organizations and school districts to coordinate their efforts, sharing resources, establishing best practices, and program development costs.
Organized Bicycle Rides	Encouragement	Organize critical mass rides to raise awareness of bicyclists in the community	Tour de Fleur, a bicycling event by Billings TrailNet, has occurred annually since 2016. The Commuter Challenge has done a "Slow Walk/Roll" for its kickoff event for several years.	Continue to support rides, as well as organize rides with different purposes: accessibility, youth rides, etc.
Fun Runs	Encouragement	Use of trails for running/walking events	Many fun runs/runs exist throughout the community. Some use trails or the neighborhood bikeway.	Continue to organize more events
Conduct walkability, accessibility, and park audits	Encouragement	Conduct audits in the city's parks to assess accessibility conditions, lighting, and improve safety	Healthy By Design completed a Parks RX program where they evaluated two parks and created walking route maps showing conditions on the trails. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a City priority, and the City has conducted CPTED audits on some parks.	Formalize Billings' CPTED criteria and lead walking audits
City of Billings Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB)	Encouragement	Encourage employees to commute by bicycle through programs and on-site bicycle parking	With developments such as the new City Hall containing indoor bike parking, applying for BFB status could lead to the City becoming certified.	City of Billings should apply for BFB status, encouraging businesses around Billings to also take steps to achieve BFB status as well

PROGRAM NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS
Street Trees	Encouragement	Increase the number of street trees in Billings to help provide pedestrians protection from sun and extreme heat.	Street trees and shade rose to the top of the list of elements important for creating a comfortable walking experience during the Strawberry Fest outreach event. Parks and Recreation has a grant to plant street trees in Billings and trees are now required through the City of Billings zoning code in some districts.	Continue implementation of the tree grant from Parks and Recreation and discuss tree planting as an important part of walkability.
Lighting	Encouragement	Promote street lighting as an important element of walkability.	Lighting was one of the top 3 most important elements for creating a comfortable walking experience to Strawberry Festival participants. Lighting is now required in residential subdivisions in the City.	Implement lighting through the subdivision process and look for ways to incorporate lighting into new and existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
Boulevard Sidewalks	Encouragement	Continue to require and build sidewalks with a boulevard (buffer) between the sidewalk and the street.	During public outreach, Billings residents showed a clear preference for separation between the sidewalk and the street. Boulevards (buffers) are required by City subdivision regulations and are the standard for City projects, unless space does not allow.	Continue building boulevard sidewalks. Incorporate boulevards into the Transportation Master Plan recommendations.
Volunteer Bike Patrol Unit (VBPU)	Enforcement	The VBPU patrols the city's bike trails and parks and leads bike patrols in identified hot spot areas to report suspicious activities. Volunteers more commonly serve as "trail ambassadors," providing a positive presence on the trail system to help people feel safe.	The program is currently paused, however the Bicycle Advisory Committee would like it to continue.	Follow up with Bicycle Advisory Committee and City Police Volunteer Coordinator
Increase Traffic Enforcement	Enforcement	Increase the budget for traffic enforcement in the City of Billings to allow additional officers to be assigned to traffic detail	A Safety mill levy, which passed several years ago, provided more funding for police officers, including traffic enforcement.	Continue a focus on traffic enforcement

PROGRAM NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS
Establish Comprehensive Counts Program	Evaluation	Collect data on bicycling and trail use using automated counters	In recent years, the City has shifted entirely to automatic counts. Due to this, not as many ped. counts have been taken. There is one counting device available for year round pedestrian counts. It was previously placed at Skypoint, but is out of commission while more permanent housing is made for the counter. There is also one set of permanent bike lane counters on Poly and two permanent trail counters.	Continue current program and add additional counters, both temporary and permanent
Bicycle-Friendly Communities Designation	Evaluation	Assess progress and celebrate success made towards improving bicycling conditions	The application is every couple years. The City recently reapplied and was awarded bronze.	Review report card and reapply when necessary
Measuring the Street	Evaluation	Before and after the installation of new bikeway or trail facilities, collect data on bicycle, pedestrian, and motor vehicle volumes, crashes, and motor vehicle speeds	The City has conducted this process on a neighborhood bikeway, and will continue to conduct them on future facilities.	Continue to conduct studies and develop a findings report for each
Maintenance Documentation and Cost Estimation	Evaluation	Complete assessment the maintenance costs of walking and biking facilities.	The Street and Traffic Division is working on putting together a more accurate cost estimate of maintenance costs for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. The Parks Department has an estimated per mile cost of maintaining shared use paths in their care. Additional costs for shared use paths and bike lanes include snow plowing, mowing, water/irrigation, crosswalk painting, replacing Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, adding accessible ramps, seal coating, surface maintenance, and occasional sign replacement. The City maintains shared use paths and trails while property owners are responsible for maintenance of most sidewalks. Future protected bike lanes will also need to consider maintenance of any provided barrier such as flex posts and will see an increased cost of maintenance as it related to snow removal and sweeping and maintenance of any intersection paint.	Continue working on estimation of maintenance costs for existing and future types of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

PROGRAM NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS
Bicycle Kitchen	Equity	Bike Kitchens teach people of all ages and backgrounds how to repair bicycles. Through bike repair and bicycle related projects, bike kitchen organizations promote personal development and provide leadership opportunities.	Currently, no Bicycle Kitchens exist in Billings.	Explore program feasibility and potential partners
Bicycle Giveaways	Equity	Provide bicycles, bike education, bike safety equipment, and locks to low income children, veterans, people in substance abuse programs, and people in half-way houses.	The Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District gives away a few bikes a year to students in need. KIM provides an educational campaign for schools it visits.	Continue and support current programs
Bicycle Advocacy	Equity	Educate local and state governments about the needs of active transportation users.	There are many opportunities for engagement, including BPAC's annual presentation to governing bodies, presentations as part of plans, and others. Bike Walk Montana works with the state legislature.	Continue to engage with state and local governments



CHAPTER 6

Implementation Strategy

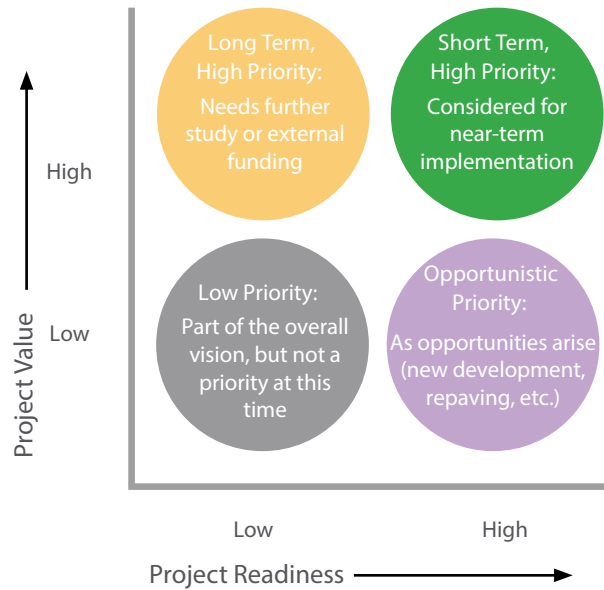
Prioritization & Implementation

Chapter 6 details the MPO’s approach for prioritizing projects, provides planning level cost estimates, and identifies potential funding strategies for implementing the plan.

Project Prioritization

The project prioritization process consists of two evaluations of each project based on: 1) project value, or benefit, and 2) project readiness, or feasibility. Projects are graded as either “High” or “Low” for each evaluation, which results in a project landing in one of four possible priority categories, as shown in Figure 6.1. This approach serves as a guide for local and state governments and agencies who want to implement recommendations from this Plan, in understanding which projects to focus on first; however, agencies should be flexible in their approach. Priorities may change based on future study or as other synergies arise with new development, reconstruction, or other opportunities for cost savings. Grant funding may also shift priorities, as the amount available or the priorities of funding agencies may drive project implementation.

FIGURE 6.1 – PROJECT PRIORITY CATEGORIES



Project Value

Project value, or benefit, is determined by how well projects achieve the goals of the plan in Chapter 1. Table 6.1 provides details about the criterion that were used to evaluate each project. Projects could score either a 0 or 1, with the former indicating that the project did not meet the criteria and the latter indicating that it did. Since some criteria are more important than others, either because they are more effective in achieving the plan's goals or have been designated as a priority by the City, multipliers were added to the evaluation. For example, creating more connections to schools is considered a higher priority than creating more connections to transit.

Project Value Evaluation Results

Figure 6.2 on the following page shows the project value evaluation results. A complete list of recommended active transportation facilities and spot improvements, ranked by project value, are included in Table B.1 in Appendix B.

Project Readiness

Project readiness refers to the feasibility of a project, and is evaluated based on the complexity of a project related to design, funding availability (including funding for additional planning and design), constructability, and maintenance. Projects that only minimally alter the roadway (pavement striping and signage only), such as bike lanes, received a high project readiness rating.

Project Readiness Evaluation Results

Figure 6.3 on the following pages show the project readiness evaluation results.

TABLE 6.1 – PROJECT VALUE CRITERION

CRITERION	DESCRIPTION	MULTIPLIER
Closes gap in spine network	Projects that extend a high-comfort facility or closes a gap between two high-comfort facilities	4
Connects to schools	Projects that create a direct or meaningful connection to any school	3
Connects to transit	Projects that create a direct connection with, run adjacent to, or intersect with designated transit routes	2
Serves major commercial, recreation, or civic destination	Projects that make a direct or meaningful connection to a significant trip generator or OD Zone	2
Serves geographies where people rely on active modes	Projects that make a direct or meaningful connection to areas that are classified as disadvantaged populations	1

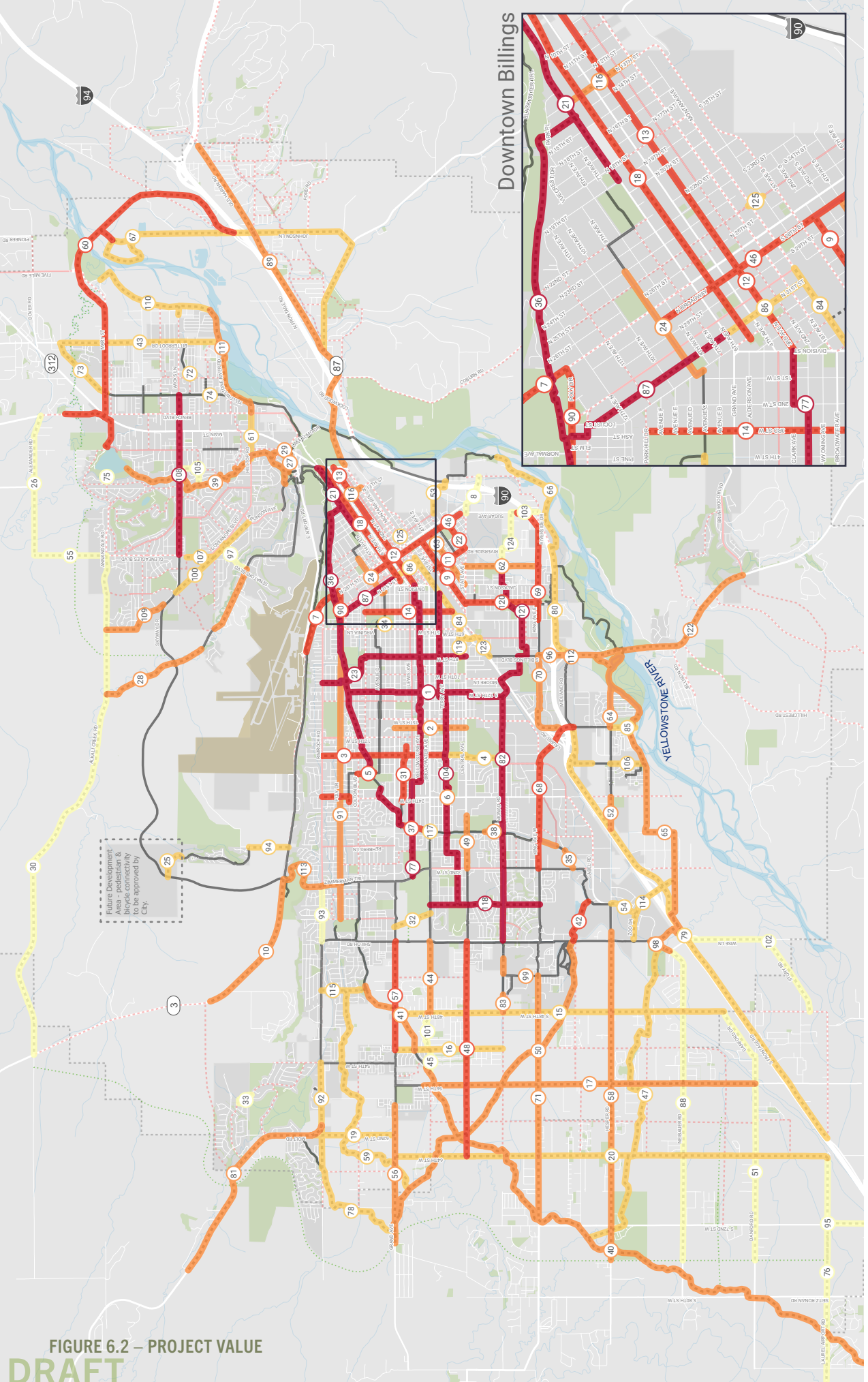


FIGURE 6.2 – PROJECT VALUE
DRAFT

PROJECT VALUE

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

Active Transportation Network

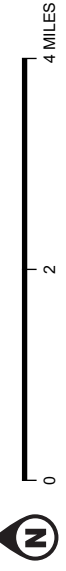
- High Comfort: Existing, to remain
- High Comfort: Existing, future improvement
- High Comfort: New connection
- Supplemental: Existing, to remain
- Supplemental: New connection
- High Comfort: Future concept

Notes:

1. Route alignments and facility types are subject to change pending further study and public input process.
2. "High-comfort" facility types vary depending on context, but imply physical separation from motor vehicle traffic OR a low-speed, low-volume mixed traffic environment.
3. For "supplemental" routes, high-comfort facilities should always be considered and studied for feasibility.

Project Value

- 12
- 9 - 11
- 6 - 8
- 3 - 5
- 0 - 2



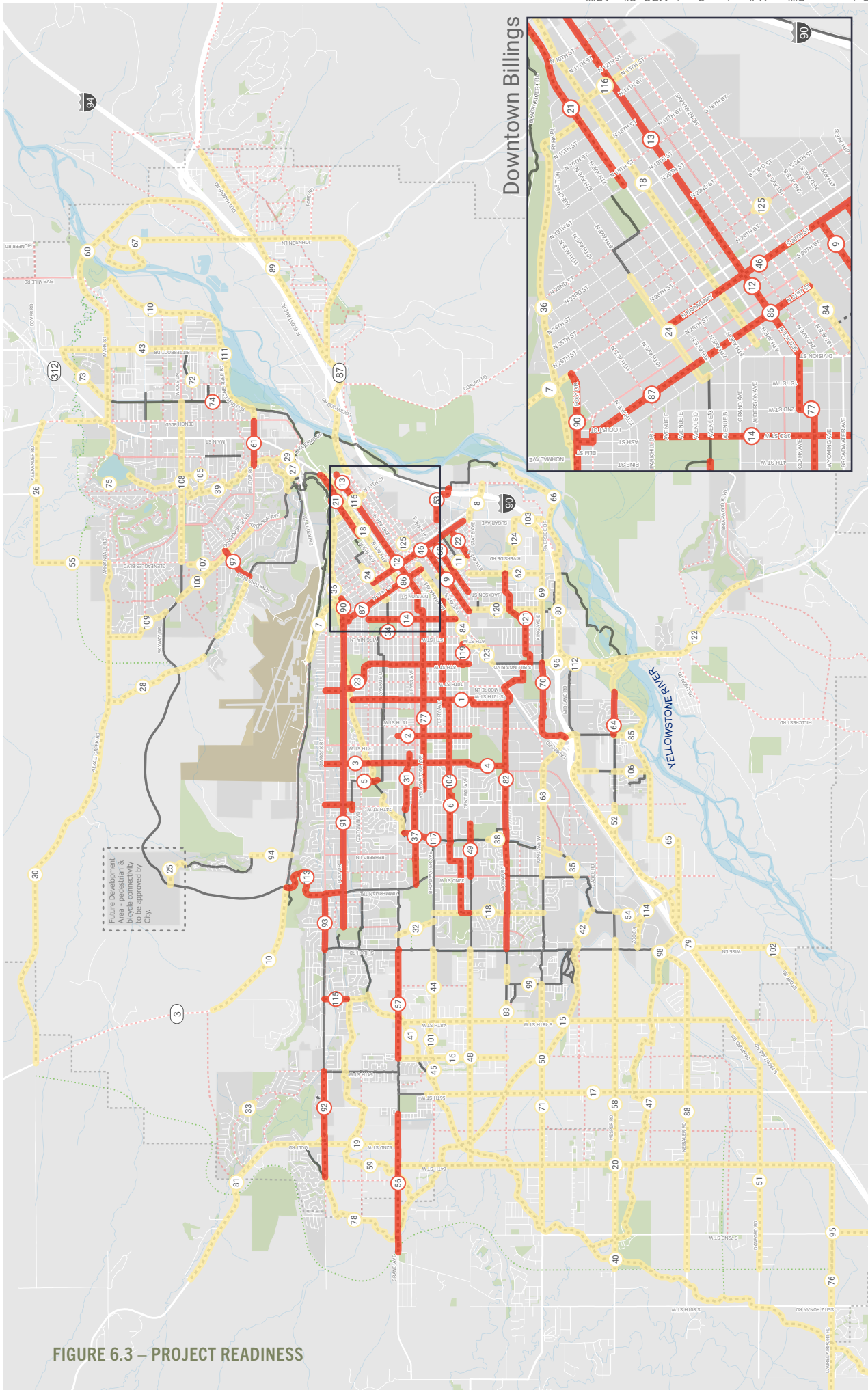


FIGURE 6.3 – PROJECT READINESS

PROJECT READINESS

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN



Notes:

1. Route alignments and facility types are subject to change pending further study and public input process.
2. "High-comfort" facility types vary depending on context, but imply physical separation from motor vehicle traffic OR a low-speed, low-volume mixed traffic environment.
3. For "supplemental" routes, high-comfort facilities should always be considered and studied for feasibility.

Active Transportation Network

- High Comfort: Existing, to remain
- High Comfort: Existing, future improvement
- High Comfort: New connection
- Supplemental: Existing, to remain
- Supplemental: New connection
- High Comfort: Future concept

Project Readiness

- High Readiness
- Low Readiness or TBD

Priority Project Categories: Project Value & Readiness Combined

- **Short term, high priority:** These projects score high on both project value and readiness, meaning that they achieve several of the plan's goals and are easy to implement. These projects should be considered for near-term implementation and are contingent on funding availability.
- **Long term, high priority:** These projects score high on project value, but low on readiness, meaning that they achieve several of the plan's goals, but may need further feasibility study or require external funding. These projects should be prioritized for further concept and feasibility studies, as well as applications for external grants.
- **Opportunistic priority:** These projects score lower on project value, but high on project readiness, meaning that although they may not achieve as many of the plan's goals, they are easy

to implement. These projects may become a priority after short-term priorities are complete, if an opportunity arises (e.g., new development and pavement preservation), or if safety needs become evident.

- **Low priority:** These projects score low on both project value and readiness, meaning they present a lower benefit and may be more challenging to implement. These projects could be pursued long term but are not a priority currently.

For a complete list of projects, see Appendix (B). The results of this evaluation are subject to change based on further studies, partnership opportunities, funding availability, or other circumstances that may influence the City's ability to implement and maintain improvements. Some of the projects listed will likely be constructed in phases or segments as funding and project limits allow.

Top 10 Priority Projects (Based on Value and Readiness Criteria)

Below are the top ten scoring projects. The number in the parenthesis next to the name lists the project number which can be used to locate the project on the map.

PROJECT	EXTENT	DISTANCE
12th St. W./Plainview St. (#1)	BBWA Canal to Monad Rd.	2.20
6th Ave N (#21)	N. 19th St. to existing trail	1.03
8th St. W./Delphinium/ Azalea/11th/Missouri (#23)	Rimrock Rd. to Central Ave.	2.04
Yellowstone Ave/Clark Ave/Lewis Aves (#77)	Zimmerman Tr. to Division St..	4.26
Monad Rd. (#82)	32nd St. W. to Billings Blvd..	4.20
N 31st St (#87)	Poly Dr. to 6th Ave. N	0.82
Terry/Miles/Howard/St. Johns Aves (#104)	36th St. W. to 1st St. W.	4.53
Phillips St. (#121)	S.. Billings Blvd. to Washington St.	1.43
19th St. (#3)	Rimrock Rd. to Miles Ave.	1.71
Grand Ave (#57)	52nd St. W. to Shiloh Rd.	1.51

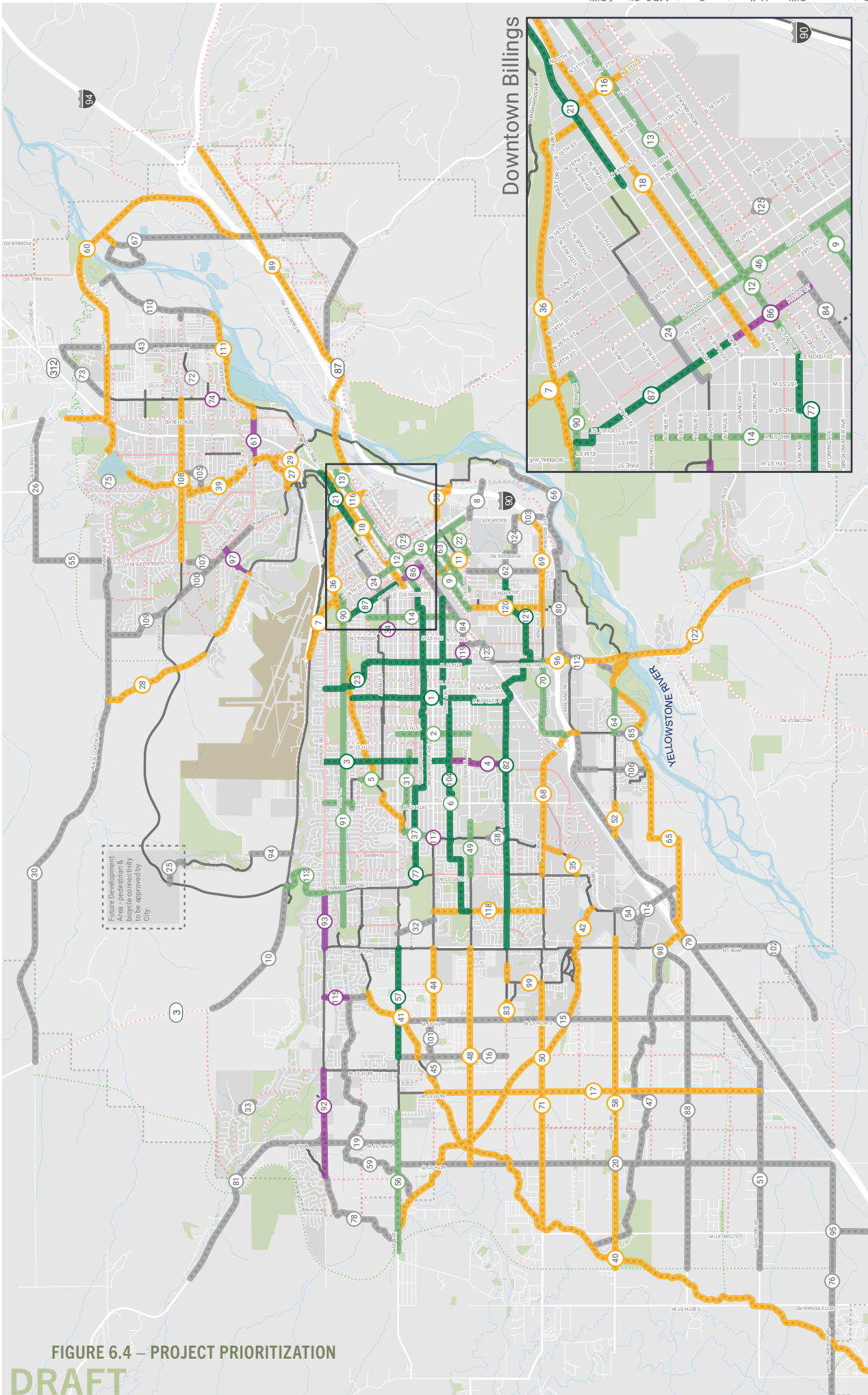


FIGURE 6.4 – PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

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PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

Notes:

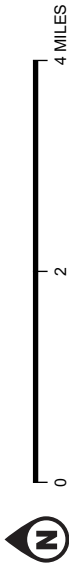
1. Route alignments and facility types are subject to change pending further study and public input process.
2. "High-comfort" facility types vary depending on context, but imply physical separation from motor vehicle traffic OR a low-speed, low-volume mixed traffic environment.
3. For "supplemental" routes, high-comfort facilities should always be considered and studied for feasibility.

Active Transportation Network

- High Comfort: Existing, to remain
- High Comfort: Existing, future improvement
- High Comfort: New connection
- Supplemental: Existing, to remain
- Supplemental: New connection
- High Comfort: Future concept

Facility Priority

- Top 10 Priority Projects
- High Priority, Short Term
- High Priority, Long Term
- Opportunistic Priority
- Low Priority



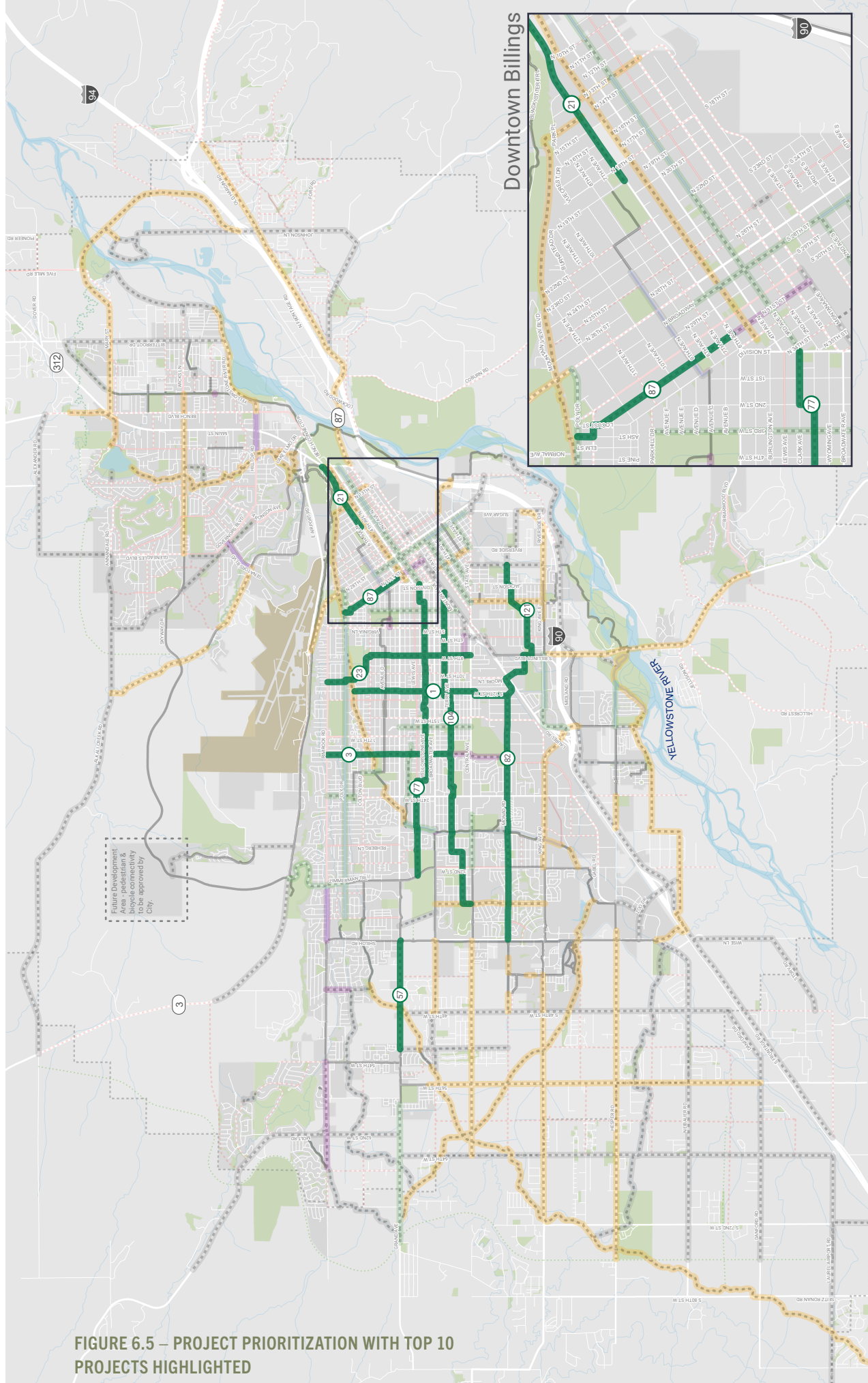


FIGURE 6.5 – PROJECT PRIORITIZATION WITH TOP 10 PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTED

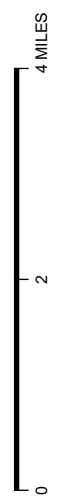
PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

BILLINGS AREA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

TOP TEN PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTED

- Notes:**
1. Route alignments and facility types are subject to change pending further study and public input process.
 2. "High-comfort" facility types vary depending on context, but imply physical separation from motor vehicle traffic OR a low-speed, low-volume mixed traffic environment.
 3. For "supplemental" routes, high-comfort facilities should always be considered and studied for feasibility.

- Active Transportation Network**
- High Comfort: Existing, to remain
 - High Comfort: Existing, future improvement
 - High Comfort: New connection
 - Supplemental: Existing, to remain
 - Supplemental: New connection
 - High Comfort: Future concept
- Facility Priority**
- Top 10 Priority Projects
 - High Priority, Short Term
 - High Priority, Long Term
 - Opportunistic Priority
 - Low Priority



Cost Estimates

Table 6.2 outlines planning level cost estimates for the facility types listed earlier in the plan. Planning level cost estimates are meant to provide a high level understanding of the potential costs associated with a project. Applying these estimates on a network scale can generate potential discrepancies when compared to actual implementation costs. A 20 percent is applied to these planning level cost estimates to account for costs such as final engineering and design, traffic control, permitting, mobilization and demobilization, taxes, bonds, insurance, landscaping, inflation, and others. Additionally, these costs do not account for enhanced crossings as these will be designed as part of the project. Crossing costs will need to be added in to create a more accurate cost estimate for each route. All estimates assume a standard City of Billings street, that the existing curb and gutter will remain, and that no striping needs to be obliterated. There will likely be exceptions to these conditions, so these estimates are starting point. Pairing projects with pavement preservation projects can help lower cost significantly as some of these additional elements can be covered under the pavement preservation project.

Additionally, estimates include a generic cost for signage, while project specific signage costs will vary on a per project basis.

TABLE 6.2 – PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATES*

FACILITY TYPE	COST PER MILE
Neighborhood Bikeways	\$62,652
Bike Lanes	\$88,320
Buffered Bike Lanes	\$124,116
Separated Bike Lane	\$1,523,145
Asphalt Shared/Sidepath	\$553,616
Concrete Shared/Sidepath	\$1,486,546
Unsignalized Mid-Block Crosswalk	\$20,564
Mid-block Crosswalk with Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB)	\$60,170
Marked Crosswalk & Ped Warning	\$280,664
Intersection Reconstruction (Bulbout)	\$176,226

*Each cost estimate includes facility type specific assumptions that can be found in Appendix A.

Funding Sources

Funding plays a pivotal role in Billings’ ability to transform the goals and projects in this plan from ideas into reality. The following tables outline the various funding sources available to support the implementation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Leveraging these opportunities will put Billings on the path to realizing this plan’s vision for a safer and more accessible active transportation system.

TABLE 6.2 – FUNDING SOURCES

NAME	SOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MORE INFORMATION	ELIGIBILITY/REQUIRED MATCH
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program	Federal	The new SS4A Grant Program funds the development or update of a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan), conducting planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan, and/or carrying out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.	Link	20% state or local match. Cities eligible to apply. Offers planning and demonstration grants or implementation grants.
Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)	Federal	The ATIIP provides grants to states and localities to strategically invest in projects that connect active transportation networks and spines, such as safe bike paths and walking trails, while reducing carbon emissions and creating new jobs. The program will help connect people to destinations within or between communities, including schools, workplaces and other community areas. Active transportation spines can connect communities, metropolitan regions and states.	Link	20% state or local match. Local government organizations eligible to apply.
Transportation Alternatives (TA)	Federal	Transportation Alternatives (TA) is a funding source under the FAST Act that consolidates three formerly separate programs under SAFETEA-LU: Transportation Enhancements (TE), Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Funds are available through a competitive process. These funds may be used for a variety of projects including: * SRTS programs (infrastructure and non-infrastructure programs) * Construction, planning, and design of on- and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bikeways, pedestrian + bicycle signals, traffic-calming, lighting, and other safety-related infrastructure * Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities who cannot drive * Construction of rail-trails * Recreational trails program	Link	13.42% state or local match. Local governments eligible to apply.

NAME	SOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MORE INFORMATION	ELIGIBILITY/REQUIRED MATCH
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants	Federal	RAISE grants, which were originally created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as TIGER grants, can be used for a wide variety of projects, including road, rail, and transit projects. These grants provide capital funding to any public entity, including municipalities and counties.	Link	20% state or local match but includes exceptions. Local governments eligible to apply
Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grants	Federal	The FTA has several grant programs available to local and state governments to enhance active transportation connections to public transportation facilities.	Link	
Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)	Federal	The FLAP is intended to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands. The fund is administered through MDT in coordination with the Central Federal Lands Highway Division, which develops a Programming Decisions Committee. The Committee puts out the call for projects, establishes selection criteria, and prioritizes selected projects. The next call for projects is anticipated to be in 2026.	Link	
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)	Federal	This program provides funds to state DOTs, MPOs and other sponsors to fund projects that will contribute to air quality improvements in ozone, carbon monoxide and/or particulate matter, and provide congestion relief. Many types of projects are eligible under the CMAQ program including electric vehicles and charging stations, diesel engine replacements and retrofits, transit improvements, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, shared micromobility projects including shared scooter systems, and more. In addition to improving air quality and reducing congestion, CMAQ projects can improve equitable access to transportation services, improve safety, and promote application of new and emerging technologies.	Link	20% state and local match, typically. Must apply in partnership with state DOT or MPO. Projects must contribute to the attainment of air quality standards (reducing emissions) in the region.
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	Federal	The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law continued the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) as a set-aside from the Transportation Alternatives program. The RTP provides funds to states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The funds represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks.	Link	20% state or local match. Local governments eligible to apply.

NAME	SOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MORE INFORMATION	ELIGIBILITY/REQUIRED MATCH
Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP)	Federal	The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP) provides funds to states to preserve or improve conditions and performance on any federal-aid highway. Funds are apportioned to Montana and then allocated by the Montana Transportation Commission. The STP Urban, a subset of the program, provides funds for the urban highway system, and can be used for resurfacing, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of bicycle facilities and pedestrian walkways.	Link	13.42% state or local match.
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)	Federal	The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) provides funds for projects that reduce transportation emissions. Projects can include the construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation.	Link	13.42% state or local match
Additional Federal Grants/ Programs	Federal	The list above may not be exhaustive and new sources of federal funding may become available. The Federal Highway Administration maintains a spreadsheet of funding opportunities at the link to the right.	Link	
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	State	HSIP funds are available for projects aimed at improving safety on all public roads to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Bike lanes, roadway shoulders, crosswalks, intersection improvements, underpasses, and improved signage are examples of eligible projects. The program is managed by MDT's Safety Engineering Section.	Link	
Trail Stewardship Grant Program	State	The State of Montana funds the Trail Stewardship Grant Program for new trail and shared-path construction, maintenance, and construction of trail side facilities.	Link	10% local match. Local governments and non-profits eligible.
Bond Financing	City	Bonds can be approved by voters to fund a range of projects.		
Special Assessment or Taxing Districts	City	Local municipalities can establish special assessment districts for infrastructure improvements, like sidewalks, that are missing or in need of improvement in certain areas.		
Parking Fees	City	Some cities have instituted parking fees for public parking spaces that are then used to pay for infrastructure improvements.		

NAME	SOURCE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MORE INFORMATION	ELIGIBILITY/REQUIRED MATCH
Development Impact Fees	City	Development impact fees are one-time charges collected from developers for financing new infrastructure construction and operations and can help fund bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Impact fees are assessed through a city's impact fee program.		
New Construction	City	Future road widening and construction projects are methods of providing improved bike and pedestrian infrastructure. To ensure that roadway construction projects provide these improvements, it is important that the review process includes a review of any relevant active transportation related plans.		
PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program	Private	<p>The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make biking safer for people of all ages and abilities. PeopleForBikes accepts requests for funding up to \$10,000. Projects that qualify for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Costs related to the development of permanent bike infrastructure, including trails, shared-use paths, bike parks, pump tracks, bicycle playgrounds, neighborhood greenways/bike boulevards, and protected bike lanes 2 - Costs related to "quick-build" or "demonstration projects," provided that any temporary infrastructure is part of a strategy to subsequently develop permanent infrastructure 3 - Land or easement acquisition costs for bike infrastructure 4 - Events or programs that support cultural acceptance and support of specific planned or recently constructed bike infrastructure projects, like "bike buses" or "community bike rides." Such events or programs must show a connection between the event and organizing for permanent infrastructure improvements and must show a likelihood of permanence beyond the term of the grant. 	Link	No required match. Local government agencies are encouraged to apply.
Private Developers	Private	Developers should consider constructing local streets with bike- and pedestrian-oriented facilities within subdivisions, including dedicating right-of-way to trails and parks. In fact, active transportation facilities are now required as part of City of Billings Subdivision regulations. Cities can encourage developers to include additional active transportation amenities during development review.		

APPENDIX



Appendix A

PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATES

ITEM	SPACING (FT)	QTY	ROUNDED	UNIT PRICE	COST PER MILE
Sharrow Markings	250	42.24		44 \$ 500.00 \$	22,000.00
Signage	300	35.2		36 \$ 650.00 \$	23,400.00
			ADMIN	15% \$	6,810.00
				SUBTOTAL \$	52,210.00
			CONTINGENCY	20% \$	10,442.00
				TOTAL \$	62,652.00

**Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
for
Neighborhood Bikeways (Cost Per Mile)**

ITEM NO.	EST. QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	1	LS	Administrative Cost (15%)	\$ 6,810.00 / LS = \$	6,810.00
102	44	EA	Sharrow Markings	\$ 500.00 / EA = \$	22,000.00
103	36	EA	Signage	\$ 650.00 / EA = \$	23,400.00

**This estimate is assumed that the proper typical section has adequate curb and gutter and existing striping does not need to be obliterated to accommodate the new improvements.*

Subtotal = \$	52,210.00
Total = \$	52,210.00
Contingency (20%) = \$	10,442.00

**Project specific signage will vary on a per project basis. The above estimate is only a generic estimate. Bike lane project signage may include but not be limited to signs such as R3-17, R7-9A, R4-11, W11-1 and R4-4.*

Total Price = \$	62,652.00
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ITEM	SPACING/LENGTH (FT)	QTY	ROUNDED	UNIT PRICE	COST PER MILE
Bike Lane Markings		300	17.6	44 \$ 500.00 \$	22,000.00
Signage		500	10.56	24 \$ 650.00 \$	15,600.00
6" White Epoxy Striping		5280	10560	10560 \$ 1.75 \$	18,480.00
4" White Epoxy Striping		5280	10560	10560 \$ 0.75 \$	7,920.00
			ADMIN	15% \$	9,600.00
				SUBTOTAL \$	73,600.00
				CONTINGENCY 20% \$	14,720.00
				TOTAL \$	88,320.00

**Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
for
Bike Lanes (Cost Per Mile)**

ITEM NO.	EST. QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	1	LS	Administrative Cost (15%)	\$ 9,600.00 / LS = \$	9,600.00
102	44	EA	Bike Lane Markings	\$ 500.00 / EA = \$	22,000.00
103	24	EA	Signage	\$ 650.00 / EA = \$	15,600.00
104	10560	LF	6" White Epoxy Striping	\$ 1.75 / LF = \$	18,480.00
105	10560	LF	4" White Epoxy Striping	\$ 0.75 / LF = \$	7,920.00

**This estimate is assumed that the proper typical section has adequate curb and gutter and existing striping does not need to be obliterated to accommodate the new improvements.*

Subtotal = \$ 73,600.00

**Estimate for striping assumes that all three white stripes shown in exhibit will be painted as part of this project. The 6-inch stripe shall be on the travel lane side and 4-inch stripe shall be on the parking lane side of the bike lane.*

Total = \$ 73,600.00

Contingency (20%) = \$ 14,720.00

Total Price = \$ 88,320.00

**Project specific signage will vary on a per project basis the above estimate is only a generic estimate. Bike lane project signage may include but not be limited to signs such as R3-17, R7-9A, R4-11, W11-1 and R4-4.*

ITEM	SPACING/LENGTH (FT)	QTY	ROUNDED	UNIT PRICE	COST PER MILE
Bike Lane Markings		300	17.6	44 \$ 500.00	\$ 22,000.00
Signage		400	13.2	28 \$ 650.00	\$ 18,200.00
6" White Epoxy Striping		5280	25344	25344 \$ 1.75	\$ 44,352.00
6" White Epoxy Diagonal					
Hatching		10	1267.2	1268 \$ 1.75	\$ 2,219.00
4" White Epoxy Striping		5280	4224	4224 \$ 0.75	\$ 3,168.00
			ADMIN	15%	\$ 13,490.85
				SUBTOTAL	\$ 103,429.85
*XX% "DEFFICIENCY" factor included for line breaks and intersections				CONTINGENCY	20% \$ 20,685.97
				TOTAL	\$ 124,115.82

**Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
for
Buffered Bike Lanes (Cost Per Mile)**

ITEM NO.	EST. QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	1	LS	Administrative Cost (15%)	\$ 13,490.85 / LS =	\$ 13,490.85
102	44	EA	Bike Lane Markings	\$ 500.00 / EA =	\$ 22,000.00
103	28	EA	Signage	\$ 650.00 / EA =	\$ 18,200.00
104	25344	LF	6" White Epoxy Striping	\$ 1.75 / LF =	\$ 44,352.00
105	1268	LF	6" White Epoxy Diagonal Hatching	\$ 1.75 / LF =	\$ 2,219.00
106	4224	LF	4" White Epoxy Striping	\$ 0.75 / LF =	\$ 3,168.00

*This estimate is assumed that the proper typical section has adequate curb and gutter and existing striping does not need to be obliterated to accommodate the new improvements.

*The deficiency factors was assumed for any drive approaches and intersections causing line breaks.

*It is assumed that one side of the road with new bike lane would have a diagonally hatched buffer zone. With the other side of the street having a buffer zone 2-feet either side of the bike lane with then an adjacent parking lane between the bike zone and existing curb and gutter.

*Estimate for striping assumes that all three white stripes shown in exhibit will be painted as part of this project. The 6-inch stripe shall be on the travel lane side and 4-inch stripe shall be on the parking lane side of the bike lane.

*It is assumed that the buffer zone for the diagonal hatching would be 3-foot wide and the hatching be 10-feet O.C.

*Project specific signage will vary on a per project basis the above estimate is only a generic estimate. Bike lane project signage may include but not be limited to signs such as R3-17, R7-9A, R4-11, W11-1 and R4-4.

Subtotal =	\$ 103,429.85
Total =	\$ 103,429.85
Contingency (20%) =	\$ 20,685.97
Total Price =	\$ 124,115.82

ITEM	SPACING/LENGTH (FT)	QTY	ROUNDED	UNIT PRICE	COST PER MILE
Bike Lane Markings		300	17.6	44 \$ 500.00 \$	22,000.00
Signage		400	13.2	28 \$ 650.00 \$	18,200.00
6" White Dashed Epoxy Striping		5280	2112	2112 \$ 1.75 \$	3,696.00
4" White Parking Striping		5280	4224	4224 \$ 0.75 \$	3,168.00
Pin-down Concrete Barrier		5280	15375.36	15376 \$ 60.00 \$	922,560.00
Flexible Delineators		50	307.52	308 \$ 190.00 \$	58,520.00
Green Conflict Markings		5280	1408	1408 \$ 10.00 \$	14,080.00
Yellow Epoxy Curb Paint			15375.36	15376 \$ 4.00 \$	61,504.00
			ADMIN	15% \$	165,559.20
				SUBTOTAL \$	1,269,287.20
*XX% "DEFFICIENCY" factor included for line breaks and intersections				CONTINGENCY 20% \$	253,857.44
				TOTAL \$	1,523,144.64

**Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
for
Separated Bike Lane (Cost Per Mile)**

ITEM NO.	EST. QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	1	LS	Administrative Cost (15%)	\$ 165,559.20 / LS = \$	165,559.20
102	44	EA	Bike Lane Markings	\$ 500.00 / EA = \$	22,000.00
103	28	EA	Signage	\$ 650.00 / EA = \$	18,200.00
104	2112	LF	6" White Dashed Epoxy Striping	\$ 1.75 / LF = \$	3,696.00
105	4224	LF	4" White Parking Striping	\$ 0.75 / LF = \$	3,168.00
106	15376	LF	Pin-down Concrete Barrier	\$ 60.00 / LF = \$	922,560.00
107	308	EA	Flexible Delineators	\$ 190.00 / EA = \$	58,520.00
108	1408	SY	Green Conflict Markings	\$ 10.00 / SY = \$	14,080.00
109	15376	LF	Yellow Epoxy Curb Paint	\$ 4.00 / LF = \$	61,504.00

**This estimate is assumed that the proper typical section has adequate curb and gutter and existing striping does not need to be obliterated to accommodate the new improvements.*

**The defficiency factors was assumed for any drive approaches and intersections causing line breaks and the ommision of concrete barriers in that area.*

**The pin-down concrete barrier would be Type A Median Curb set back to back to create a 2 foot wide barrier. The length was calculated assuming every 50 linear feet in the barrier there would be a 5 foot break to accommodate storm water and a deffieny was calculated in for potential intersections and approaches. Additionally flexible delineators would be place atop the barrier on either side of the 5 foot barrier breaks.*

**Project specific signage will vary on a per project basis the above estimate is only a generic estimate. Bike lane project signage may include but not be limited to signs such as R3-17, R7-9A, R4-11, W11-1 and R4-4.*

Subtotal = \$ 1,269,287.20

Total = \$ 1,269,287.20

Contingency (20%) = \$ 253,857.44

Total Price = \$ 1,523,144.64

ITEM	SPACING/LENGTH (FT)	QUANTITY	ROUNDED	UNIT PRICE	COST PER MILE
Signage		400	13.2	28 \$ 650.00 \$	18,200.00
4" Yellow Dashed Centerline		5280	5280	5280 \$ 0.75 \$	3,960.00
10-ft Asphalt Trail (3" Thickness)		5280	5866.667	5867 \$ 40.00 \$	234,680.00
1-1/2" Minus Base Gravel (6" thickness)		5280	1368.889	1369 \$ 44.00 \$	60,236.00
Unclassified Excavation		5280	1368.889	1369 \$ 40.00 \$	54,760.00
Geotextile Fabric		5280	5866.667	5867 \$ 5.00 \$	29,335.00
			ASMIN	15% \$	60,175.65
				SUBTOTAL \$	461,346.65
				CONTINGENCY 20% \$	92,269.33
				TOTAL \$	553,615.98

**Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
for
Asphalt Shared/Sidepath (Cost Per Mile)**

ITEM NO.	EST. QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	1	LS	Administrative Cost (15%)	\$ 60,175.65 / LS = \$	60,175.65
102	28	EA	Signage	\$ 650.00 / EA = \$	18,200.00
103	5280	LF	4" Yellow Dashed Centerline	\$ 0.75 / LF = \$	3,960.00
104	5867	SY	10-ft Asphalt Trail (3" Thickness)	\$ 40.00 / SY = \$	234,680.00
105	1369	CY	1-1/2" Minus Base Gravel (6" thickness)	\$ 44.00 / CY = \$	60,236.00
106	1369	CY	Unclassified Excavation	\$ 40.00 / CY = \$	54,760.00
107	5867	SY	Non-Woven Geotextile Fabric (Mirifai 140N)	\$ 5.00 / SY = \$	29,335.00

**The unclassified excavation estimate is based off of the volume from existing ground elevation to 6-inches down to subgrade to accommodate 1-1/2' minus base gravel.*

**It is assumed that some of the unclassified excavation will be allocated for new 2-foot wide shoulders adjacent to the new asphalt trail.*

**Project specific signage will vary on a per project basis the above estimate is only a generic estimate. Bike lane project signage may include but not be limited to signs such as R3-17, R7-9A, R4-11, W11-1 and R4-4.*

**If soil conditions worsen the geofabric should be changed to accommodate the on site conditions with the advice of a geotechnical engineer.*

Subtotal = \$ 461,346.65

Total = \$ 461,346.65

Contingency (20%) = \$ 92,269.33

Total Price = \$ 553,615.98

ITEM	SPACING/LENGTH (FT)	QUANTITY	ROUNDED	UNIT PRICE	COST PER MILE
Signage		400	13.2	28 \$ 650.00 \$	18,200.00
4" Yellow Dashed Centerline		5280	5280	5280 \$ 0.75 \$	3,960.00
10-ft Concrete Trail (4" Thickness)		5280	52800	52800 \$ 17.50 \$	924,000.00
1-1/2" Minus Base Gravel (6" thickness)		5280	977.7778	978 \$ 44.00 \$	43,032.00
Unclassified Excavation		5280	1466.667	1467 \$ 40.00 \$	58,680.00
Geotextile Fabric		5280	5866.667	5867 \$ 5.00 \$	29,335.00
			ADMIN`	15% \$	161,581.05
				SUBTOTAL \$	1,238,788.05
				CONTINGENCY 20% \$	247,757.61
				TOTAL \$	1,486,545.66

**Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
for
Concrete Shared/Sidepath (Cost Per Mile)**

ITEM NO.	EST. QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	1	LS	Administrative Cost (15%)	\$ 161,581.05 / LS = \$	161,581.05
102	28	EA	Signage	\$ 650.00 / EA = \$	18,200.00
103	5280	LF	4" Yellow Dashed Centerline	\$ 0.75 / LF = \$	3,960.00
104	52800	SF	10-ft Concrete Trail (4" Thickness)	\$ 17.50 / SF = \$	924,000.00
105	978	CY	1-1/2" Minus Base Gravel (6" thickness)	\$ 44.00 / CY = \$	43,032.00
106	1467	CY	Unclassified Excavation	\$ 40.00 / CY = \$	58,680.00
107	5867	SY	Non-Woven Geotextile Fabric (Mirifai 140N)	\$ 5.00 / SY = \$	29,335.00

**The unclassified excavation estimate is based off of the volume from existing ground elevation to 9-inches down to subgrade to accommodate 1-1/2' minus base gravel.*

**It is assumed that some of the unclassified excavation will be allocated for new 2-foot wide shoulders adjacent to the new asphalt trail*

**Project specific signage will vary on a per project basis the above estimate is only a generic estimate. Bike lane project signage may include but not be limited to signs such as R3-17, R7-9A, R4-11, W11-1 and R4-4.*

**If soil conditions worsen the geofabric should be changed to accommodate the on site conditions with the advice of a geotechnical engineer.*

Subtotal = \$ 1,238,788.05

Total = \$ 1,238,788.05

Contingency (20%) = \$ 247,757.61

Total Price = \$ 1,486,545.66

Description	QTY	Unit Price		Cost
Sign Assembly	2	\$ 700.00		\$ 1,400.00
24" Solid White Epoxy Striping	110	\$ 30.00		\$ 3,300.00
24" Thermoplastic White Sharks Teeth	30	\$ 45.00		\$ 1,350.00
6" ADA Ramps	250	\$ 30.00		\$ 7,500.00
Curb & Gutter	20	\$ 45.00		\$ 900.00
Unclassified Excavation	5.4	\$ 40.00		\$ 214.81
1-1 1/2" Minus Base Course	5.4	\$ 44.00		\$ 236.30
			ADMIN 15%	\$ 2,235.17
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 17,136.28
			CONTINGENCY 20%	\$ 3,427.26
			TOTAL	\$ 20,563.53

**Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
for
Unsignalized Mid-Block Crosswalk**

ITEM NO.	EST. QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	1	LS	Administrative Cost (15%)	\$ 2,235.17 / LS =	\$ 2,235.17
102	2	EA	Sign Assembly	\$ 700.00 / EA =	\$ 1,400.00
103	110	LF	24" Solid White Epoxy Striping	\$ 30.00 / LF =	\$ 3,300.00
104	30	SF	24" Thermoplastic White Sharks Teeth	\$ 45.00 / SF =	\$ 1,350.00
105	250	SF	6" ADA Ramps	\$ 30.00 / SF =	\$ 7,500.00
106	20	LF	Curb & Gutter	\$ 45.00 / LF =	\$ 900.00
107	5	CY	Unclassified Excavation	\$ 40.00 / CY =	\$ 214.81
108	5	CY	1-1 1/2" Minus Base Course	\$ 44.00 / CY =	\$ 236.30

**This estimate is assumed that the proper typical section has adequate curb and gutter and existing striping does not need to be obliterated to accommodate the new improvements.*

Subtotal = \$ 17,136.28

Total = \$ 17,136.28

Contingency (20%) = \$ 3,427.26

**This estimate is based on a standard City of Billings local street with a 34' width back of curb to back of curb.*

Total Price = \$ 20,563.53

**This estimate can vary depending on any other accommodations needed for the specific project.*

**The sizing for the ADA ramps is meant to be a 5'x5' ramp with 5' flares tying into an assumed existing sidewalk. Concrete curb and gutter will be laid in front of the width of the ADA ramp (10').*

Description	QTY	Unit Price		Cost
24" Solid White Epoxy Striping	200	\$ 30.00	\$	6,000.00
24" Thermoplastic White Sharks Teeth	150	\$ 45.00	\$	6,750.00
Solar Powered RRFB Signal System	1	\$22,000.00	\$	22,000.00
6" ADA Ramps	250	\$ 30.00	\$	7,500.00
Curb & Gutter	20	\$ 45.00	\$	900.00
Unclassified Excavation	5.4	\$ 40.00	\$	214.81
1-1 1/2" Minus Base Course	5.4	\$ 44.00	\$	236.30
			ADMIN 15%	\$ 6,540.17
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 50,141.28
			CONTINGENCY 20%	\$ 10,028.26
			TOTAL	\$ 60,169.53

Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
for
Mid-block Crosswalk with Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB)

ITEM NO.	EST. QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	1	LS	Administrative Cost (15%)	\$ 6,540.17 / LS =	\$ 6,540.17
102	200	LF	24" Solid White Epoxy Striping	\$ 30.00 / LF =	\$ 6,000.00
103	150	SF	24" Thermoplastic White Sharks Teeth	\$ 45.00 / SF =	\$ 6,750.00
104	1	LS	Solar Powered RRFB Signal System	\$ 22,000.00 / LS =	\$ 22,000.00
105	250	LF	6" ADA Ramps	\$ 30.00 / LF =	\$ 7,500.00
106	20	LF	Curb & Gutter	\$ 45.00 / LF =	\$ 900.00
107	5	CY	Unclassified Excavation	\$ 40.00 / CY =	\$ 214.81
108	5	CY	1-1 1/2" Minus Base Course	\$ 44.00 / CY =	\$ 236.30

**This estimate is assumed that the proper typical section has adequate curb and gutter and existing striping does not need to be obliterated to accommodate the new improvements.*

**This estimate is based on a standard City of Billings 3-lane commercial street with a 45' width back of curb to back of curb.*

**This estimate can vary depending on any other accommodations needed for the specific project.*

**The sizing for the ADA ramps is meant to be a 5'x5' ramp with 5' flares tying into an assumed existing sidewalk. Concrete curb and gutter will be laid in front of the width of the ADA ramp (10').*

Subtotal	= \$	50,141.28
Total	= \$	50,141.28
Contingency (20%)	= \$	10,028.26
Total Price	= \$	60,169.53

Description	QTY	Unit Price	Cost	
Sign Assembly	10	\$ 700.00	\$	7,000.00
12" Solid White Epoxy Striping	82	\$ 15.00	\$	1,230.00
24" Thermoplastic White Sharks Teeth	30	\$ 45.00	\$	1,350.00
Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Traffic Signal	1	\$ 190,000.00	\$	190,000.00
6" Concrete ADA Ramp	100	\$30.00	\$	3,000.00
Detectable Warning Panels	16	\$50.00	\$	800.00
		15%	\$	30,507.00 ADMIN
			\$	233,887.00 SUBTOTAL
		20%		\$46,777.40 CONTINGENCY
			\$	280,664.40 TOTAL

Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
for
Marked Crosswalk & Ped Warning

ITEM NO.	EST. QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	1	LS	Administrative Cost (15%)	\$ 30,507.00 / LS =	\$ 30,507.00
102	10	EA	Sign Assembly	\$ 700.00 / EA =	\$ 7,000.00
103	82	LF	12" Solid White Epoxy Striping	\$ 15.00 / LF =	\$ 1,230.00
104	30	SF	24" Thermoplastic White Sharks Teeth	\$ 45.00 / SF =	\$ 1,350.00
105	1	LS	Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Traffic Signal	\$ 190,000.00 / LS =	\$ 190,000.00
106	100	SF	6" Concrete ADA Ramp	\$ 30.00 / SF =	\$ 3,000.00
107	16	SF	Detectable Warning Panels	\$ 50.00 / SF =	\$ 800.00

**This estimate is assumed that the proper typical section has adequate curb and gutter and existing striping does not need to be obliterated to accommodate the new improvements.*

Subtotal = \$ 233,887.00

**This estimate is based on a standard City of Billings 3-lane commercial street with a 45' width back of curb to back of curb.*

Total = \$ 233,887.00
Contingency (20%) = \$ 46,777.40

**This estimate can vary depending on the location of the power source for the signal as well as any other accommodations needed for the specific project.*

Total Price = \$ 280,664.40

**Project specific signage will vary on a per project basis the above estimate is only a generic estimate. Bike lane project signage may include but not be limited to signs such as R1-5L, R11-2, W16-7P, R10-6 and R10-23.*

**It is assumed the ADA ramp to accommodate a crosswalk would be a 5' by 5' ramp with 5' flares to tie into existing sidewalk.*

Description	QTY	Unit Price	Cost	
Demo Curb & Gutter	280	\$ 17.50	\$	4,900.00
Remove Concrete Flatwork	140	\$ 40.00	\$	5,600.00
Remove Asphalt	360	\$ 25.00	\$	9,000.00
Curb & Gutter	300	\$ 45.00	\$	13,500.00
4" Concrete Sidewalk	1900	\$ 13.50	\$	25,650.00
1-1/2" Minus Base Gravel	50	\$ 44.00	\$	2,200.00
6" Concrete ADA Ramp	400	\$ 30.00	\$	12,000.00
Detectable Warning Panels	40	\$ 50.00	\$	2,000.00
12" White Epoxy Striping	240	\$ 15.00	\$	3,600.00
24" White Epoxy Striping	60	\$ 20.00	\$	1,200.00
Yellow Curb Paint	300	\$ 4.00	\$	1,200.00
Storm Drain Inlet (Type II)	4	\$ 3,500.00	\$	14,000.00
Storm Drain Manhole	2	\$ 4,000.00	\$	8,000.00
Storm Drain Pipe	135	\$ 100.00	\$	13,500.00
Asphalt Restoration	35	\$ 250.00	\$	8,750.00
Signage	4	\$ 650.00	\$	2,600.00
		15%	\$	19,155.00 ADMIN
			\$	146,855.00 SUBTOTAL
		20%		\$29,371.00 CONTINGENCY
				\$176,226.00 TOTAL

**Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost
for
Intersection Reconstruction (Bulbout)**

ITEM NO.	EST. QTY.	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
101	1	LS	Administrative Cost (15%)	\$ 19,155.00 / LS = \$	19,155.00
102	280	LF	Demo Curb & Gutter	\$ 17.50 / LF = \$	4,900.00
103	140	SY	Remove Concrete Flatwork	\$ 40.00 / SY = \$	5,600.00
104	360	SY	Remove Asphalt	\$ 25.00 / SY = \$	9,000.00
105	300	LF	Curb & Gutter	\$ 45.00 / LF = \$	13,500.00
106	1900	SY	4" Concrete Sidewalk	\$ 13.50 / SY = \$	25,650.00
107	50	CY	1-1/2" Minus Base Gravel	\$ 44.00 / CY = \$	2,200.00
108	400	SF	6" Concrete ADA Ramp	\$ 30.00 / SF = \$	12,000.00
109	40	SF	Detectable Warning Panels	\$ 50.00 / SF = \$	2,000.00
110	240	LF	12" White Epoxy Striping	\$ 15.00 / LF = \$	3,600.00
111	60	LF	24" White Epoxy Striping	\$ 20.00 / LF = \$	1,200.00
112	300	LF	Yellow Curb Paint	\$ 4.00 / LF = \$	1,200.00
113	4	EA	Storm Drain Inlet (Type II)	\$ 3,500.00 / EA = \$	14,000.00
114	2	EA	Storm Drain Manhole	\$ 4,000.00 / EA = \$	8,000.00
115	135	LF	Storm Drain Pipe	\$ 100.00 / LF = \$	13,500.00
116	35	SY	Asphalt Restoration	\$ 250.00 / SY = \$	8,750.00
117	4	EA	Signage	\$ 650.00 / EA = \$	2,600.00

**This estimate is based on a standard City of Billings 3-lane commercial street with a 45' width back of curb to back of curb.*

**This estimate can vary depending on the location of existing storm drain manholes and inlets*

**Project specific signage will vary on a per project basis the above estimate is only a generic estimate. Bike lane project signage may include but not be limited to signs such as R11-2 and W16-7P.*

**It is assumed the ADA ramp to accommodate a crosswalk would be a 5' by 5' ramp with 5' flares to tie into existing sidewalk.*

Subtotal	= \$	146,855.00
Total	= \$	146,855.00
Contingency (20%)	= \$	29,371.00
Total Price	= \$	176,226.00

Appendix B

TABLE B.1 FULL PROJECT LIST FOR HIGH COMFORT NETWORK

PROJECT ID	NAME	FROM	TO	STATUS	VALUE SCORE	PROJECT VALUE	PROJECT READINESS	PRIORITIZATION
1	12th St W & Plainview St	BBWA Canal	Monad Rd	Planned	12	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
21	6th Ave	N 19th St	Existing trail	Planned	12	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
23	8th St W, Delphinium, Azalea, 11th, Missouri	Rimrock Rd	Central Ave	Planned	12	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
77	Lewis Ave/Yellowstone Ave/Clark Ave	Zimmerman Trl	Division St	Planned	12	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
82	Monad Rd	32nd St W	Billings Blvd	Planned	12	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
87	N 31st St	Poly Dr	6th Ave N	Planned	12	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
104	Terry/Miles/Howard/St Johns	36th St W	1st St W	Planned	12	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
121	Phillips St	S Billings Blvd	Washington St	Planned	12	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
3	19TH	Rimrock Rd	Miles Ave	Planned	11	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
57	Grand Ave	52nd Street West	Shiloh Rd	Planned	10	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
37	BBWA Canal Trail Corridor	Broadwater Ave	BBWA Canal Trail	Existing: Future Improvement	10	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
5	21ST	Mariposa Ln	Solomon Ave	Planned	9	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
9	2nd Ave S	State Ave	N 28th St	Planned	9	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
12	3rd	Division St	N 22nd St	Planned	9	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
13	3rd Ave N	N 22nd St	Main St	Planned	9	High	High	High Priority, Short Term

PROJECT ID	NAME	FROM	TO	STATUS	VALUE SCORE	PROJECT VALUE	PROJECT READINESS	PRIORITIZATION
14	3rd St W	Parkhill Dr	Montana Ave	Planned	<u>9</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
22	8TH Ave. S.	S 28th St	S 34th St	Planned	<u>9</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
31	Arnold Drain	25th St W	18th St W	Planned	<u>9</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
46	Broadway	9th Ave N	12th Ave S	Planned	<u>9</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
90	Poly Dr	Virginia Ln	N 27th St	Planned	<u>9</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
49	Central Ave	32nd St W	Stewart Park Rd	Planned	<u>8</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
91	Poly Dr	38th St W	Virginia Ln	Existing: Future Improvement	<u>8</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
113	Zimmerman Trail	3	Poly Dr	Planned	<u>8</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
2	16th St W	Grand Ave	Central Ave	Planned	<u>7</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
6	24TH	Howard Ave		Planned	<u>7</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
56	Grand Ave	Shiloh Rd	74th St W	Planned	<u>7</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
63	Jackson St	S 28th St	King Ave E	Planned	<u>7</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
64	Jim Dutcher Trail Corridor	Mullowney Ln	Jim Dutcher Trl	Existing: Future Improvement	<u>7</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
70	King Ave E	King Ave W	S Billings Blvd	Planned	<u>7</u>	High	High	High Priority, Short Term
36	BBWA Canal	Park Pl	6th Ave N	Planned	<u>12</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
108	Wicks Ln	Gleneagles Blvd	Kiwanis Trl	Planned	<u>12</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
118	36th St W	Broadwater Ave	King Ave W	Planned	<u>12</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term

PROJECT ID	NAME	FROM	TO	STATUS	VALUE SCORE	PROJECT VALUE	PROJECT READINESS	PRIORITIZATION
42	Billings Canal	South Shiloh Rd	TransTech Trl	Planned	<u>11</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
48	Central Ave	Shiloh Rd	S 64th St W	Planned	<u>11</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
120	Hallowell Ln	State Ave	King Ave E	Planned	<u>11</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
7	27th	Highway 3	5th Ave N	Planned	<u>10</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
60	Highway 87 Bypass	Roundup Rd	Johnson Ln	Planned	<u>10</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
69	King Ave	Orchard Ln	Sugar Ave	Planned	<u>10</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
11	34th	1st Ave S	State Ave	Planned	<u>9</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
18	5th Ave N	N 28th St	Main St	Planned	<u>9</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
68	King Ave	32nd St W	Midland Rd	Planned	<u>9</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
28	Alkali Creek	Future Annandale Rd	Senators Blvd	Planned	<u>8</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
35	Bannister Drain Trail	32nd St W	King Ave W	Planned	<u>8</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
50	Cove Ditch	Grand Ave	Shiloh Rd	Planned	<u>8</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
52	Elysian Rd	Muldowney Ln	S Frontage Rd	Planned	<u>8</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
71	King Ave W	Big Ditch	South 44th St W	Planned	<u>8</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
83	Monad Road	S 48th St W	Monad Rd	Planned	<u>8</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
99	South 44th St W	South 44th St W	Dobrinka Dr	Planned	<u>8</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
17	56th	Grand Ave	Danford Rd	Planned	<u>7</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term

PROJECT ID	NAME	FROM	TO	STATUS	VALUE SCORE	PROJECT VALUE	PROJECT READINESS	PRIORITIZATION
27	Alkali Creek	Aronson Ave	Main St	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
29	Alkali Creek	Alkali Creek	Emerald Dr	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
39	BBWA Canal Trail North	East of Shadow Heights	Aronson Ave	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
40	Big Ditch	Yard Office Road	Beringer Way	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
41	Big Ditch	52nd Street West	Rimrock West Park	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
44	Broadwater Ave	48th St W	Shiloh Rd	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
58	Hesper Rd	Gabel Rd	East of Kraft Ln	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
65	Jim Dutcher Trail/ Marathon Loop	Shiloh Rd	Yrpa Conservation	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
89	Old Hardin Rd	Main St	US 90	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
96	S Billings Blvd	King Ave E	South Billings Bridge	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
111	Yellowstone River Rd	Bench Blvd	Erin St	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
116	N 13th St	6th Ave N	1st Ave N	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
122	Blue Creek Road	Yellowstone River	Briarwood	Planned	<u>2</u>	High	Low	High Priority, Long Term
53	Erie Dr	7th Ave S	Charlene St	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
61	Hilltop Rd	BBWA Canal Trail North	Bench Blvd	Existing: Future Improvement	<u>5</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
86	N 31st St	6th Ave N	Montana Ave	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
117	Broadwater Ave	Descro Park Trl	Parkview Dr	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority

PROJECT ID	NAME	FROM	TO	STATUS	VALUE SCORE	PROJECT VALUE	PROJECT READINESS	PRIORITIZATION
4	19th St. W	Miles Ave	Monad Rd	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
34	Avenue C	Virginia Ln	Existing Trail Pioneer Park	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
74	Kiwanis Trl	Steffanich Dr	Kiwanis Trl	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
92	Rimrock Rd	Little Cove Creek	54th St W	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
115	46th St W	Rimrock Rd	Silver Creek Trl	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
119	St. John's	8th St W	6th St W	Planned	<u>3</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
93	Rimrock Road Trail	Shiloh Rd	Zimmerman Trl	Existing: Future Improvement	<u>2</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
97	Senators Blvd	Alkali Creek Rd	Governors Blvd	Existing: Future Improvement	<u>1</u>	Low	High	Opportunistic Priority
10	HWY 3	Shorey Rd	Inner Belt Loop	Planned	<u>6</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
24	9th Ave	N 32nd St	N 24th St	Existing: Future Improvement	<u>6</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
38	BBWA Canal Trail Corridor	Monad Rd	BBWA Canal Trail Corridor	Planned	<u>6</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
62	Jackson St	S 28th St	King Ave E	Planned	<u>6</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
81	Molt Rd.	Charolais St	Rimrock Rd	Planned	<u>6</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
98	Shiloh Rd	Neibauer Rd	Shiloh Rd	Planned	<u>6</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
109	Wicks Ln	Annandale Rd	Skyway Dr	Planned	<u>6</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
112	Yrpa Conservation Pond Trails	Jim Dutcher Trail/Marathon	S Billings Blvd	Planned	<u>6</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
15	48TH St. W	Grand Ave	Danford Dr	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority

PROJECT ID	NAME	FROM	TO	STATUS	VALUE SCORE	PROJECT VALUE	PROJECT READINESS	PRIORITIZATION
32	Arnold Drain	Grand Ave	Broadwater Ave	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
47	Canyon Creek	Big Ditch	Shiloh Rd	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
66	Jim Dutcher Trl	S Frontage Rd	Jim Dutcher Trl	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
79	S Frontage Rd	Mullowney Ln	Rudio Rd	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
80	S Frontage Rd	Riverside Rd	S Billings Blvd	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
84	Montana	State Ave	30th	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
85	Mullowney	Elysian Rd	South of Story Rd	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
106	Walter Creek Blvd	S Frontage Rd	Jim Dutcher Trail/	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
114	Zoo St	S Shiloh Rd	Entryway Dr	Planned	<u>5</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
16	52nd St W	Grand Ave	Monad Rd	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
25	Access	Inner Belt Loop	North of Payton Trl	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
43	Bitterroot	Elaine St	Wicks Ln	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
54	Gabel	Hesper Rd	Zoo Dr	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
59	High Ditch	Cove Ditch	Rimrock West Park	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
67	Johnson Ln	Old Hardin Rd	Yellowstone River	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
72	Kiwanis Trail Corridor	Hawthorne Ln	Kiwanis Trl	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
73	Kiwanis Trail Corridor	Bitterroot Dr	Mary ST	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority

PROJECT ID	NAME	FROM	TO	STATUS	VALUE SCORE	PROJECT VALUE	PROJECT READINESS	PRIORITIZATION
78	Little Cove Creek	Grand Ave	Rimrock Rd	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
94	Rod and Gun Club	Iron Horse Trl	High Way 3	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
100	South of Governors Blvd	W Wicks Ln	Aronson Ave	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
123	Underpass Ave	S Billings Blvd	Calhoun	Planned	<u>4</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
19	62nd	North of Rimrock Rd	Grand Ave	Planned	<u>3</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
20	64th	Grand Ave	Laurel Airport Rd	Planned	<u>3</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
107	West of Governors Blvd	South of W Wicks Ln	Constitution Ave	Planned	<u>3</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
110	Yellowstone River Corridor	Yellowstone River Rd	Yellowstone River	Planned	<u>3</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
125	25th St Bridge	Montana Ave	Minnesota Ave	Planned	<u>3</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
75	Lakewood Ln	Lakewood Ln	Lake Elmo	Planned	<u>2</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
8	27th St	Sugar Ave	Garden Ave	Planned	<u>1</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
102	Story Rd / Wise Ln	Duck Creek Rd	Frontage Rd	Planned	<u>1</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
103	Sugar	State Ave	King Ave E	Planned	<u>1</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
105	Uinta Park/Twin Oaks Park	Wicks Ln	Ditch Trail	Planned	<u>1</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
124	Kratz Ln	Washington St	Sugar Ave	Planned	<u>1</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
26	Alexander Rd	Gleneagles Blvd	Roundup Rd	Planned	<u>0</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
30	Alkali Creek Rd/Annandale Rd	HWY 3	Gleneagles Blvd	Planned	<u>0</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority

PROJECT ID	NAME	FROM	TO	STATUS	VALUE SCORE	PROJECT VALUE	PROJECT READINESS	PRIORITIZATION
33	Autumnwood Dr	Autumnwood Dr	Ben Hog Ave	Planned	<u>0</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
45	Broadwater Ave	Big Ditch	52nd St W	Planned	<u>0</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
51	Danford	S 48th St W	West of Evening Star	Planned	<u>0</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
55	Gleneagles Blvd	Alexander Rd	Annandale Rd	Planned	<u>0</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
76	Laurel Airport	S 64th St W	Buffalo Trail Rd	Planned	<u>0</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
88	Neibauer	Autumn Ln	East of Holly Ln	Planned	<u>0</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
95	S 72nd St W	Laurel Airport Rd	S Frontage Rd	Planned	<u>0</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority
101	Stone Ridge	48th St W	52nd St W	Planned	<u>0</u>	Low	Low	Low Priority

Planning Board

Date: 02/11/2025
Title: West Billings Groundwater Study and Modeling Informational Presentation - No Action
Presented by: Wyeth Friday
Department: Planning & Community Services
Presentation: Yes

Information

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item and no action or recommendation is required at this time. More information is expected in late spring or early summer on this item regarding the model scenarios.

BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

Study of the groundwater in the West Billings area has been the subject of several studies in the last 20 years. The City of Billings and Yellowstone County also conducted a flood study and looked at groundwater recharge in the area in 2011. The latest work by the staff of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Montana Technological University, was shared with the Planning Board at its meeting on 10/24/23 when the latest study work - Groundwater Investigation of the Billings Aquifer - was started. The project was originally nominated by the City of Billings through Boris Krizek of the Billings Public Works Environmental Affairs and was ultimately approved by the State. The objective of the study is to evaluate the groundwater conditions in west Billings and develop a conceptual groundwater model and identify the extent and source of nitrates.

The Groundwater Investigation team, led by Elizabeth Meredith, Hydrogeologist, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Montana Technological University, has been working the last year and a half on collection of groundwater data as well as development of the model. Some City of Billings properties use wells for lawn watering, but the developed and agricultural areas outside the City in west Billings are highly invested in the groundwater for domestic use. The team has been utilizing both existing and new wells for data collection and monitoring for the study for both groundwater depth and fluctuations but also nitrate levels and other chemistry of the water. The study is designed to help forecast the need for future City services (water, sewer, and storm), and understand what ongoing permitting of development on wells and septic systems will result in, if groundwater availability fluctuates and decreases, and water quality also changes.

While Yellowstone County is not involved in any process related to permitting of wells and septic systems through local subdivision regulations, this issue is of concern as development continues and wells and septic systems continue to be permitted by the State, and neighbors of the proposed developments ask questions and raise concerns about water quantity and quality. As far as actual water rights are concerned, Yellowstone County leaves that authority to the DNRC. As it pertains to water quality, that is the DEQ permitting process and responsibility. However, the City and County are gaining knowledge through this Groundwater Investigation of the Billings Aquifer that there is the potential for water recharge and quality concerns over time. Understanding how this information may be used by DEQ, DNRC and the City and County may help in preventing significant challenges in the future if current and future development outside the City begins to need municipal water and sewer services to continue to be viable.

The presentation at this meeting is another progression toward completion of this study and actual model scenarios that may be run with all of the data complete and model tested. While the model scenarios are not ready for this presentation, this information will help the Planning Board see what work has been done, some of the details of the data collected, and how the model testing now will lead to the team sharing some scenarios late this spring.

STAKEHOLDERS

City and County staff, developers, DEQ, DNRC, City and County elected officials, the Planning Board and the public are all interested parties in the findings of this study. Staff has been in contact with the Board of County Commissioners and also will be in contact with the Billings City Council to share this information and, likely of more interest to the governing bodies, the model scenarios later this year. At this time, staff wanted the Planning Board to be brought up to date on the progress of the study since it was last shared in 2023 and what may be expected later this spring. It is the intent of staff to schedule one or more meetings this spring to enable this Board, the Board of County Commissioners and the City Council to all hear a presentation and see some of the model scenarios.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no alternatives or action expected at this time. This is for the Board's information as this study progresses and is

completed in 2025.

FISCAL EFFECTS

There are no fiscal effects at this time. It may be that the County and City will decide at a future time to fund some ongoing monitoring and update work for well and nitrate data to provide local information and updates in the future.

SUMMARY

This is an ongoing issue of interest to the Planning Board given its review of development activity in the City and County.

Attachments

No file(s) attached.