

Lower and Upper Rattlesnake Transportation Committee Minutes

March 9, 2021

6:00 PM

The meeting was conducted via Zoom link.

1. Roll Call: Bob Giordano (Co-chair), Emily Jensen (Co-chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary), Dan Doyle, Bill Ruediger, Silas Teasdale, Fred Rice, Kelly Elam (City Missoula Neighborhoods)

2. Approve minutes for [February 9, 2021](#)

Minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Public Comment -

- a. Kathy Hefferman had emailed the committee to identify two issues (quoting from her email):

"The only comments that I had were (1) possible signage or other warning of trail crossings on Duncan Drive and (2) possible right of way impingements by new homeowners at bottom of Lincoln hills drive (I run there. The road is narrow. I assume there is additional right of way for pedestrians, but I am finding I am running amongst new shrubbery. Since this short section is between rattlesnake drive and the new bike park, hopefully there is a right of way for bikes, soccer players, walkers, and runners)."

The committee took no action on these concerns except to add the crosswalk need locations to Appendix I of the Rattlesnake Transportation Plan update (Tom will do).

Note - Not discussed. The Secretary will provide the meeting minutes to Kathy, as she requested and also suggest that she contact the City to report the shrub encroachment issue on Lincoln Hills Drive.

- b. Rattlesnake Drive parking and bike safety issue - The committee had approved and sent a letter to city staff identifying the problem and requesting resolution. After receiving the letter Jeremy Keane (Public Works Director) responded that he would bring it to the City Transportation Safety Committee, but this committee has received no further response. Bob suggested that Jeremy should be contacted again if there is no response in the next two weeks.

- c. Upper Rattlesnake Drive borrow pit trail - Bill reported that a sub-group has put together a proposal for discussion at the Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Leadership Team meeting March 30. The proposal will suggest that a compressed gravel trail be established in the borrow pit from the Creek Crossing intersection to the

Powerline Trail. The sub-group wants to apply for a grant to pay for design and cost estimate work now with the goal of securing a second grant for construction later.

- The committee is in support of the sub-group proposal and will add an agenda item to discuss a letter of support at the April 13, meeting.
- Bob suggested that this project could attract lots of volunteer labor to support the City project and that a surface made of pine resin and native soil could be an option.
- Kelly confirmed that grants may be awarded up to \$6,000 and that applications are due April 30. She will re-send the grant information to the committee.

4. Continue the update to the Rattlesnake Transportation Plan

a. Maps Appendix - Emily presented a draft and requested comment. It is a work in progress and needs to have specific projects identified on the map to match the Transportation Project Priorities table. The maps will also display images for some specific project locations.

- Fred suggested dovetailing the transportation plan project identities with the City project lists (i.e. LRTP, CIP, etc.)
- Kelly will send City staff contact info. to Emily.
- Tom will send Emily the projects table along with project ID/numbering suggestions.
- Bill will obtain trails Inventory maps from Donna Gaukler and identify trail connections needed such as along the creek east of upper Duncan Drive and along upper Rattlesnake Drive from the Powerline Trail to the NRA.
- Bob will prepare a Trails appendix for the plan.

b. Project Priorities table - Tom re-ordered the projects to be displayed by location along major travel ways from south to north and from highest to lowest score. The committee had no additional comment on the revised table. Note - Not discussed - Tom will prepare a short text section on the updated Criteria Checklist and the process that generated the project scores and subsequent ranking for use in the Process section of the plan update.

c. Existing and Changed Conditions - Bob prepared this section and added it to the Google docs file.

d. Crosswalks - Tom prepared an appendix that lists existing marked and/or signed crosswalks and potential needs for additions.

e. Questionnaire responses - Dan will review the existing spreadsheets and revise if necessary for an appendix.

f. Process timeline - Bob prepared and distributed a draft proposal for completing the plan as shown below (quoting from email). After discussion the committee had no changes to the proposed schedule.

"We will finalize a draft over the next few weeks;

At our April meeting, we ensure we like the 'draft', and make any last changes.

We then send the draft to the two leadership teams and several City staff for feedback/input.

At our May meeting we will decide on what input to incorporate for a new final draft. We then get this final draft out as wide as we can for further input, mainly to as many people in the Rattlesnake valley as possible, maybe a special post card.

The goal would be to change the draft into the actual plan that was voted on at our June meeting. If it's a positive vote, then we start the process for the City Council adoption."

g. Neighborhood Council updates - Bill suggested that both neighborhood council leadership teams should receive a briefing on the draft plan. Dan will do this at the March 30, Upper Rattlesnake meeting and Kelly will invite the Lower Rattlesnake council Chair to that same meeting.

h. City Plans, Timelines, and Funding Sources appendix - Not discussed - Tom will contact City staff to obtain information to complete the table.

5. Opportunity with City paving projects this summer:
Rattlesnake Dr. (Lolo Creek Crossing) and Missoula Avenue (Van Buren to Lolo St.)

The committee identified a need to keep these projects on the agenda for future meetings.

a. Rattlesnake Drive - No discussion

b. Missoula Ave. -

- Bob stated that the residents are considering design options and will forward these to the committee for review. Ben Weiss is reviewing a new national design guide and may have suggestions.

- Fred suggested that the committee prepare a list of possible projects.

6. County project to widen Sawmill Gulch Rd. discussion

Shane Stack, Missoula County Public Works Director, contacted the committee listserv March 2, to see if there was interest in commenting on a proposal to apply for a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant (due April 1) to widen a portion of the Sawmill Gulch Road from the main Rattlesnake Trailhead to just past the junction with the Russian Joe Road. No design information was provided other than an objective to widen the entire stretch from the existing 14' to 20' and re-pave.

Several committee members expressed concerns for the project including whether there is a need to widen the road to improve access and identified issues such as the lack of turnouts, bicycle/vehicle conflicts, lack of safety signing, etc.

- Fred suggested that non-resident vehicles could be prohibited.
- Silas noted that the upper section of the Sawmill Gulch Road west of the project needs to be improved for winter use.
- Silas will contact residents along the Russian Joe Road for input.
- The committee noted the need to stay involved and consider writing a letter to the County at the April meeting.

7. Public Comment - There were no further comments.

8. Identify next meeting and discussion items - April 13, at 6 pm via Zoom.

9. Adjournment

The following items may be discussed: - There was no discussion except as noted above.

- a. Connecting trails, Clark Fork to Recreation Area
- b. Bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety – Broadway/Van Buren
- c. Alvina to Lolo Street (on Greenough Drive) bike and walkways
- d. Van Buren/Front intersection safety
- e. Vine/Greenough trail entry safety
- f. Updating the Rattlesnake Valley Transportation Summit Study
- g. Pentachlorophenol safety issue on Greenough Bridge
- h. Madison pedestrian bridge to Greenough Park connection
- i. Bulbouts and bicycle safety at Rattlesnake School
- j. Bicycle and pedestrian safety along Lincoln Hills.
- k. Lack of parking for the Syringa Park bike park and the soccer fields along Lincoln Hills Drive
- l. Winter walkway and bikeway maintenance, and transit service improvements, including snow issues at bus stops
- m. Moving of the railway yard out of its present location
- n. Need for Griz game day parking restrictions
- o. Need for roundabout at the intersection of Lolo Street and Rattlesnake Drive
- p. Driver confusion with the three-way stop at the Rattlesnake Drive/Lincolnwood intersection

Colin Woodrow, Neighborhood Coordinator
 Kelly Elam, Program Assistant
 Upper Rattlesnake Leadership Team
 Lower Rattlesnake Leadership Team

woodrowc@ci.missoula.mt.us 552-6081
elamk@ci.missoula.mt.us 552-6084
upperrattlesnake@missoula-neighborhoods.org
lowerrattlesnake@missoula-neighborhoods.org