

Rattlesnake Neighborhood Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

June 13, 2023

6:15 – 7:45 pm

Missoula Library, Blackfoot Board Room 410

Introductions: *Bob Giordano (Co-Chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary), Dan Doyle, Fred Rice, Ike Moody, Judy Stack*

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes: *Approved with no changes*

Agenda Review: *No changes to draft*

Public Comments on Non-agenda Topics:

Van Buren and Front Street intersection – The hazard to bikes and pedestrians from vehicles failing to yield for the crosswalk continues. A possible mitigation would be the reinstallation of stop sign for east bound traffic on Front Street

Lincoln Hills Drive bike park – There is a risk to pedestrians crossing from the parking area to the bike park. A possible mitigation would be the addition of a marked and signed crosswalk.

Old Business (from previous meeting minutes):

Review of the May 9 meeting discussion of emergency evacuation planning with Adriane Beck, Director & Dept. of Emergency Services Coordinator, Missoula County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). (Ms. Beck's email address is abeck@co.missoula.mt.us and her phone number is 406-258-3632).

The Department of Emergency Services (DES) is presently in the process of updating its Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM). The PDM is required by FEMA and is normally updated every five years. The plan analyzes and ranks disaster risks and vulnerabilities by examining the history of past disasters and by using science-based prediction modeling. DES is very interested in getting input from the public as it updates the PDM. DES will release an early draft of the plan on June 22, 2023. By the time of the release, DES will also announce opportunities to provide feedback before the plan is finalized. The most recent previous Missoula County PDM (2017) can be viewed on the OEM website:

<https://www.missoulacounty.us/home/showpublisheddocument/25947/636354669135530000>

Anyone interested in this topic should provide input to the emergency services planning process through the Missoula County website.

New business:

Greenough Drive pavement striping - Greenough Drive was recently re-striped to continue the change in bike lanes initiated after the chip seal project in 2022. The city used water-based paint for striping but the longer lasting epoxy paint for the sharrows. A new sign that reads "Bikes May Use Lane" was installed for southbound traffic just north of the intersection with Poggio Lane.

There is still some risk to cyclists from southbound vehicle drivers who don't respect or expect cyclists to be in the vehicle lane near the Cherry Gulch pinch point south of Poggio Lane. Vehicle speeds and lack of enforcement may be factors. Increased traffic to and from the newly reconstructed Waterworks Hill Trailhead may also contribute to the risk. In the future, additional traffic from the new Greenough Heights subdivision (just north of Cherry Gulch) may also add to the congestion.

The committee decided to send a letter to the city to acknowledge the recent work done for safety with pavement markings and the new sign along Greenough to help mitigate the risks for pedestrians and cyclists. The letter will also encourage the city staff to continue to explore all possible options to further enhance safe travel in the Cherry Gulch area. Tom will prepare a draft for review.

Lolo Street pavement striping – There has been no-restriping of Lolo Street since the 2022 chip seal project but Ben Weiss (city of Missoula) has requested input from the committee prior to re-striping in 2023.

The committee previously proposed an Edge Lane Road (ELR) concept that seemed acceptable to residents on the west side but not acceptable to all residents on the east side.

A double yellow center line is not required for Lolo Street but the current lack of striping has apparently not reduced vehicle speeds.

The lack of a marked crosswalk at Missoula Ave. and for the Woodland Ave. Walk-Bike to School Route was identified as a safety concern for pedestrians at the April 2023 committee meeting.

The committee decided to write a letter to the city to put forth the following recommendations (Tom will prepare a draft for review.):

- Implement an ELR concept on the roadway west of the bridge.*
- Paint and sign a new crosswalk at Woodland Ave.*
- Add a traffic calming device on the roadway east of the bridge.*
- Re-paint the crosswalk at Missoula Ave.*
- Refrain from re-painting a double yellow center line along the entire length of Lolo Street.*

Lolo Street Bridge reconstruction

Missoula County conducted a public meeting concerning this project on May 31, from 6-8 pm, at the Rattlesnake Elementary School gymnasium.

The priority now is to support Missoula County as they apply for federal funding for redesign and reconstruction of the bridge.

The committee decided to write a letter of support for the project and to continue to be involved in the design process over the next 9-12 months. Bob will draft a letter.

Other topics (if time permits):

Transportation Plan approval process – Missoula City Council

Both the Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Leadership Teams have endorsed the plan.

Bob will contact the Ward 1 council reps. to enhance awareness of the completed plan and to gather advice on the next steps to incorporate the plan into the work done by council and city staff.

The following topics were not discussed:

- Ice on sidewalks along Van Buren Ave. under the I-90 bridges
- I-90 westbound entrance ramp – need for improved safety at pedestrian crossing'
- Review of urgent priority projects from the transportation plan update.
- Walk/bike trail from the Clark Fork River to the Rattlesnake Recreation Area'.
- Proposal for advanced warning signs to identify when trains are on the tracks.
- Committee co-chair vacancy

Public Comment

A resident has been parking a boat and pickup truck on the west side of Rattlesnake Drive north of the Missoula Ave. junction. At times the boat and truck infringe on the bike lane.

The city has a form on the website that can be used to report issues like this for possible enforcement action.

Next Meeting:

Date, time, and location:

September 12, 2023 - Time and location to be announced.

Possible meeting locations such as Ten Spoon Winery and a dance studio in the lower Rattlesnake neighborhood were discussed.

Bob will work with others to determine the best time and location for the September meeting

Rattlesnake Transportation Committee – Mission and Purpose

The Rattlesnake Transportation Committee is a subcommittee of the Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Councils. Members of the committee are residents of the neighborhood who volunteer their time to gather monthly (September – June) in public meetings to promote safe, efficient, equitable and accessible transportation options for residents and visitors of the Rattlesnake Valley. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings and participate to help discuss issues and identify potential solutions to be considered by the neighborhood, the City of Missoula, Missoula County and others as appropriate.

The committee can be contacted at: rattlesnaketransportationplan@gmail.com

Rattlesnake Transportation Plan

In 2019 the committee began work to update the 2011 Rattlesnake Valley Transportation Summit Study. Working alongside the Missoula City Office of Neighborhoods, a process was put in place to gather input and feedback from residents of the adjoining upper and lower Rattlesnake neighborhoods and to identify priority issues and potential solutions.

In November of 2021 the Rattlesnake Transportation Plan Update was completed and it can be found here: <https://rattlesnaketransportation.org/>