

Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 12, 2018
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 PM
Location: City Council Chambers
140 W Pine Street
Missoula, MT 59802

1. Introductions – *Bob Giordano (Co-chair), Emily Jensen (Co-chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary), Ike Moody, Dan Doyle, Amy Granger, Michael Dorshorst, Fred Rice, Karen Gasvoda (Missoula Office of Neighborhoods), Bryan von Lossberg (Missoula City Council Ward 1)*
2. Mountain View Drive/Woodland Ave. – *Note: The committee has previously sent a letter requesting that the path at the west end of Mountain View Drive be made a permanent pedestrian/bicycle-only right-of-way or an official city trail.*

Bryan von Lossberg and Troy Monroe (Assistant City Engineer) were invited to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Monroe said he could not comment on the submitted proposal to convert the existing path at the west end of Mtn. View into a city street. He did furnish the committee with the policy and regulations regarding street vacation and also provided a rationale for the advantages of street connectivity including emergency services access and the environmental advantages of shorter commutes.

Mr. von Lossberg has visited the site of the 3.1 acre subdivision adjacent to the east end of Mtn. View Drive and on the north end of Woodland Ave. and met with constituents concerned with user conflicts and traffic safety. The family owners of the property subdivided the acreage on 11/21/15 and has development rights on two additional lots with floodplain restrictions. City engineering has indicated that the expected low volume of additional vehicle traffic should not be a problem. Donna Gaukler and Parks and Recreation staff are looking into the history of easements and rights-of way. Any vacation associated with the proposed new road may need city council review. Development that complies with city zoning ordinances is not reviewed by council.

Michael Dorshorst stated that: 1) preservation of neighborhood identity is an important criteria and that the argument for increased connectivity of streets is a unnecessary goal in this case due to little increase in access to the area, 2) environmental impact on the creek and floodplain should be considered especially in light of the planned removal and restoration of the Rattlesnake Creek dam, and, 3) vigilance is warranted to determine if and when a variance might be issued.

Mr. von Lossberg promised to update the committee with additional information pending review of historic information and consultation with city staff. This information can be shared with the committee listserv and posted by Karen.

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – *None.*
4. Approval of [May 29, 2018](#) draft meeting minutes – *Approved with no changes.*
5. Approval of Agenda – *Approved with no changes*

6. Speed Study on Lolo Street – *Note: At the May 29, 2018 committee meeting a motion was introduced, seconded, and passed to draft a letter to the city expressing concern about vehicles speeding on Lolo Street.*

Dan Doyle drafted the letter and sent it to committee members for review prior to the meeting. The letter was subsequently reviewed during the meeting and the following changes were approved by motion:

- *Change the addressee to include city council members von Lossberg and West, Sgt. Greg Amundsen, Missoula Police Department, and Ben Weiss, Missoula Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager*
- *Add a request for a speed study on Lolo Street to be done without electronic speed warning signs in place.*

Dan agreed to redraft the letter and forward it to Karen for processing.

Michael mentioned speeding on Greenough Drive as a related issue. The committee had previously contacted Chad Pancake of Missoula Traffic Services who reviewed existing accident and speed compliance data and determined that the existing traffic did not warrant additional traffic control measures.

7. Van Buren Street Interchange – *The committee will review the results of the project when construction is complete in the fall.*

Note – The agenda for this meeting had listed the following items #8 and #9 as one discussion topic. The committee had previously separated them into two items during the May 29 meeting. Please structure the next meeting agenda to reflect this change.

8. Van Buren Street Construction Phase III, improve the turnoff onto Missoula Avenue – *There was no new information regarding Tom Javins contact with the project engineer about the lack of a pedestrian by-pass through the construction area.*
9. Missoula Ave. one-way to Lolo and one-way to Van Buren at Richard Street – *There has been no new information from the neighborhood regarding this proposed change (see 5/29/18 meeting minutes).*

Mr. von Lossberg stated that the traffic count and speed sensing was re-done and indicated low volume and low occurrence of vehicle speeding. The Fire Department is OK with the proposal. Biggest concern is for vehicles traveling southbound to Van Buren making a left turn with limited sight distance.

Bob introduced an alternative idea for a traffic calming structure (a partial roundabout) at the Missoula Ave./Richard Street intersection.

10. Removing Double Yellow Center Lines on Low Volume Streets, to Decrease Speeding and Increase Safety – *The yellow lines have already been painted on Greenough Drive and Lolo Street. Bob will do more research and present to the committee in the fall.*

11. Bringing Plans Together *Note: this agenda item includes a proposal to update the Rattlesnake Valley Transportation Summit Study, item #13g.*

Mr. von Lossberg stated that council approved funding to inventory all streets in order to prioritize maintenance and reconstruction needs. He also agreed to ask about priority for addressing the rough pavement and drainage problems on Greenough Drive under the I-90 bridges.

The committee identified a need to learn about current projects on the CIP and other projects lists in the neighborhood and to identify the timelines, submittal due dates and processes for recommending projects. Karen will investigate and share information with the committee.

12. Brainstorm ways to increase awareness and effectiveness of this committee – *Fred suggested postcards to neighborhood residents and a strategic planning process. Bob suggested highlighting the committee's work at*

the neighborhood council general meetings. Tom agreed to post information about the next meeting on the Nextdoor Rattlesnake Neighborhood website. A charrette with other city committees was suggested, and Karen mentioned the new city Facebook page.

The committee will further address this topic in the fall.

13. Identify next meeting date, place and time and prioritize discussion items – *Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 5:30 – 7:00 pm in the Jack Reedy meeting room.*
14. The following items may be discussed:
 - a. Connecting trails, Clark Fork to Recreation Area
 - b. Bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety – Broadway/Van Buren
 - c. Concerns for traffic during the 2018 summer reconstruction of Van Buren Street and the I-90 interchange
 - d. Alvina to Lolo Street (on Greenough Drive) bike and walkway – *Ben Weiss had previously offered to host a design charrette for this issue. Bob will follow-up.*
 - e. Van Buren/Front intersection safety – *Fred had attempted to contact Ben Weiss about reinstallation of the stop sign for eastbound Front Street vehicles at the Van Buren intersection but has not yet received a reply. (Note - This project is included in the city 2017 Bicycle Facilities Master Plan, spot improvement #36.)*
 - f. Vine/Greenough trail entry safety
 - g. Updating the Rattlesnake Valley Transportation Summit Study
 - h. Psyllium and sustainable paving Greenough Park – *Bob has previously advised the city of a non-toxic alternative for stabilizing the trail surface.*
 - i. Pentachlorophenol safety issue on Greenough Bridge
 - j. Madison pedestrian bridge to Greenough Park connection
 - k. Bulbouts and bicycle safety at Rattlesnake School
 - l. Bicycle and pedestrian safety along Lincoln Hills.
 - m. Lack of parking for the Syringa Park bike park and the soccer fields along Lincoln Hills Drive
 - n. Winter walkway and bikeway maintenance, and transit service improvements, including snow issues at bus stops
 - o. Moving of the railway yard out of its present location
 - p. Need for Griz game day parking restrictions
 - q. Need for roundabout at the intersection of Lolo Street and Rattlesnake Drive

- r. Driver confusion with the three-way stop at the Rattlesnake Drive/Lincolnwood intersection
- s. Right of way on Mountain View *Please delete this item from the next agenda. It is the same as item # 2.*

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Lower Rattlesnake Leadership Team

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