

Lower and Upper Rattlesnake Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021

6:00 PM

Via Zoom

1. Roll Call - Bob Giordano (Co-Chair), Emily Jensen (Co-Chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary), Dan Doyle, Terri Roach (upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Leadership Team), Leslie Vaculik, Kelly Elam (Missoula Neighborhoods)
2. Approve minutes for [January 12, 2021](#) - Approved with no changes.
3. Public Comment

Terri Roach voiced a concern about the lack of a painted or signed crosswalk on upper Rattlesnake Drive between Tamarack and Fox Field where the trail crosses the road.

- The trail has been recently reconstructed and now gets frequent use including by kids on bikes.
- The trail crossing on Rattlesnake Drive is between intersections and hard to see from a vehicle.
- The speed limit is 35mph and there is a fair volume of traffic heading to residences and the FS trailhead.

The committee discussed and agreed that a trail crossing sign and a painted/signed crosswalk would enhance safety.

Terri agreed to write a letter to the city staff and council members from the neighborhood council and send a copy to the committee. Bob will send Terri the names and titles of the appropriate city staff and council members.

The committee will advocate for this and other crosswalk needs in the Transportation Plan Update.

4. Discuss letter on the Rattlesnake Drive Parking Hazard

Leslie commented on the draft letter (to be sent to City staff and council members) and thanked the committee.

No changes were suggested for the draft and the committee decided to send the letter as is, after Tom reduces the file size of the included images.

The committee noted that the city could address the problem quickly by prohibiting parking in front of the residence with the new sidewalk.

Bob offered to talk to the residents and determine if they park there now or plan to in the future.

5. Continue the update to the Rattlesnake Transportation Plan

The committee discussed the draft project table, edited by Bob and Tom, and determined the following:

- The number of public comments on a project is not the determining factor for priority and this column should be deleted from the table. (Tom)
- Priority for project implementation will likely be opportunistic to coincide with other city operations such as street re-paving or other planning efforts such as the LRTP, CIP, etc.
- The public comments on projects are important and should be addressed through a narrative and listed in the public questionnaire appendices. (Dan)
- A map reference column should be added. (Tom)
- A suggestion was made to list the projects in alphabetical order but subsequent discussion determined that they should be displayed by grouping similar scores and then displaying them geographically. For example for all projects with a score of 5, the most southern project would be listed first, followed by projects further north. The rationale for this approach is that the projects further south in the neighborhood likely serve more people and that listing them this way provides a more continuous project list. The resulting project list would not be in priority order. Tom will revise the table.

Emily will look into how the committee could identify project locations on a map or maps possibly using the quadrant maps from the 2011 plan.

Bob will provide a section on plan history.

Tom and Bob will provide an appendix to display city transportation planning processes (CIP, LRTP, etc.) with timelines and opportunities for committee input.

Bob and Bill will work on a narrative segment or appendix for trail projects. Emily will work on photos to illustrate project areas and develop a way to index photos to the map and project list.

Emily has set up a Google Docs site and the committee agreed to post, review and comment on draft work for the plan there.

Emily has prepared the Introduction and Mission section and posted it on Google Docs for review.

Tom had developed an appendix to display existing and needed marked crosswalks which needs review.

The committee agreed to develop a timeline for completing the plan update at the March meeting.

6. Update on the comprehensive Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Bob provided information from his work on the public planning group:

- The project list is almost final and the Rattlesnake Drive (Missoula Ave. to Creek Crossing) complete street project is now on the LRTP Recommended list with an estimated cost of \$5.5 million.

The city also plans to re-pave Rattlesnake Drive from Lolo Street to Creek crossing this summer and Bob has contacted Aaron Wilson to identify possible opportunities (i.e. marked crosswalks).

Missoula Ave. will also be re-paved this summer. The city is currently considering options and will inform the committee.

Future meeting agendas should have an item for updates on city planning processes and projects.

7. Make a comment as a committee for the [Hwy 200/E. Broadway Project](#)

Bob has communicated with the East Missoula planning group and reviewed the proposed plan including bike and ped facilities along E. Broadway and through E. Missoula.

In the Hellgate Canyon section, the City's current preferred option would have marked bike lanes on both sides of E. Broadway and a multi-use path on the south side. The City has indicated that a main reason for preferring this alternative is that the City believes that westbound cyclists may travel against traffic flow if protected bike lanes (cycle tracks) are installed.

After discussion, the committee determined that protected bike lanes (cycle tracks) on both sides of the road and the existing sidewalk on the

south side would be preferable and safer.

The justification for this preference is a committee concern with driver/cyclist conflicts when a 2-way path is installed adjacent to a street with frequent driveways.

Bob will prepare and send a letter from the committee.

Committee members were encouraged to submit personal comments by Feb. 28 also.

8. Public Comment - Comments were received at the start of the meeting and are documented under item #3.
9. Identify next meeting and discussion items - March 9, 6-7pm via Zoom.
10. 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

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