

## **Upper/Lower Rattlesnake Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

April 12, 2022,  
5-6 pm  
Missoula Public Library, Room 410

Introductions: Bob Giordano (Co-chair), Emily Jensen (Co-chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary), Judy Stack, Dan Doyle, Ike Moody, Robin Poole, Bob Terry and Mrs. Terry

Approve meeting minutes for March 8, 2022 meeting – approved with no revisions

Public Comment:

Robin – Concerned about bicyclists riding in or near vehicle traffic on Van Buren and for bicyclists who don't use lights.

Bob and Emily – Free bike lights are available at City Hall and at the University.

Bob – Greenough Heights subdivision has been approved. Bears are out.

Ike – Parks and Recreation will begin work on the Water Works Hill Trailhead off Greenough Drive in mid-April and the trailhead will be closed until August.

Dan – Parks and Recreation is seeking volunteers for upcoming trail work days on the Jumbo Saddle trail system.

Dan – There are vacancies on the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Council

Discussion on the Rattlesnake Transportation Plan

Emily sent the plan to both the upper and lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council leadership teams. The teams have been informed that the committee can make presentations of the plan at the next general meetings to be scheduled in the fall.

Bob asked that a note on the plan be inserted into the Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council newsletter.

Emily will post the final plan on the website: <https://rattlesnaketransportation.org/>

The committee considers the plan final for now, as a snapshot in time. Public comment is always welcome, and the plan will likely be updated annually, possibly early in the calendar year.

Looking ahead to possible improvements during the 2022 City of Missoula construction season, such as the repaving Greenough Drive, Lolo Street, and Lincoln Hills Drive.

Bob had posted on the listserv excerpts from a letter sent by the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board to the city containing recommendations for all of the city paving projects scheduled for 2022. The excerpts provided specific comments on issues and possible solutions for the Greenough Drive, Lolo Street, and Lincoln Hills Drive projects.

The committee recognized that paving projects may be limited in scope but also noted that these streets are listed as Urgent and High priorities in the transportation plan, due to bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns. The letter excerpts were reviewed which generated the following comments:

Greenough Drive:

- The new sidewalk to be installed along the Greenough Heights subdivision there will not connect with the existing sidewalk that ends south of Cherry Gulch.
- Ben Weiss (city Bicycle Pedestrian Program Manager) has stated that a public meeting will be held to help gather input for this project.

Lolo Street

- Both the crash history and recent speed study data should be considered.

Lincoln Hills Drive:

- Priorities should include safety concerns for the lack of crosswalks for the ball fields and bike park, and lack of shoulders and sidewalks for pedestrians and bicyclists along the entire route.

The committee decided that a letter should be drafted and sent to the city commenting on these three projects. The letter would reference the transportation plan and request that the committee be involved in the planning process. Bob agreed to write the letter.

Public comment on non-agenda items:

Robin stated that there are opportunities for enhanced connections with the Lincoln Hills neighborhood trail system.

Dan commented that there is a Jumbo Saddle trails plan in process.

Bob T. (and spouse) commented on a safety issue for bikers and pedestrians using the crosswalk on the westbound I-90 entrance ramp because they are blind to vehicles accelerating in the roundabout and onto the ramp.

Bob T. (and spouse), along with Ike, expressed concern for pedestrian safety when crossing Van Buren from north to south at the East Broadway intersection. There is a

delay for the green arrow to allow pedestrians a head start with the walk signal, but drivers have ignored this.

Bob G. stated that the I-90 interchange roundabouts, the Van Buren/Broadway intersection, and the Van Buren/Front Street intersection were all identified in the transportation plan as urgent and high priorities and suggested that this could be an agenda item for the next committee meeting. Dan suggested that the previously identified ice and drainage issues on sidewalks and bikeways through the roundabouts be included in the discussion.

Bob T. also identified an opportunity to provide a trail to the Rattlesnake NRA by improving the route along the creek through city, county, and national forest lands instead of a trail along Rattlesnake Drive. Possible partners include Trout Unlimited, Mountain Bike Missoula, and the Clark Fork Coalition. Bob G. noted that Donna Gaukler (Parks and Recreation Director) previously offered to work with the committee on trail opportunities.

Other upcoming topics for the committee:

- Emily reminded the committee that grant proposals are due in October with \$3000 available. The Borrow Pit trail is a possible project.
- Ike identified a possible project that includes a new trail and bridge from the north end of Greenough Park to the Bugbee Natural area on Missoula Ave.
- Emily suggested that there is an opportunity for the committee to consider whether any leadership changes are needed.

Identify the next meeting date & time and prioritize discussion items

May 10, 4:00 – 5:30 pm at the Missoula Public Library

Adjourn