

# Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 8, 2017

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 PM The meeting began at 5:35pm

Location: Rattlesnake Market & Café, 2501 Rattlesnake Dr., Missoula, MT 59802

Committee Members present: Bob Giordano—co-chair; Emily Jensen—co-chair, Tom Carlson—secretary; Hans Hoffman

Others attending: Jane Kelly—City of Missoula Neighborhood Coordinator

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1. Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2017 meeting

The Minutes of the February 7, 2017 meeting were approved.

The committee decided to add an agenda item to approve the agenda at the start of each meeting. The agenda for this meeting was approved.

The committee also decided to move #22 Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items to the beginning of the meeting agenda for future meetings.

2. Van Buren roundabouts safety and landscaping

The proposed design, which is similar to the planned Orange Street/I-90 interchange has caused safety concerns about the long-radius curves causing potentially higher vehicle speeds on the on-ramps which intersect with the pedestrian cross-walks and bike routes. Shane Stack of MDT is scheduled to provide a briefing about this project, including the proposed sound walls and the Madison Street bridge project, at the Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council meeting scheduled for April 18 at 6:00 pm at the Missoula International School.

Action: Bob will invite Shane to the next Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Transportation Committee Meeting (see #3 below).

3. Discuss ways to communicate and share information effectively between Committee members

The committee will continue to use the neighborhood list-serve-mail ([rattlesnaketransportation@missoula-neighborhoods.org](mailto:rattlesnaketransportation@missoula-neighborhoods.org)) to post information on current and future topics.

Actions: Jane will add the neighborhood council leadership team members to the list. The next two meetings were scheduled for April 11 and May 9, 2017, 5:30 – 7:00 pm at the Rattlesnake Market and Café. Subsequent meetings will be planned for the second Tuesday of the month as needed.

4. Connecting trails – Clark Fork to Recreation Area. Note – This agenda item has some overlap with items: 4, 7, 14, 17, 18, and 20.

After the February 7 meeting, Fred sent a letter to the city (after review and approval by Bob) requesting information on plans for connecting trails. No response has been received. The committee is in need of a map and information to better understand what is being planned. Doug Harby is city contact for trail planning. Donna Gaukler is contact for city parks and recreation and will delegate to her staff.

Actions: Hans will contact Donna to discuss issues and invite a parks and recreation representative to the next committee. Hans will also contact Doug Harby if needed.

5. Transit service improvements, including snow issues at bus stops

Mountain Line routinely addresses snow issues at some bus stops but not all. They indicated that they will try to respond to other needs when they are reported.

Vince Caristo of Mountain Line was contacted about concerns for lack of bus service on the west side of Rattlesnake Creek and how to provide input for future planning. Route 5 previously included this area but service was discontinued after the 2012 plan was completed due to low ridership, high cost, and time constraints. Mountain Line is beginning their next 5 year Long Range Strategic Plan process this month and will invite public input both general and specific over the next 6 months. Bill Pfeifer is the Mountain Line Outreach Coordinator. The neighborhood councils will be notified when the public input process begins and Tom placed his name on the e-mail list as the committee contact.

6. I-90 sound wall *Note - see discussion for #2 above.*

Actions: Jane will re-send images of proposed wall.

7. Alvina to Lolo Street (on Greenough Drive) bike and walkways *Note - see # 4, 8, and 9.*

The committee would like to better understand the overall plan and vision for this corridor.

Actions: Hans will contact Doug Harby, Ben Weiss, and Mike Hanes of the city as needed to identify existing plans and maps.

8. Missoula Avenue, Monroe Street, and Duncan Drive speeding and safety – *Note See #9 below.*

Missoula Avenue and Monroe Street: Speed limit is already 25 mph and Missoula Police indicate that the area is patrolled regularly.

Duncan Drive (and Greenough Drive): Kevin Slovarp (city) indicated that a speed study was done 2008-09 and it likely would not be re-visited without indication of significant changes in the neighborhood and/or traffic volume.

Other potential options include more frequent enforcement, traffic calming devices, additional speed limit signs, temporary or permanent speed monitoring signs.

Action: Jane will determine contact for requesting additional speed limit signs. Hans will follow-up with city on traffic calming devices.

9. Deer on Greenough Drive – *See #8 above.*

Bill Ruediger (wildlife biologist with expertise with vehicle wildlife collision avoidance) had previously recommended a lower speed limit and brush clearing along the road as the best options for reducing potential collisions with deer.

Actions: Jane will identify how to access speed study for committee review. Tom will contact Kevin Slovarp for information on process to recommend one or more options and draft letter to city if needed.

10. Van Buren/Front intersection safety

The committee understood that the previous stop sign on Front Street was to be replaced to improve safety for bikers and pedestrians.

Actions: Bob will contact Ben Weiss for an update.

11. Vine/Greenough trail entry safety

The committee learned that the city plans to re-locate the trail entrance further east on Vine Drive.

Actions: Bob will contact Ben Weiss for an update.

12. Psyllium and sustainable paving Greenough Park trail

Psyllium can be a good alternative to asphalt paving to address tree root problems and reduce soil contamination issues. The committee understands that the parks and recreation department plans to reconstruct the Greenough Park trail system to address low spots and pavement deterioration due to tree roots.

Actions: Hans will contact Donna Gaukler to gain information about plans for reconstruction and use of psyllium.

13. Pentachlorophenol safety issue on Greenough Bridge

Bob will contact Morgan Valliant for an update.

14. Madison pedestrian bridge to Greenough Park connection

The safety concern is for bikers northbound from the Madison Street bike/pedestrian bridge traveling through the Double Tree Hotel parking lot to Front Street and then north bound in vehicle lanes across Broadway. Bike lanes have previously been proposed for this block of Madison Street but MDT has concerns for lane width.

Actions: Bob will ask Shane Stack to discuss this concern at our next meeting.

15. Improve the turnoff for northbound bikes from Van Buren onto Missoula Avenue

The committee has safety concerns for this intersection, especially for bikers travelling north on Van Buren and attempting to turn left and follow the bike route onto Missoula Avenue. Vehicles traveling south on Van Buren enter this intersection coming around a downhill curve. The lower 25mph speed limit on Van Buren does not begin until several blocks further south and there are no signs warning drivers of the bike route crossing at the intersection. Currently this section of Van Buren Street is scheduled for reconstruction in 2017.

Actions: Emily will draft a letter for the committee to provide comment on this project.

16. Bulbouts and bicycle safety at Rattlesnake School

The bulb-outs improve safety for pedestrians at the cross-walks but tend to increase conflicts between vehicles and bikers due to reduced lane width and lack of a separated bike route. The bulb-outs were controversial when constructed and the committee determined that more discussion is needed to identify the best approach prior to re-visiting this issue.

17. Bicycle and pedestrian safety along Lincoln Hills road

The issue is the lack of an adequate shoulder along the road. No further discussion.

18. Discussion of Long Range Transportation Plan and Bicycle Facilities Master Plan letters. *Note*

– See #4 above.

No further discussion.

19. Winter walkway and bikeway maintenance – No discussion
20. Madison Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project – No discussion
21. Moving of the railway yard out of its present location – No discussion

22. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No comments received. The committee decided to move this item to the beginning of future meeting agendas.

Upper Rattlesnake Leadership Team  
Lower Rattlesnake Leadership Team

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