

Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes - *DRAFT*

Date: May 29, 2018
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 PM
Location: City Council Chambers
140 W Pine
Missoula, MT 59802

1. Introductions – *Attendees: Bob Giordano (co-chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary), Fred Rice, Tom Javins, Ike Moody, Dan Doyle, Jen Oakland, Wendy Dupree, Mia Andrews, Brenna Davis (UM Neighborhood Ambassador Program Mgr.), Sylvia Borstad (Office of Neighborhoods).*
2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – *Brenna Davis introduced the UM Neighborhood Ambassador Program and highlighted the My Little Free Library map project accessible at: mylittlefreelibrary.org.*
3. Approval of [April 10, 2018](#) meeting minutes – *Approved with no changes.*
4. Approval of Agenda – *Approved as drafted.*
5. Mountain View Drive/Woodland Drive – *Note: The committee has previously sent a letter to city council members commenting against a proposal to the convert the current non-motorized route at the west end of Mountain View to a street open to vehicles. The committee also suggested that the path be permanently designated as a pedestrian/bicycle-only right-of-way or converted to an official city “trail”. No response has been received. The committee also contacted Ben Weiss, City of Missoula Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, and he was not aware of the project proposal.*

The property owner north of Mtn. View Drive and Woodland Ave. is developing lots and proposing to convert the current ped/bicycle path to a street by granting the city an additional 25 foot easement or possibly accessing the lots from Woodland Ave. Neighborhood residents are concerned with safety conflicts between pedestrians and bicyclists accessing bridge over Rattlesnake Creek and proposed vehicle traffic on the east end of Mtn. View Drive.

Neighborhood representatives recently met with Don Verrue (Asst. Director Development Services) who indicated that plans were developed during the Cooney subdivision planning process for opening Mtn. View Drive to vehicle travel. The reps. also contacted Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, but have not received a response.

A motion was proposed, seconded, and approved to invite city council representatives and appropriate city staff to attend the next committee meeting (June 12) to discuss the proposal and city plans. Sylvia will assist with contacting city representatives. Neighborhood residents will contact city council members before the June 12 meeting.

6. Speed Study on Lolo Street – *Note: A speed study using temporary speed monitoring signs was conducted during March 2018. The study indicated that violations of the 25 mph speed limit were within the acceptable 85th percentile. The committee is not aware of a control study (conducted without speed monitoring signs in place).*

Neighborhood residents continue to have a concern for speeding especially during the current Van Buren Phase III construction work which funnels additional traffic onto Lolo Street. The committee

would like to propose consideration of speed monitoring and/or traffic calming devices and had contacted Chad Pancake, City Traffic Services, who indicated that there is nothing more he can do. There has been no response to attempts to contact John Wilson, Public Works Director.

A motion was presented, seconded, and approved to draft a letter to city council and appropriate city staff. Ike Moody will draft a letter and send to committee members for review and discussion at the next meeting (June 12).

7. Van Buren Street Interchange – *No action taken. The committee will wait until construction is complete to review results.*
8. Van Buren Street Construction Phase III, improve the turnoff onto Missoula Avenue – *The project is on-going and the sidewalks and bike lanes have been removed. There is a safety concern for the lack of a pedestrian route through or around the construction area. Tom Javins will contact the project manager.*
9. Missoula Ave. one- way to Lolo Street and one-way to Van Buren at Richard Street – *The committee is waiting on the results of a neighborhood effort to gather support for a solution to traffic and speeding concerns.*
10. Removing Double Yellow Center Lines on Low Volume Streets, to Decrease Speeding and Increase Safety – *Some studies indicate that double yellow lines can increase traffic speeds as much as 7mph on residential/arterial streets such as Lolo Street and Greenough/Duncan Drive. The city has recently repainted the lines on Greenough Drive but not yet on Lolo Street. There is a need to persuade the city to adopt new procedures far ahead of the work season. Bob will do additional research.*
11. Bringing Plans Together (aka Updating the Rattlesnake Valley transportation Summit Study, item #14 in the April 10, 2018 meeting minutes) – *The committee suggested focusing on routes between Broadway and the Rattlesnake NRA trailhead and drawing from existing plans and project lists to facilitate providing input to city processes for CIP and other project planning.*

The committee agreed to identify this project as a priority in the fall. Committee members can use e-mail to keep informed but not to discuss or make decisions on relevant topics.

12. Brainstorm ways to increase awareness [and effectiveness] of this committee – *Various suggestions were discussed such as using postcards to neighborhood residents, the Nextdoor Rattlesnake website and gathering input from the Jane Kelly, neighborhood councils, and city council members on the best approach.*

The committee agreed to work on this topic in the fall.

13. Identify next meeting date, place and time and prioritize discussion items – *The committee reaffirmed the next meeting to be held on June 12, 2018, 5:30 – 7:00 pm., in the city council chambers. The priority topic will be a discussion with city council and city staff on the proposed changes to Mtn. View Drive and Woodland Ave.*

14. The following items may be discussed if time allows:

- 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 walkways
- e. Van Buren/Front intersection safety – *Note: The committee had previously sent a letter requesting reinstallation of the stop sign for vehicles on eastbound Front Street due to ped./bicycle safety concerns. (This project is included in the city 2017 Bicycle Facilities Master Plan, spot improvement #36.) Fred contacted Ben Weiss (city Bicycle Pedestrian Program Manager) and was told the city has no plans to re-install the sign.*

Fred will re-contact Ben for more explanation.

- f. Vine/Greenough trail entry safety
- g. Updating the Rattlesnake Valley Transportation Summit Study
- h. Psyllium and sustainable paving Greenough Park – *Approximately 50 feet of the trail has been washed away and a bench is in the creek. Bob will contact city parks and recreation to inquire about plans for reconstruction.*
- 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

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