

Upper/Lower Rattlesnake Transportation Committee Minutes

June 8, 2021

6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

1. Introductions and Roll Call: Kelly Elam (Missoula Neighborhoods), Bob Giordano (Co-Chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary)
2. Approve meeting minutes for May 11, 2021 – Approved with no revisions
3. Public Comment:

A follow up from the May 11, 2021 committee meeting regarding the ongoing Rattlesnake Drive parking and bicycle hazard: The committee sent an e-mail to Ben Weiss May 17, requesting an update on his March 31, response that the City would address the safety issue by prohibiting parking in front of recent construction. As of today, no signs have been posted and the committee has received no response.

4. Items to be discussed:

Updating the Rattlesnake Transportation Plan –

- A. The committee had previously forwarded the draft plan to the Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council leadership teams and received two responses:

Peter Lesica – I-90 roundabouts: “I don’t think that removing the auxiliary lane for the eastbound I-90 entrance ramp makes much sense unless it makes bike/peds more visible to drivers. Hard to imagine that MDOT would be very interested.”

The committee reviewed the suggested solutions in the draft plan and noted that removing the lane was one option for addressing the safety concern for bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the entrance ramp and determined that no change to the draft plan was needed.

Peter Lesica also commented on the Greenough Drive/Duncan Drive corridor and on the commuter trail that passes through Greenough Park: “I don’t think that using a permeable material in the bumpy areas of the commuter trail will reduce the bumps that are caused by shallow tree

roots. Those sections of the trail should have the blacktop removed and then remove the shallow roots and then repave. I doubt that this would have any major effect on the trees.”

The committee reviewed this section of the draft plan and decided to add language supporting a solution that utilizes an environmentally friendly trail surfacing solution. (Tom)

Terri Roach offered another possible solution for priority H-1, the westbound entrance ramp to I-90 from the Van Buren roundabout. “...add MUCH larger “through traffic merge left” signs on the interstate leading to the I-90 westbound on ramp. There are a couple small signs, but they do not appear to be effective, based on my experience entering the interstate. (I realize this is an MDT issue, but it might not hurt to have another request made.)”

The committee reviewed the draft plan and decided to add a possible solution to improve the existing signage on I-90. (Tom)

Terri Roach also commented on the crosswalks along Upper Rattlesnake Drive at the Powerline Trail and at Tamarack Drive: “Another trail concern is where the Powerline Trail crosses Rattlesnake Drive. The URLT requested that the City place bike/ped crossing signs near the crossing to alert drivers that there is a crossing in the middle of the field. One sign was placed for northbound traffic 200 feet south of the crossing. However, the sign for the southbound traffic was placed 200 feet north of Tamarack Drive (apparently there was citizen input that the Rattlesnake Drive/Tamarack Drive intersection warranted signage as well due to pedestrians and school children at the bus stop.) Ideally, there would be another sign placed 200 feet north of the crossing to alert drivers to the crossing in the middle of the field. It has been requested, but no action taken yet on the request.”

The committee reviewed the draft plan and decided to add language to the Trails section to support the need for best practices to mark where trails cross streets and to add text to the Powerline Trail section to identify the need for signage to enhance safety at the crossing. (Tom)

- B. The committee discussed the need to post the draft plan on a City website to enable public review and comment. Bob mentioned that he had talked with Heidi West (City Council) about using Engage Missoula for this

purpose and that Councilperson West thought that the Engage Missoula website would be an appropriate location to host the draft plan and to take public comment.

Kelly agreed to check again with City staff about how and where to accomplish this.

- C. The committee reviewed the need to produce and display a poster to help make the public aware of the draft plan and facilitate review comments. A poster similar to the one used for the questionnaire in 2019 which displayed the City logo, a web link to download the plan and leave comments, and a QR code will work for this once it is modified (Bob).

Kelly will confirm that it is OK to use the City logo and seek approval from Parks and Recreation to display the poster at neighborhood trailheads.

- D. The committee determined a timeline for the draft plan:
 - a. Complete the final draft by the end of this week (June 12)
 - b. Make the plan available for public review and comment for approximately 45 days (approximately the end of July).
 - c. Review comments and incorporate into a final plan at August meeting.
- E. The committee approved a motion to accept the final draft plan, based on minor grammatical edits and the revised text based on comments received from both the Upper and the Lower Neighborhood Council Leadership Teams (noted above in item 4A). Tom will send the updated draft to Bob for final review.

Letters to the City regarding: Summer repaving projects for getting better walk & bike facilities;

Missoula Ave.

This project is moving forward based on Missoula Ave. resident input and the committee determined that no further involvement is necessary at this time.

Rattlesnake Drive north of Missoula Ave. to Creek Crossing

The committee determined that this project could benefit from input based on the solutions suggested in the draft plan, which were derived from public input. (Tom will draft a letter for Bob's editing and sending on to City staff.)

- 5. Public comment on non-agenda items: None
- 6. Identify the next meeting date & time and prioritize discussion items.

The committee will touch base about the need to meet in July. If a meeting is held it will be at 6 pm, July 13.

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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