

Upper/Lower Rattlesnake Transportation Committee Minutes

January 11, 2022

5:00 PM

Via Zoom Meeting

1. Introductions and Roll Call: Bob Giordano (Co-Chair), Emily Jensen (Co-Chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary), Dan Doyle, Ike Moody, Kathy Gaskill and Bill Ruediger (Upper Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council), Aaron Wilson (City Infrastructure and Planning Leader), Ben Brewer (City Planner), Ben Weiss (City Bicycle Pedestrian Program Manager), Kelly Elam (City Missoula Neighborhoods)
2. Approve meeting minutes for August 8, 2021 and December 7, 2021: approved
3. Public Comment: None
4. Items discussed:
 - a. Discussion on promoting the draft Rattlesnake Transportation Plan and gathering more public comments, with the public comment period running from 12/7/21 to 2/7/22:
 - Ike and Dan placed posters describing the opportunity to comment at all trailheads in the Rattlesnake Valley and at Ace Hardware and the Rattlesnake Market. They will also distribute posters to the Rattlesnake Elementary School and the Clark Fork School and suggest that the opportunity for comment on the draft plan be included in newsletters distributed to parents. Posters will also be placed at Black Coffee, the Break Espresso, and at the bike park and soccer/baseball fields on Lincoln Hills Drive. Bob will inquire of the neighborhood councils about the use of sandwich boards typically used to announce council meetings. A media release has been distributed and Bob will be interviewed by KECI next week.
 - About 13 comments have been received so far. The process for review of these comments, how to incorporate them into the final plan, and how to provide public access will be discussed at the February meeting. Comments could be made public via the listserv and added to the plan as an appendix along with a description of how each comment was incorporated into the final plan. Aaron Wilson commented that this was how the city typically handled public comments on draft plans.
 - Bob will incorporate comments into the draft plan after Feb. 7 for the committee's review and discussion.
 - Emily will send all comments to the committee the morning of Feb. 8.

- City staff (Kevon Slovarp, Aaron Wilson, Ben Brewer, Ben Weis) will review the draft plan and offer comments by Feb. 7.
- Bob revealed that one commenter suggested that the committee consider growth issues in the final plan using data and input from the city and county. Ben Brewer and Ben Weiss were identified as contacts for information.

b. Looking ahead to possible improvements during the 2022 City of Missoula construction season.

The following maintenance projects present opportunities for minor improvements such as signage, striping and crosswalks within the project's limitations:

1. Greenough Drive from N. 2nd Street to Lolo Street will be re-paved and chip sealed in late summer 2022.
 - (a) Ben Weiss stated that the project planning process was just beginning and that the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board would be involved. He wants the public involved but is hesitant to hold a design charette as he does not know the parameters and limits for the project. Regardless of what is accomplished by this project the planning effort will support a larger discussion that could lead to identifying other improvements and funding sources in the future.
 - (b) Ben Weiss also stated that the guardrail at the top of the Greenough Drive hill may not be needed due to low traffic speeds.
 - (c) Emily stated that this project area is an urgent priority in the draft plan and the committee briefly identified a few safety concerns such as:
 - The narrow road width and guardrail at the top of the hill constricts the space available for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians to pass safely.
 - The sightlines, crosswalk, and park entrance at the Greenough Drive/Vine Street intersection are challenging and potentially unsafe for bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicle drivers.
 - The soon to be reconstructed Water Works trailhead and access road may generate increased traffic on Greenough Drive.

2. Lolo Street from Missoula Ave, to Duncan Drive will be re-paved and chip sealed in 2022:
 - (a) Ben would like to see the entire street included in the project to enhance opportunities for improvement.
 - (b) The bridge is a county structure. Shane Stack is the county contact and has mentioned to Bob that it is being considered for reconstruction.

3. The committee identified these projects as an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting so that comments can be developed and sent to Ben and Aaron.

5. Public comment on non-agenda items: None
6. Identify the next meeting date & time and prioritize discussion items: February 8, 2022 from 5-6 pm via Zoom
7. Adjourn

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Lower Rattlesnake Leadership Team

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