

## **Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council General Meeting and Candidates' Forum**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

**Time: 6pm-8:20 pm**

**Location: Missoula International School  
1100 Harrison St  
Missoula, MT 59802**

Leadership Team Members Present: Bob Giordano, Peter Lesica, Katherine Auge, Kathy Tonnessen, Martha Newell, Paul Hendricks

Others Present: Jane Kelly, Office of Neighborhoods, Bryan von Lossberg and Heidi West, City Council Ward 1, Mae Nan Ellingson, Library Capital Fund, Sue Malek and Adam Pummill, Dave Strohmaier and Todd Geery

There were approximately 50 people in attendance

6:00-6:20 Pizza and Welcome. Attendees filled out index cards with questions for the candidates.

6:20-7:20 Candidates' Forum:

State Senate Candidates' Forum: Sue Malek and Adam Pummill;  
County Commissioner Candidates' Forum: Dave Strohmaier and Todd Geery

Bob Giordano asked a series of questions chosen at random from the written questions from the LR attendees.

7:20-7:40 Library Bond information was given by Mae Nan Ellingson; she described the proposed library building plans and the partnerships with Spectrum, MCAT and the Children's Museum

David Selvage from Parks and Services was not present to give a Greenough Park Update.

7:40-7:55 Transportation Planning. Bob Giordano distributed a handout on Rattlesnake Neighborhood issues related to transportation. He invited folks to attend a meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the Council Chambers to discuss revisions to the Long Range Transportation Plan. There will be a

joint transportation committee meeting for the Rattlesnake neighborhoods on November 1 at 5:30p at the Rattlesnake Market and Café.

7:55 – 8:15 Question and Answers with City Council members, Ward 1: Heidi West and Bryan von Lossberg. Questions from the floor included housing affordability, speed limit issues, and the many road and bridge construction projects to take place in Missoula over the next few years. A comprehensive listing of these projects was given to the Public Works Committee by Shane Stack earlier on October 12, 2016. A video of this presentation on the Montana Department of Transportation Construction Update can be found at <http://missoula.siretechnologies.com/sirepub/Silverlight/player.aspx?meetingid=1986&itemid=36390>

8:15 – 8:20 Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items. There were none.

Submitted by: Kathy Tonnessen

## Transportation Planning Issues for the Rattlesnake Valley, October 2016

**Big Picture:** Missoula is in process of creating a Long Range Transportation Plan. This plan guides future street and trail development. See [www.activatemissoula.com](http://www.activatemissoula.com) for info and to give input. Public meeting: Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 5pm, Council Chambers.

**Issues in the Rattlesnake:** Residents have continually expressed desire for safe streets, connected trails, walkways and bikeways, improved bus service and transportation that integrates with our natural setting. A joint transportation committee of the upper and lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Councils has formed and will meet Tues. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 5:30pm at Rattlesnake Gardens to develop projects to benefit our valley.

**Van Buren/ I-90 Roundabouts** (planned for 2017): The neighborhood has supported the roundabouts with the stipulation that walking and bicycling routes are improved. A unanimous letter was submitted one year ago to the City & State concerning the speed of travel for motor vehicles through the roundabout. There has been no response to the letter. (See back for diagram). Well-designed roundabouts have proven to be safe and efficient. Each of Missoula's 70 stop lights averages two injuries per year while Missoula's 7 modern roundabouts average zero injuries per year.

**S. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> St:** These two roads in the heart of Missoula help connect us to the rest of the City. The proposal (Russel to Higgins) aims to calm traffic, greatly enhance pedestrian crossings, gain safe bikeways and improve overall livability of Missoula. Turn lanes would be maintained/improved for motor vehicles at the existing traffic lights. Public meeting: 11-3, Senior Center

South 5th Street (Existing)



Hickory & 5th Street  
Facing West



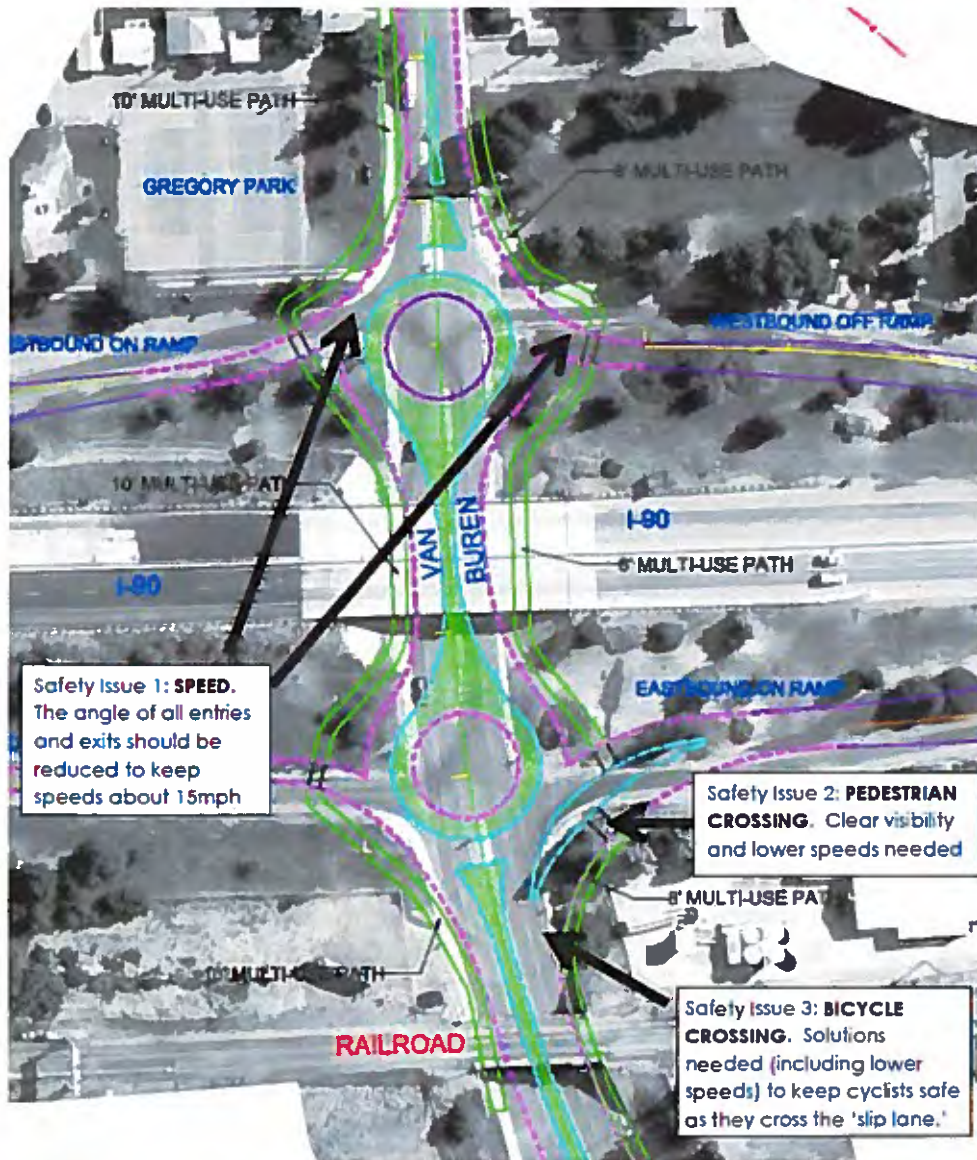
South 5th Street BikeWay (Draft Proposal)



Hickory & 5th Street  
Facing West



**Van Buren I-90 Interchange: Roundabout A Good Choice,  
Yet 3 Main Safety Issues Need Addressing: From: MIST, 2-12-13**



Contact: Bob Giordano, MIST, 880-6834, [mist@strans.org](mailto:mist@strans.org); Shane Stack, MDT, 523-5830, [sstack@mt.gov](mailto:sstack@mt.gov)



The roundabout (top) has almost no 'deflection', allowing drivers to speed. The roundabout was retrofitted (bottom) to change the entry and exit angles to ensure lower speeds and better safety. Deflection is a powerful tool for making roundabouts safe, especially for people walking or biking.