

Upper/Lower Rattlesnake Transportation Committee
June 14, 2022

4:00 – 5:30 pm at the Missoula City Library

Introductions: Bob Giordano (Co-chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary), Dan Doyle, Karen Kaley, Ben Weiss (City Senior Planner, City of Missoula), Deborah Postma (Assistant Planner - City of Missoula)

Approve meeting minutes for April and May, 2022 – approved with no changes

Public Comment – Yellow center stripes have been recently re-painted on Duncan Drive from Lolo Street to Mountain View despite residents' concerns about speeding vehicles. Ben noted that the city typically only paints center stripes on roads with higher traffic volume, higher speeds and/or curves.

Discussion on 2022 City of Missoula construction season, focused on safety improvements and striping configurations for the repaving of both Greenough Drive and Lolo Street.

Lolo Street:

Ben received mixed feedback from residents about the Edge Lane Road (ELR) proposal and it was reviewed by the city engineering staff. The current plan is to not re-paint the double yellow center stripes after the 2022 chip seal project except for 50' at both the east and west ends near the intersections with Rattlesnake Drive and Lolo Street, approaches before the bridge and across the bridge. The city will monitor vehicle speed and crash data for reevaluation prior to a final long term traffic management decision.

Options for the future include:

- an ELR on either or both of the east or west sides
- a bike lane for east bound bicyclists on the east side
- a traffic calming device such as a circle or speed table or separated humps at or near the Missoula Ave. intersection (pending consultation with the fire Dept.)

Ben also suggested that a letter from the property owners along the west side of Lolo Street indicating preferences for an ELR or other option would be useful.

He also stated that the Lolo Street bridge is owned by Missoula County and is rated as one of the worst. It will likely be replaced within 5 years.

Greenough Drive:

The current city proposal for re-striping after the 2022 chip seal project is:

- Stripe a bike lane in the north bound travel lane from Vine Street to Lolo Street.
- Add 'sharrows' for southbound traffic in the Cherry Gulch area

Ben stated that removing the double yellow center strip from Alvina to Lolo Street may be possible and that the committee should consider indicating this in a letter.

The committee also asked about possible solutions for the safety hazards at the Vine Street Greenough Park intersection. These hazards are mainly encountered by bicyclists and pedestrians crossing Vine Street northbound and attempting to access the Greenough Park Trail.

Ben stated that there is an agreement with the Greenough family that limits what the city can do in the park. His proposal to move the park entrance further east did not get a favorable review from staff and a second proposal to move the entrance further north along Greenough Drive also seems unfeasible.

The committee expressed concern for the vegetation in the park that blocks driver's view of traffic southbound on Greenough Drive as they wait on Vine Street. Ben encouraged committee members to use the city website Traffic Safety Concern identification system (<https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/formcenter/public-works-14/report-a-traffic-safety-concern-282>) to identify the issue for review.

Lincoln Hills Drive:

Dan reviewed bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns related to the lack of sidewalks and bike lanes along the street. He also stated that the city had re-paved short sections. Ben said he reviewed the project with the city engineer but that there is no opportunity at this time to widen the travel way.

Dan identified a concern for the lack of a crosswalk or user activated flashing light in the area between the Syringa Bike Park and the ball field parking lot across the street. Ben stated that the committee should identify this in a letter and he would look into possible solutions.

Committee action:

Bob agreed to prepare a letter to the city, with input from the committee, on the Lolo Street and Greenough Drive re-striping projects and about the bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns along Lincoln Hills Drive.

Bob also said he will continue to work on posting the Transportation Plan on the Square Space website and will forward a copy of the finished (for now plan to city staff.

Public comment:

There was discussion about the proposed Borrow Trail along upper Rattlesnake Drive. Challenges include location (in or out of the right-of way), surfacing, and funding.

Identify the next meeting date & time and prioritize discussion items:

The next public meeting will be in September 2022.

Adjourn