

Lower/Upper Rattlesnake Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2022
5-6 pm
Greenough Park

Introductions: Bob Giordano (Co-chair), Emily Jensen (Co-chair), Tom Carlson (Secretary), Dan Doyle, Ike Moody, Joe Baker, Aidan Shackleton

Minutes from June 14, 2022 was approved with no changes.

Review draft agenda – OK as planned

Public input on non-agenda items –

- Meeting time - Fred suggested changing the meeting time to 7- 8 pm to better accommodate his commitments. After discussion the committee agreed to meet at 7 pm at the Missoula Public Library. The monthly meetings are typically held the second Tuesday of the month but because Nov. 8 is election day the next meeting will be Nov. 15.
- Election for committee chairs and secretary – To be discussed at the November meeting for selection/voting at the December meeting.
- Joe identified a safety concern due to congestion when cars park on Woodland Ave. close to Lolo Street and will contact the City.
- Joe also expressed concern for winter snow removal (or the lack of it) in bike lanes on shoulders and on Alvina hindering bike travel and causing safety conflicts with vehicles.
- Aidan provided a perspective gained after moving back to Missoula on bike travel and the bus system.

Review summer striping projects on Lolo Street and Greenough Drive and partial re-paving of lower Lincoln Hills Drive.

Greenough Drive

- Joe and Bob expressed safety concerns about the loss of 200 yards of bike lane for bikers traveling southbound near Cherry Gulch due to the bike lane being shifted to the northbound lane and replaced with Sharrows for southbound travel. Drivers have not always respected the right of bikers to use the lane, and in addition, there is a concern that the Sharrows painted in the southbound lane will wear quickly and be ineffective.
- The committee agreed to highlight the issue in a letter to the City and request that a standard sign reminding drivers that bikers may use the traffic lane be placed just before the area of concern to alert southbound drivers. The letter will identify this as a temporary action to try and lower the immediate risks while

recognizing that, due to the low amount of northbound biker travel (due to the steep hill), the City should reconsider whether the current approach is the safest.

- Bob will write and send a letter to the City.

Lolo Street

- Joe and Ike have observed slower traffic with no pavement markings on Lolo Street (except across the bridge and near the Duncan and Rattlesnake intersections). Joe has a feeling that is a bit safer for bikers.
- The committee identified the need for a speed study with the new configuration to compare traffic and speeds with the previous striping system. This data will be useful in further discussions over implementation of an edge lane road.
- Bob will include the speed study request in the letter to the City.

Lower Lincoln Hills Drive

- Dan reported that there was a partial re-paving, and a new Kids at Play sign was added but there have been no improvements such as a crosswalk between the ball fields and the bike park, or pathways along either side of the road, and parking overflow conditions continue whenever there are games at the ball fields.
- The committee agreed that temporary improvements and signage would increase safety.
- Emily agreed to reach out to the group that worked to build the bike park as well as the Missoula Mammoths kids bike group.

Identify next priorities for the committee

Transportation Plan –

- The plan was completed in the spring of 2022 but will always be a work in progress.
- Emily previously sent the plan to both the Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Neighborhood Council Leadership Teams and the Ward 1 City Council members (Heidi West and Jennifer Savage).
- The plan should be presented to the next general meetings of the neighborhood councils, pending review from the leadership teams. Tom will contact Bill Ruediger for the Upper Council Leadership Team and Aidan will contact the Lower Council Leadership Team and request an agenda item for the next general meetings if the leadership team agrees.
- The plan should also be presented to the City Council, after discussions with the leadership teams.

Projects -

- The committee agreed to review the urgent priority projects described in the plan at the November meeting.

- Bob will contact Ben Weiss and City planners to determine what neighborhood projects are on their list for 2023.

Next meeting: November 15, 2022, 7-8 pm at the Missoula Public Library