



Pedestrian and Bicycle Path Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, July 7, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members

Antonia Malchik - Absent
Mary Behrendt – Present
John Repke – Present (by phone)
Doug Reed - Present
Jim DeHerrera - Present
Bailey Kallal – Present
Giuseppe Caltabiano – Absent
Riley Polumbus - Present

City Staff

Craig Workman – Present
Maria Butts - Present
Carla Belski – Absent
Karin Hilding - Present

- A. Meeting Called to Order at 8:30
- B. Approval of Monday, June 5, 2023, Agenda
Motion by Repke, seconded by Behrendt. Passed unanimously.
- C. Approval of May 1, 2023, Minutes
Motion by Repke, seconded by Behrendt. Passed unanimously.
- D. New Business - None
- E. Old Business
 - a. River Bend Condos: Survey work has been completed, except for wetland delineation. Topo has been picked up and plants identified. Design can now begin. The Riverbend HOA was notified about the survey.
 - b. Malmquist Easement: Craig has talked to Casey about the path and they may build a part of the trail. Maria asked about drainage on the path, Casey’s excavation has caused more pooling on the path near Miles Avenue. Craig said there are a couple options to fix the solution including raising the elevation of the trail. The City can work with the contractor when they come to paving that area. Bruce said that the Malmquist project will pave more of the area and extend to the trail.
 - c. Viaduct improvements: Nothing new to report.
 - d. Safe routes to school: Karin met with Dave Means, school superintendent, the most recent traffic study is out of date and Karin recommended that they do a new study. Means was interested in updating. They talked about doing a drop-off/pick-up near Memorial Field and they will incorporate that into a traffic study. Years ago, the safe routes to school grant was used to construct a path behind the high school. Consideration must be given to the fact that high school students may be driving near where the paths cross to Muldown. Karin mentioned that someone, Means or someone else, should be involved in creating the plan for the Safe Routes to School grant.
 - e. Paths needing FWP approval: Good discussion at a recent time except FWP was not there. Karin will send out minutes from the meeting.
 - f. Ongoing project list: List has been updated but needs to be included with the agenda so that the committee has it to reference and prioritize projects.

F. Parks and Recreation Comments: No comments.

G. Public Works Comments

- a. E-bike safety meeting was held and well-attended. There was a good discussion that generated a long list of projects and questions such as what are the City's regulations for riding bikes on sidewalks. Karin talked to Bridger about the regulations and he said that bikes are allowed on sidewalks. Karin mentioned that there are also City regulations on e-bikes (type 1 & 2 are allowed). E-bike companies mentioned they do a safety talk. Karin mentioned that e-bike users may not be as experienced which contributes to some of the safety issues. Explore Whitefish was in attendance and has some grant money to spend on any signage needs. Work on a possible safety video for e-bikes. Also, Kevin, City's GIS coordinator, met with Dan from Explore Whitefish and Karin to talk about the Explore Whitefish map and housing it with the City of Whitefish. Some discussion of striping on Baker Avenue. Everyone is interested in improving safety. There will be a follow up. Maria mentioned identifying some of the concrete paths as bike paths. Other ideas included identifying and adding signage to slow zones. Further discussion... should this committee along with the city and maybe invite Explore Whitefish, to take a look at sections and signage.

H. Committee Comments

- a. Mary asked about if adopt a path existed like adopt a park, and if we could get more interest. You can adopt a park, path, or a bulb out Karin mentioned we could get an article in the paper. Maria will talk to Carla about getting the word out to generate some interest in adopting paths.
- b. Jim mentioned that there was a section of the bike path closed and met someone that was upset because the path was closed when there was no work taking place. Craig said there are times when a path is closed because there was something dangerous. Craig said they could make sure the signage explains why the path is closed.
- c. Bailey said that she has been posting on the Connect Whitefish Facebook page about the e-bike meeting and other

I. Public Comments:

- a. Mike Fitzgerald suggested that the city do some pruning along the bike path.

J. Next Regular Meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023

K. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Project	PRIORITY	PATH TYPE						PROJECT TYPE					River Trail System	Property Owner	Easement Status	REQ'D APPROVALS						Funding Entity	Status	What's Blocking Progress?	Budget
		Connector	Extension	Independent	Commuter	School Route	Other	New Const.	Upgrade	REPAIR	Maintenance	WF - City				WF - Police	Flathead Cty	MT FWP	Conserve Dist	MT Hwy Dept					
Riverbend Path	H	Y						Y				Y	Riverbend condo owners	In place, contested				Y	Y		City of Whitefish	Survey scheduled for Spring 2023. Design work to follow. City attorney working to resolve challenge by condo owners.	Condo owners resistance to access to easement.	\$100,000 FY24	
Malmquist Path	H	Y										Y	Casey Malmquist	Available				Y	Y		Malmquist	Pending outcome of Riverbend Path	Condo owners resistance to access to easement.		
Viaduct Improvements	M	Y			Y			Y					MDT	N/A						Y	City of Whitefish	In design phase - WGM	MDT restrictions on connecting to the bridge deck	\$206,000 FY23 and FY24	
Snowy Mountain Path	H	Y						Y				Y	City of Whitefish	N/A				Y	Y		City of Whitefish	Parkland dedicated with plat	Funding and adjacent to Les Schwab section		
Les Schwab Path	H	Y						Y				Y	Les Schwab	None				Y	Y			No progress on easement	Les Schwab unwillingnes to engage		
Duck Inn Path	H	Y						Y				Y	Duck Inn	None				Y	Y			Easement agreement stalled	Owners concerns about proximity of path to rooms and river		
W. Lakeshore - Birch Point	M	Y						Y					BNSF	None								Use of informal trail continues, but stalled with BNSF	BNSF said it had to be located on private property		
Voerman to Haskill Creek Farms	M							Y														Owner of Haskill Creek Farms expressed interest. Need to set up meeting.	Nothing in particular. Need direction to engage with Haskill Creek Farm owner.		
Lamb Lane/Assembly of God	L			Y									Assembly of God & City of Whitefish	None								Progress Stalled	Need church board to agree to path - outside city limits, and need master plan for city shop property		
Armory Park Path								Y					City of Whitefish	N/A	Y							Complete			
Bike/Ped Maintenance Plan											Y		City of Whitefish	N/A	Y						City of Whitefish	in Parks Department CIP		\$50,000 FY26	
Trailview Trailhead			Y					Y					City of Whitefish	N/A	Y						City of Whitefish	in Parks Department CIP		\$400,000 FY28	
River's Edge Path Repair/Replacement		Y									Y		City of Whitefish	N/A				Y			City of Whitefish	Working with RPA on a design for a rebuild of this section of trail			
Rivertrail Improvements			Y							Y			City of Whitefish	N/A				Y			City of Whitefish	in Parks Department CIP, contracted with Forestoration on design, received 124 permit for dock installation		\$170,000 Resort Tax FY 24	
2nd Street/Cow Creek Ped-Bridge removal - Path widening		Y								Y			City of Whitefish	N/A				Y			City of Whitefish	in Parks Deartment CIP		\$100,000 FY26 Resort Tax	