

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
City Hall
4:00 PM November 1st, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm, by Denise Jeska

1. ROLL CALL

Denise Jeska	Chair, Disabled Community	present
Michael Fuller	Vice Chair, General Public	present
John Brunning	North Idaho Trail Foundation	present
Amy Evans	City Council Liaison	present
Greyson Storey	Student Representative	present
David Passaro	Bicycling Community	present
Michael Light	Landscape Architect	present
Michael Wood	North Idaho College	present
Brant Souvenir	General Public	present
Bill Irving	Environmental Community	present
Allister McIntyre	Alternate Student Representative	present
City Staff Attending		
Monte McCully	Trails Coordinator, Liaison	
Michael Kempton	Lead Maintenance Worker, Records	
Chris Bosely	City Engineer	
Public Attending		
none		

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES – Action Item

Michael Light made a motion to approve the September 2023, minutes, Bill Irving seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

5. STAFF REPORT

Chris Bosley reported that he had discussions with the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization's non-motorized transportation group regarding future infrastructure improvements. He also related that the bids to implement the grant the city received to install rapid flashing beacons (RFB's) at several locations came in much higher than anticipated requiring the scaling back of this project. Specifically, the RFB's on Howard, Hanley and Best will still be installed and the ones planned for Riverstone Drive may be postponed. Chris also let the committee know that the trail connecting Riverstone Drive to the transit center has been completed as well as sidewalk connections at Haycraft and Government, Hattie and 3rd and Hanley at Pinegrove. Additional information provided included the status of work on the bus stop at the Seltice Trailhead, rebuilding of the Atlas Trail near Northshire Park, plans to complete the south Atlas Trail at the Atlas Mill site and an anticipated opening of the Hanley Avenue extension to Huetter Road next spring. Chris finished by reporting on the recent court finding that the city can not set speed limits under 35 mph unless the roadway has been subjected to a traffic study

due to its interpretation of Idaho Legal Code. Monte informed the committee that the Parks Department is working on a project to rebuild retaining walls along the main hiking trail on the west side of Tubbs Hill and will solicit volunteers for this project when the materials are secured. Mike Fuller inquired about the status of the planned bike trail at Veterans' Centennial Park. Monte replied that the project has been delayed due to opposition from an area resident. Amy Evens asked if input from the City Attorney had been sought and if so when would the project be implemented, as it was part of an approved master plan for the site. Monte let the committee know that he would find out and get back with them. Monte also discussed changes to the bicycle pump track located under the US 95 bridge that had to be made due to ongoing construction on the roadway overhead. Chris let the committee know that the proposed 5th Street bicycle boulevard is planned to be completed next spring and showed examples of the signage that would be installed along it. Mike Wood asked if any intersection improvements were planned for the bicycle boulevard's intersection with Foster Street. The possibility of adding a marked crosswalk across Foster was discussed. Monte finally reported that vegetation had recently been removed at the intersection of Academic Way and the Centennial Trail, greatly improving visibility but that further work reshaping the berm may need to be done. He reported that the City does not want to install stop signs on the roadway at this intersection in order to maintain consistency along the bikeways.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- I-90 Project Letter

Mike Light explained that this item was intended to act as a formal request for the Idaho Transportation Department to keep the Pedestrian/Bicycling Committee informed as the plans to widen the interstate are modified and finalized so that the committee can effectively advocate for connectivity as the project advances. He also emphasized that this would be helpful in conjunction with the recent announcement that ITD was creating a study group to make recommendations regarding transportation issues throughout the Rathdrum Prairie area. A brief discussion was held identifying barriers to connectivity as related to Interstate 90 and US 95 as well as the benefits of mass transit. A recommendation to invite an ITD representative to a future meeting was made and generally agreed to.

- Sidewalks Downtown (along Sherman Avenue)

Denise explained that a survey of the sidewalks along Sherman Avenue related to accessibility concerns had not been completed as of yet.

- Critical Corridors for Sidewalks/Sidewalk Mapping.

David Passaro asked Chris Bosely questions about the funding source and standards of the city's program to partially reimburse property owners for making sidewalk repairs and whether those funds are completely utilized, if not if they roll over to the next year and if they could be utilized by the city for a more comprehensive project related to sidewalk improvements. Amy Evans suggested that the city administrator should be included in these discussions. David also related that ITD is working on a critical corridor list and that there may be an opportunity to work with them by using the list the committee had developed for our sidewalk system.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – Information Items

- Awareness/Advocacy/Education:
Michael Wood recommended that the committee begin creating regular newsletters again to provide information to the public and asked if we have a funding source for this. Monte suggested posting the newsletter on-line after one is created. Amy recommended that the city telecast PSA's that had been made for this subject and possibly create new ones. It was also suggested that the committee host an accessibility event to highlight this issue.
- Infrastructure:
Mike Fuller spoke about collaborating with KMPO's non-motorized working group. And related that he had contacted the ITD Pedestrian/Bicycling coordinator and suggested that the committee invite her to a future meeting. He also spoke about a recent donation to highlight historic sites along the North Idaho Centennial Trail. He asked city staff if any progress had been made in determining an action plan to improve the safety of crossing Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive at Mullan St and about traffic markings on the bike trails. Chris informed him that the improvements to the crossing on Coeur d'Alene Lake drive was still being finalized. In a discussion about striping, Monte related that city staff had expressed reservations about painting green boxes in bike lanes and John Brunning related that the North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation had mixed views on painting striping on the Centennial Trail. Lastly, Mike Fuller asked about the progress of the proposed water trail and Monte provided a brief description of the scope of the project and expressed confidence that it would be implemented in the near future.
- Bikeways Master Plan
No update
- Bike and Walk Week:
No update

8. ROUND TABLE – Information Items:

John Brunning let the committee know that the annual meeting of the North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation will be held at the Chamber of Commerce building this coming January. Michael Light informed the committee that a grant for a pedestrian counter had been applied for. Monte McCully updated everyone on the grant cycle for the coming year. Mike Fuller provided information about the project to install shelters at City Link bus stop sites.

9. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, December 6th 4:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room 6.

Michael Light made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Michael Fuller seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, the meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.