

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
City Hall
4:00 PM March 7th, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:04 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	not 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	
Tyler Long	Maintenance Worker, Records	
Public Attending		
Todd Feusier	Street Department Director	
Justin Kimberling	Street Department Assistant Director	
Chris Bosley	Coeur D' Alene City Engineer	
Student Guest	Public	

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

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

Michael Light made a motion to approve the February 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

Todd Feusier, director of the Street Department, and Justin Kimberling, Assistant Director, started by addressing the committee on the topic of chip sealing and how it effects the bike lanes. He explained he wanted to meet with the committee and explain the vision, goal, and expectation. Todd does not want to create problems for the biking community, this is not the goal or intention. Todd has begun to reach out to other communities and has found that some communities do chip seal the bike lanes and some do not. Todd explained the goal is to keep the health of the road to a level they can maintain without having to do a full reconstruct. Todd stated chip sealing is a much cheaper option than milling up the street and putting down new asphalt. Todd explained he has looked into different options such as a slurry seal, which would be smoother but cost double the amount. The street department has increased their budget for chip sealing from \$750,000 to \$1.5 million and last year were able to do more roads to try and

save the life expectancy of our roads. Todd knows he has to start somewhere to see what works for the biking community and what does not, so they will be doing a pilot program starting in Riverstone, where they are going to chip seal all the way to gutter and compress the bike lanes about 6 times for better compaction. This is about double of what they do for car lanes with the static rollers. Then once that is completed Todd will ask for the biking community to go and ride that section and give input on how it looks as well as how it feels and if there are any problems. He stated this is the first stab at attacking this issue and he needs feedback to determine if they will continue with this application or if they need to come up with a different plan for bike lanes. Micheal Wood stated the biking community feels like it's not a priority and he brought up the issue of bike lanes not being stripped as good as they could be. Todd thanked Micheal for bringing up that input and he explained that they just spent \$30,000 to get the stripping truck fully operational and running both sides and not just one like last year. Todd also stated that he is going into his 3rd year as director and under his direction bike lanes and crosswalks will be more of a priority moving forward. He also stressed to committee that Chris Bosely is a big advocate and works closely with Todd so the committee should feel supported. Todd stated this topic is important to him and the committee should see a difference in how fast bike lanes get painted.

Monte spoke about the idea of painting bike symbols over green squares on the bike path to separate bikes and pedestrians at McEuen and/or City Park along the sea wall. While discussing this earlier with Bill Greenwood, Bill stated what they really need are MPH stencils painted on the trail surface in between the existing signs that are already up on the trail. Bill does not think the green squares will be effective for separating users and the issue is not so much bikes and the pedestrians mixing, but how fast the bikes are going through the parks. Monte also mentioned getting better signage for bikes along the seawall. Micheal Wood stated he hears Bill Greenwood's concern but all it would take is one bike to hurt someone for there to be a problem. He wants to start with one park and see how it goes. Monte will come up with a plan and focus on City Park for now.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Police E Bike Pilot Program**
The police department got a grant to purchase 6 E-Bikes to patrol mainly the downtown area. Micheal Light asked if there was a way to get the officers down here to see if they can explain the plan they have for this program. Amy Evans recommended getting in contact with Captain Walther to get more information on this program.
- **Social Media**
Monte stated he has been posting on social media on a weekly basis for the past month but would like the committee members to do so as well. Micheal Light did create the Gmail account for the Instagram account. He will get that up and running and send it out to everyone.
- **Critical Corridors Progress**
Monte was able to make edits to a presentation he is taking to present at DRT (Development Review Team) and get any other last-minute feedback on the changes that were made. He is going to partner with the Planning Department and take it to the Parks and Rec Commission, and then the Planning and Zoning Commission and from there to Council.
- **Newsletter Updates**
Monte talked about the spring newsletter and will send it out to get feedback and then will update and post it.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – Information Items

- **Awareness/Advocacy/Education:**

There was no meeting this past month and no updates.

- **Infrastructure:**

There was no meeting this past month and no updates.

- **5-year sidewalk Plan:**

Nothing new yet.

- **Bikeways Master Plan:**

Micheal Light stated that they are going to be applying for gold on the bike friendly scorecard. Monte and Micheal Light will be working together to get all the information to start filling out that application, due to there being a lot more to the spreadsheets this year.

- **Bike and Walk Week:**

Micheal Fuller stated that he believes Bike to Work Week will happen but it will be a lighter kind of year.

8. ROUND TABLE – Information Items:

John Brunning announced that the Fondo contractor that they had lined up are not going to be able to do it, unfortunately. Next Thursday they will vote on if that event will happen this year.

Micheal Wood stated that the half Ironman is looking for a captain for the bike coral team. This team checks the bikes out to the competitors when come in to grab their bikes during the event. They are looking for someone to run that team. If anyone is interested, Micheal Wood can get you in touch with the volunteer director. He also asked about the opening of the trail on south Seltice going east from Atlas. Monte stated that there unfortunately is not a timeline for when that will be open. It was supposed to be opened a year ago. Chris mentioned that part of the problem is finding structural dirt to fill the hole at Mount Hink. Once that is filled, they can begin cleaning up the area and reopen the trail. The contractor and the City are working with ITD to possibly utilize some dirt in ITD right-of-way. They are waiting for the contract to go through with ITD before they can move forward.

Monte talked about the ITD meeting he and Chris Bosely were in this past week. He touched on some of the ideas they are going to be building when the highway 90 construction starts.

Micheal Light stated the Wastewater Treatment Plant is soliciting artists to design artwork around their methane torch. You can go vote at the library for which artwork you would like to see built around it. There is also an Art walk this Friday you can go to downtown.

Micheal Fuller talked about his conversation with Nick Goodwin, the City Arborist, about the failing plum trees along the seawall in City Park. Nick explained the irrigation to those trees was damaged 30 years ago and water is not available for new trees there. Plus, the Army Corp of Engineers no longer allows trees that close to a levy.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, May 1st 4:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room 6

Micheal Light made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill Irving seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, the Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.