

**Riverfront Neighborhood Council Leadership Team  
Special Meeting: 5th/6th Street Traffic Calming Project  
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Location:

Bernice's Bakery  
190 S. 3rd St. W.  
Missoula, MT 59801

Facilitator: Caleb Kasper

Recorder: Mary LaPorte

Attending: Caleb Kasper, Jonathan Qualben, Mary LaPorte

Guests: Alex Taft, Ben Weiss, John Shirley, Dagny Krigbaum, Bob Giordano

**I. Ben Weiss: Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, City of Missoula**

Ben provided a few updates on the *5th/6th Traffic Calming Project*:

- The Department of Public Works has estimated a cost of **\$12,500** for repainting both streets in between Higgins and Russell. The repainting calls for a single lane of traffic, L's or brackets for parking, and buffered bike lanes. This estimate doesn't include necessary signage nor the paint, but it includes labor costs, largest cost item.
- Additionally, Ben and others have been in discussion with well regarded private traffic consultants, and the cost of a feasibility study aimed at addressing the neighborhood concerns would be in the range of **\$10,000** - significantly less than the \$50-60,000 costs cited by Public Works last year.
- In order for a study to move forward, an RFP would be issued, detailing specific requirements of the study.

Ben also provided an update on the *Neighborhood Greenways Project*:

- Ben has been working on a concept to connect Missoula's neighborhoods via bikeways, with a goal of creating 1-2 Greenways in each of our city neighborhoods. At this point, 4th Street jumps out as a potential greenway for Riverfront: it could provide connection to the Good Food Store, Willard School, the Train system, etc.
- Related to this project is a Health Assessment and a tool for neighborhoods to determine which streets may be included.

*Discussion:*

- John noted that 4th Street could be a good fallback if the 5th/6th street project is not realized. Bob pointed out that while 4th Street is a fine bike project, it will not solve the pedestrian crossing problems.
- Alex brought the group up to date with his perspective regarding the City Council and the Mayor. He suggested individual meetings be pursued, with the focus being on the neighborhood concerns and the extent that the RFNC has raised this. Furthermore, a study makes a lot of sense, in the absence of specific solutions. The Council will need to make a proposal in support of a study.

- Dagny shared a series of **photos** taken on her street. These explicitly demonstrate the parking, traffic, and safety issues. In addition, Dagny developed a draft **timeline** about this issue which traces residential traffic calming discussions back to 1997.
- Caleb inquired about MDT plans for repaving, noting the very bad conditions along 5th & 6th. Ben does not believe that anything will be done this summer, and possibly not next summer either. John noted that this may create a window for a trial project
- There was discussion about advocating for removing these streets from the MDT designation, but no determination to pursue that.
- A conversation with Jessica Morris in the City's Planning Office will be helpful.
- Jonathan proposed a way forward: in light of a 2 year window before MDT improvements, we should keep the plan /study moving and attempt to deal with the serious problems.
- Agreement was reached for meeting with City Council members.
- Ben suggested other material to bolster this effort:
  - Long Range Transportation Plan
  - 2011 Active transportation Plan...Ben will send to Caleb
- 5th/6th Street Calming project needs to address 3 issues:
  - 1.) High speeds, collisions, and side-swiping
  - 2.) Dangerous pedestrian crossings
  - 3.) Lack of space for bikes
- Agreement reached to stay with 5th/6th Street, noting that a 4th Street Greenway design would be desirable as well.
- More photos are welcome..Dagny will add more information to the timeline.

#### **Plans for May 6 RFNC General Meeting**

- Report that LT and Committee still working on this
- Encourage Emily Bentley and Alex Taft to attend, and meet with Emily beforehand.
- Overview some of the data Dagny has compiled.

#### **LT Meeting Monday April 14**

- Consideration of the TIGER grant application to support Russell Street improvements
- Caleb summarized other agenda items. Caleb will facilitate.

Meeting Adjourned, 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
 Mary LaPorte  
 April 9, 2014