

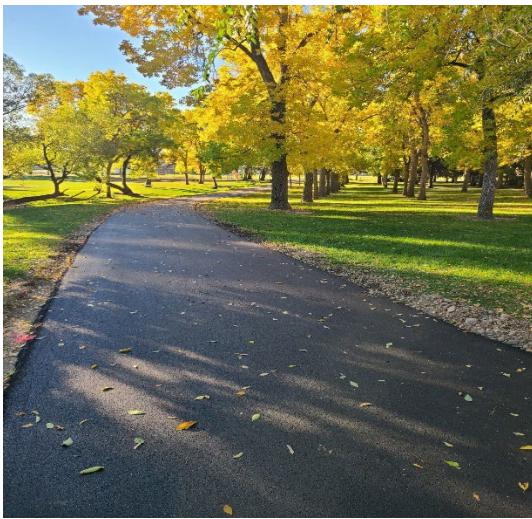
Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

October 21, 2022

1. **Pioneer Park Trail** – Exciting news! The Pioneer Park Trail was paved this week and landscape restoration will follow. The project was a collaborative effort between the Planning Department, Parks Department, and the Public Works Department. The trail was constructed by Wharton Asphalt.



2. **Parks & Recreation Update** – The Billings Parks and Recreation Department is excited to show how the rebuild on the trail through Pioneer Park is proceeding. The contractor will be hydroseeding the disturbed areas along the edges over the next couple of days and then the rebuild of the trail will be complete. The PRPL Department would like to thank Engineering for managing this project. Enjoy a smooth stroll through Pioneer!!!



As the Parks and Recreation Department prepares for winter, we would like to remind all park users that the restrooms in our parks are not 12-month restrooms, and all require winterization before the temperatures reach freezing. Please take appropriate precautions when visiting a park. Parks staff has already begun this process and the following restrooms have been closed for the season: North Park, South Park, Skate Park, Stewart Park, and Gorham Park. Continue to check back as this list will be updated daily. There are a few vault restrooms in our inventory at Swords, High Sierra, and Riverfront Parks that never close.

3. **Thorn Run Meetings** – Greg Burns and Jim Davenport, with Thorn Run are the City's advocates in DC. This week we held zoom calls PD and FD to discuss department priorities and federal grant opportunities. Several more meetings are scheduled for departments in the upcoming weeks. Public Works has been working with TH since we signed the contract this summer. The Council's adopted strategies and priorities are the foundation of our legislative priorities so far.
4. **Responses to Lake Elmo Traffic Study Results** - We've been asked about implementation for these items and what the council needed to do to get these items addressed. The short answer is that the council doesn't need to do anything for these improvements (I do have some suggestions for things you can do if you want to help though). We receive concerns from citizens on a regular basis for corridors in the city and our process includes staff investigation like what we did for Lake Elmo and then implementation of the improvements through operations and our capital programs. I added (in red text) how each item below will be implemented. Please know that we have many citizen concerns for corridors throughout the city and we prioritize everything according to need, impact, and available budget. In every case, we try to get the "low hanging fruit" implemented as soon as we recognize a need and an effective solution.
The other recommendation we made was for the neighborhood to start using the on-street parking. Utilization of the parking lane will have the single biggest impact on speeds. If people use the on-street parking, it creates a physical barrier between the sidewalk and the driving lanes and it lowers speeds due to drivers feeling constricted. One or two cars won't have the impact – it needs to be extensive. We will encourage the property owners to do this, and this is another area where you all can help us when you talk to property owners.

On a related note, CM Purinton has asked about SRTS implementation. The SRTS study is not at a point where we have a priority list of projects for implementation. The plan has projects listed for all school sites and they are listed in groups by impact. We need to review each of the 100s of recommendations for feasibility, cost, impact, and implementation. That being said, we are not waiting to implement until we have a firm priority list, we will continue to include projects from the SRTS plan in our annual projects (like pedestrian crossings, missing sidewalks, etc.) that we know are high priorities.

In early May 2022, Public Works staff began investigating traffic concerns along Lake Elmo Drive that were reported from a citizen through an online form submittal. City Council also received emails from concerned citizens along this corridor, so we are forwarding the results of the study to you. The request for changes included a reduced speed limit to 25MPH, installation of stop signs to stop traffic on Lake Elmo Drive, new marked crosswalks, speed humps, and a school speed zone.

Through a data driven approach, staff evaluated the traffic data, observed operations, reviewed crash data and reports, school bussing operations, and the recent Safe Routes to School Study. Staff developed a list of recommendations or additional study that will be done along Lake Elmo.

Recommendations:

- a. Speeds generally were in the range of expectations for the posted speed limit and a reduction of the speed limit from 35MPH to 25MPH for Lake Elmo Drive through signage alone is not recommended. **Informational only, no implementation.**
- b. Staff has tried to promote the construction of missing County sidewalk at Rice Lane along a County property to no avail. Staff will work with the County to see if they can get it installed. Until this sidewalk can be installed, pedestrian activated RRFB's should be added at the intersection of Uinta Park Dr. and advance school signs and crosswalk signs at this

intersection as well as Milton Rd. should be increased in size. Council could assist by working with the County Commissioners to encourage a sidewalk program for these county island situations. The RRFB will be included in our next Annual Pedestrian Crossing project which will take place next summer. This year's project is already complete. Staff has a list of pedestrian crossings that need to be done. This list was created generally using citizen concerns and the SRTS plan. The signage will be done by our Street/Traffic Division in the near future.

- c. Additional signage and delineation will be added for the horizontal curve near the north end of Lake Elmo Dr. as a safety countermeasure related to the existing crash cluster. A 25 MPH speed limit sign will be posted for northbound traffic before entering the curve to match the existing southbound speed limit sign. Staff will monitor crashes around the curve to determine the effectiveness of the installation. The signage will be done by our Street/Traffic Division in the near future.
- d. We found an interesting crash cluster at Jerrie Lane, with no obvious cause. Staff will conduct a sight distance analysis at the vertical curve near Jerrie Lane to determine if warning signs with advisory speed plaques are recommended. Staff will monitor crashes to determine the effectiveness of installations. Engineering staff will do the analysis this fall and then signs will be added, if recommended by the analysis, by the Street/Traffic Division over the fall/winter.
- e. All-way stop control is not recommended at the intersections of Lake Elmo Dr. / Milton Rd. or Lake Elmo Dr. / Hansen Ln. Informational only, no implementation.
- f. A crossing guard should be present at the Milton Rd. crossing during school arrivals and dismissals. Engineering staff will talk with School District 2.
- g. Pedestrian volumes indicate no new marked crosswalks crossing Lake Elmo Dr. are recommended at this time. Pedestrians should be focused to existing marked crossings with improved visibility and safety. Informational only, no implementation. Social media posts will be made to remind pedestrians of the benefits of using marked crossings.
- h. A 25 MPH school speed zone (flashing) should be considered for Lake Elmo Dr. at Milton Rd. Add signage to the side streets entering the school speed zone. The implementation will be done by our Street/Traffic Division as time and materials allow. Any recommendations that include paint will need to be done as weather permits.
- i. Safe Routes to School projects should be installed according to prioritization identified in the study. Projects included in the SRTS plan are being implemented through annual programs approved in the CIP and budget.
- j. The Walking School Bus program should be encouraged and supported for Bench Elementary School. Staff will encourage this.
- k. A sight obstruction from a tree at the NE corner of Lake Elmo Dr. and Hansen Ln. will be addressed. This will be done with Street/Traffic crews or via Code Enforcement.

5. **Billings PCE Update** – The second round of sewer manhole vapor monitoring began this week and includes 67 manholes for approximately 30 days. Indoor air monitoring of approximately 200 structures will also begin this month and will run for six (6) weeks. EPA plans to install nine (9) mitigation systems at structures that had vapor readings above action levels. EPA drafted a handout (attached) for residents that have irrigation wells with high vapor monitoring results. They will be distributing the handout to affected properties. Staff is coordinating with EPA and DEQ to update City Council at a work session in November or December.

6. From the PIO Desk:

Billings Public Works plans for increased safety measures on Lake Elmo Drive
<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2393>

Local resident targeted in Community Development Block Grant scam
<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2394>

Billings Fire Department recruits introduced to live fire training during week 9 of academy
<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2392>

Billings in the news

Safer school zones on Lake Elmo Drive coming soon
<https://kmhk.com/safer-school-zones-on-lake-elmo-drive-coming-soon/>

Recommendations made to increase safety on Lake Elmo Dr. in Billings
https://www.kulr8.com/news/recommendations-made-to-increase-safety-on-lake-elmo-dr-in-billings/article_80671780-509b-11ed-b772-0f1813e55614.html

BPD reflection on Billings Clinic Shooting; Staying calm is success
<https://www.yourbigsky.com/billings-beat/bpd-reflection-on-billings-clinic-shooting-staying-calm-is-success/>

Distracted driving a frequent factor in crashes according to Billings Police
https://www.kulr8.com/news/distracted-driving-a-frequent-factor-in-crashes-according-to-billings-police/article_8e7cd9a4-4fab-11ed-8b21-4b421ce7f97a.html

No room at the jail: Overcrowding has no easy solutions at Yellowstone County jail
<https://www.ktvq.com/news/crime-watch/no-room-at-jail-overcrowding-has-no-easy-solutions-at-yellowstone-co-jail>

Proposed Billings rec center gets one step closer to fruition
https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/proposed-billings-rec-center-gets-one-step-closer-to-fruition/article_b7be2892-4e5f-11ed-84cf-3f275ff581be.html

Billings PCE Superfund Site

Safe Groundwater Uses

August 2022

This fact sheet has been prepared for Billings area residents whose wells contained elevated levels of chlorinated solvents. It contains some “Frequently Asked Questions” about precautions to take when using groundwater in your area.

Groundwater Contamination

Chlorinated solvents—tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), and dichloroethylene (DCE)—have been detected in groundwater within the Billings PCE study area. In some locations, petroleum chemicals have also been detected. These contaminants can disperse as vapor from shallow groundwater and can be inhaled posing short- and long-term risks to public health. Contaminated groundwater may also pose a health concern if it is used for drinking water or residential uses. Contaminated soils may also pose a health concern to on-Site workers who contact the soils, which can continue to be a source of contamination for the groundwater plume if not addressed.

Billings PCE Superfund Website: <https://go.usa.gov/xS6rz>

Map of Billings PCE Study Area: <https://arcg.is/0Kyfvl1>

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: If I do need to be in contact with well water, what precautions should I take?

A1: Try to limit your exposure. Wear waterproof gloves and boots. Avoid working in enclosed, poorly ventilated spaces.

Q2: Is it safe for children to play in sprinklers using well water? Is it ok to fill kiddy pools or swimming pools with well water?

A2: No. It is important to avoid direct skin contact with contaminated well water. Use water from the public water system for children playing in sprinklers and to fill pools.

Q3: Is it safe for me to give well water to my pets and/or livestock?

A3: No. Use water from the public water system when giving water to pets and other animals.

Q4: Is it safe for me to use well water to wash my car?

A4: Yes, but try to limit exposure by wearing waterproof gloves and boots. Make sure to wash your car outside in the open air so any vapors can easily disperse.

Q5: Can I use well water to water my garden? Is it then safe to eat vegetables from my garden?

A5: Yes. There is no evidence that the chlorinated solvents are taken up by plants.

Q6: Can I use well water to water my lawn? Will it hurt my lawn, flowers, or shrubs?

A6: Yes, you can use well water to water your lawn, flowers, or shrubs and it shouldn't harm them.

Q7: Can I use well water for my houseplants?

A7: No. While the well water should not harm houseplants, it should not be brought inside your home, where the vapors could be trapped.

Contacts

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