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Date: Mon, 26 Nov 2007 15:45:38 -0800 (PST)

From: "richard spalding" <spaldingmt@yahoo.com>

Subject: My message to the Development Process Advisory Review Board: I would appreciate comments

To: "Kathy Aragon" <jenaragon@bresnan.net>

The Heritage Trail Plan was adopted by The Yellowstone County Planning Board, The Billings City Council, The Yellowstone County Commissioners, and the Transportation Policy Coordinating committee during the period 5/1/2004 Thur 6/30/04, after a process that "involved many people and organizations. It was developed under the authority of the Yellowstone County Planning Board and was funded by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration." Many, many, public hearings were held.

It was approved as "a part of the 2003 Growth Policy and serves as 'the non-motorized component of the Billings Urban Area 2000 Transportation Plan'", a Plan required by FHA.

On-Street Bikeways are provided for in para:5.1, and Lewis Avenue is identified as a "primary bikeway" on all Heritage Trail maps.

As problems arose with the Plan, particularly from a vocal portion of the Blue Creek area, as to placement of trail locations on maps, where neither City nor County has a right of way, an amendment process was developed, and is generally the original process of adoption (Planning Board, City Council, TPCC, County Commissioners).

The process now used is flawed, as it is in the hands of Staff, who may, or may not, use logical bases for a decision of striping, or not, but may bend to the wishes of a vocal 25 people, who, above all, wish to preserve their on-street parking.

The process in the Plan, would include the "bicycle compatibility index", traffic counts (including comparisons of traffic counts for other east-west streets) and a count of the actual number of cars parked between 24th St W. and 8th St W. (is there really a problem with losing 5 or so parking places)

While there has not, to my knowlege, been a decision on this issue, and thus may not be 'ripe' for an appeal to this Board, I am asking that any decision be transparent and based on reason, and the Heritage Trail Plan not be avoided, subverted or ignored, in this decision.

Dick Spalding 3135 Radcliff Dr. Billings, MT

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