



Missoula Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board



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A Request for Information Gathering on Alternative Funding for Sidewalks

Mr. Bickel, Mr. Keene, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Weiss,

The Missoula Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board requests that staff and administration gather information about new and alternative ways to fund/finance sidewalk infrastructure throughout the city and present their findings to the board. Specifically of interest are: (1) the creation of municipal bonds and (2) bringing an initiative to voters to fund non-motorized transportation projects.

According to the 2019 Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan it will take the City of Missoula over 100 years to complete the sidewalk network. With cost increases, inflation, and annexations, that number is likely much higher. With many areas of our city lacking sidewalks entirely or continuous sidewalks, we are concerned that the current funding mechanisms do not meet the City's climate, equity, or multimodal goals. Sidewalks provide safe connectivity for all community members including children and families, the elderly, and those who are differently abled. The lifespan of sidewalks exceeds that of roads, and thus has a high return on investment. We believe it is in the economic, environmental, and social interest of the City to vastly expand, if not complete, the sidewalk network as quickly as possible.

We also believe that remedying the incomplete and inequitable pedestrian infrastructure in this manner will be a proud legacy for generations to come. We look forward to hearing the results of your information gathering and seeing a presentation at a future meeting. Thank you for your commitment to safety for all modes in our community.

Best,

Jessica Tuberty, Chair
City of Missoula Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board