



Helena Citizens' Council

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Date: April 26th, 2023
To: Helena City Commission
From: Helena Citizens Council (HCC)
Subject: HCC's Support of NMTAC Recommendation

Dear Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager Burton, David Knoepke and Clerk Dannai Clayborn:

At the most recent meeting of the HCC on April 26th, a vote was taken, and a motion was approved to support the attached NMTAC recommendation.

The HCC will make its official budget recommendations in the coming months. The HCC reserves the right to modify its budget recommendations, including the recommendations regarding the priorities listed in the attached proposal. The HCC will notify the Helena City Commission if there are changes in HCC support for any of the attached NMTAC priorities.

Sincerely,

K.C. Cole Rosling, Chair
Helena Citizens Council

cc: Peggy Benkelman, HCC Coordinator
HCC Representatives

NON-MOTORIZED TRAVEL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Top Ten Budget Priorities for FY 2024

(Passed by unanimous vote of NMTAC on April 11, 2023)

April 11, 2023

Mr. Mayor and Commissioners,

After considerable discussion, walk audits, and personal experiences over the past year (and more), members of NMTAC have identified ten priority projects for the Commission's consideration in the budgeting process for fiscal year 2024. The following projects are necessary to improve non-motorized travel and reduce known dangerous conditions that exist in Helena for our citizens who travel by walking, biking, or rolling.

We respectfully request that you take these recommendations seriously, give them the attention they deserve, and allocate funding in the City's FY2024 budget for construction of the projects listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Members of NMTAC

A. PRIORITIZING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

1. Broadwater Elementary Safe Routes to School

April 12, 2022: Motion advising Commission to install sidewalk on the southside Hollins Avenue adjacent to Broadwater School, ADA ramps and receiving ramps at all four (4) corners, sidewalk on the southside of Peosta Avenue from Broadwater School extending to Henderson Street.

2. Knight Street/CR Andersen Middle School Safe Routes to School

May 10, 2022: Motion to advise the City Commission to budget for the construction of the Knight Street sidewalk project.

3. Annual Allocation for Safe Routes to School Projects Fund

May 10, 2022: Motion to advise the City Commission to budget for \$200,000 to be allocated by the discretion of the Commission for a Safe Routes to School project.

4. Installation of Curb Bulb-outs at Jefferson Elementary Crossings on Broadway Avenue

November 15, 2022: Motion to advise the City Commission to install curb bulb-outs at the Stabern Street and Broadway intersection and the Dakota Street and Broadway intersection by Jefferson School as advised by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT).

B. FINISHING THE CENTENNIAL TRAIL

5. Bid the Project to Pave Trail Around the Transfer Station (the City Commission has already budgeted dollars for the project in 2019(?))

April 12, 2022: Motion advising Commission to amend budget if needed to pave Centennial Trail from Benton Avenue to Centennial Park.

July 12, 2022: Motion to advise the City Commission to deliver the budgeted project to pave Centennial Trail between Benton Avenue and Centennial Park in the 2023 construction season to coincide with the MDT Benton Avenue multi-use path extension and railroad crossing project.

6. Plan and Construct a Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge (Eric Feaver Memorial Bridge) over Henderson Avenue

October 11, 2022: Motion for the City Commission to pursue Bridge over Henderson.

November 4, 2022: The Helena Citizens' Council also passed a motion recommending that the City Commission use funding through ARPA-related grants (including the City's Community Aid Grant program) and other applicable funding sources for the construction of a bridge over Henderson Street on the Centennial Trail named the "Eric Feaver Memorial Bridge."

7. Finalize Easement Process with BNSF/MRL West of Benton Avenue

July 12, 2022: Motion to advise the City Commission to budget in 2024 for the paving of Centennial Trail west of Benton Avenue

8. Pave Trail from Benton Avenue to Joslyn Street

July 12, 2022: Motion to advise the City Commission to budget in 2024 for the paving of Centennial Trail west of Benton Avenue

C. GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS/SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS AND SERVICES

9. Benton Avenue Crosswalks at Hauser Boulevard and Stuart Street

July 12, 2022: Motion to advise the City Commission to install crosswalks across Benton Avenue at Hauser Boulevard and Stuart Street

10. Reallocate funds from the Benton Avenue Transfer Station/Widening Project to Cruse Avenue Crosswalks Projects

March 14, 2023: Motion to advise the Commission to install crosswalk improvements according to the Complete Street Policy to eliminate the long pedestrian crossing distances at the Cruse/6th, Cruse/Broadway, and the Cruse/Lawrence intersection.