

2023 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Fact Sheet



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Purpose and Goals

The 2023 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) aims to guide the development and implementation of multimodal transportation system projects for the Billings planning area. The primary goals are to enhance mobility, improve safety, promote economic vitality, and support environmental sustainability. The plan envisions a connected, efficient, and accessible transportation network that meets the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors through 2045. The Billings-Yellowstone County Metropolitan Planning Organization is required to update this plan every 5 years, per federal law.

Summary of Findings

The LRTP identified several key findings: the existing transportation infrastructure requires significant updates to meet future demands, multimodal transportation options need enhancement, and safety improvements are critical. The plan highlights the importance of addressing current deficiencies and planning for population growth and increased economic activities. It also emphasizes the need for sustainable transportation solutions to reduce environmental impacts and improve community health.

Methodology and Strategies

The LRTP was developed using a comprehensive methodology that included data collection, public and stakeholder engagement, and technical analysis. Strategies include prioritizing projects that enhance safety, improving multimodal connectivity, and supporting economic growth. The plan incorporates performance measures to track progress and ensure alignment with federal, state, and local transportation goals. Scenario planning and modeling were also employed to forecast future conditions and evaluate potential impacts of proposed projects.

How the Topic Impacts Community Health

Improving transportation infrastructure directly impacts community health by enhancing air quality, reducing traffic accidents, and promoting active transportation modes like walking and biking. The LRTP aims to create a safer and healthier environment by addressing congestion, minimizing vehicle emissions, and providing better access to recreational and health services. Investments in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure encourage physical activity, contributing to overall well-being and reducing the risk of chronic diseases.

Community Engagement

Community engagement was a critical component of the LRTP development process. The planning team conducted public surveys, stakeholder meetings, and workshops to gather input and ensure the plan reflects community needs and priorities. Feedback from residents, businesses, and local organizations was instrumental in shaping the goals, strategies, and project recommendations. Continuous engagement efforts will be maintained throughout the implementation phase to ensure ongoing community involvement and support.

Implementation Timeline Summary

The implementation of the LRTP is structured over a series of phases, with short-term (1-5 years), mid-term (6-15 years), and long-term (16-25 years) projects. The timeline includes immediate actions to address critical safety and infrastructure needs, followed by medium and long-term projects that focus on capacity expansion, multimodal enhancements, and technological advancements. Regular updates and reviews will ensure the plan adapts to changing conditions and emerging opportunities.

Results and Next Steps

The LRTP sets a framework for continuous improvement of the Billings transportation system, with expected outcomes including reduced traffic congestion, enhanced safety, and increased transportation options. The next steps involve securing funding, detailed project planning, and beginning the construction of prioritized projects. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will track the plan's effectiveness and guide necessary adjustments. Collaboration with regional partners and community stakeholders will be key to successful implementation.

Proposed Project Types

1. **Bike:** Includes bicycle lanes, neighborhood bikeways, crossing improvements, trail connections, and facility maintenance.
2. **Pedestrian:** Includes sidewalks, side paths, enhanced crossings, trail connections, bridges, underpasses, and facility maintenance.
3. **Safe Routes to School (SRTS):** Includes projects identified in the Billings Safe Routes to School Plan Update (2022).
4. **Trails:** Includes the construction of new multi-use paths and trails, improvements to existing ones, enhanced crossings, additional access locations, and maintenance activities.
5. **Congestion Management:** Includes signal timing, traffic signal equipment upgrades, signs and advanced warning systems, and other intelligent transportation system modifications.
6. **Intersections:** Includes operations and safety studies, new stop signs, new traffic signals, new roundabouts, turn lanes, ADA upgrades, and new interchange layouts.
7. **Roadway:** Includes road widening, reconstruction, space allocation, pavement preservation, signage, bridge rehabilitation, corridor plans, railroad crossings, shoulder additions, pavement of gravel roads, and other maintenance activities.
8. **Transit:** Includes transit facilities improvements, bus replacements, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, other technology upgrades, and route redesign improvements as identified in the 2022 Transit Development Plan.

For more detailed information about proposed plan projects, please visit the [full document here](#).

This factsheet is a joint initiative of Healthy By Design and the Billings-Yellowstone County Planning Division. It aims to enhance awareness of local long-term documents, plans, and policies within the community

