

## State of Wyoming

### DRAFT Bicycle and Pedestrian System Report

**Last updated:**

September 26, 2016

**Required by:**

Legislature of the State of Wyoming  
Senate Enrolled Act 8, 2016 Session

**Prepared by:**

Bicycle and Pedestrian System Task Force

**Legislative Act Summary:**

AN ACT relating to highway, bicycle and pedestrian safety; creating a Task Force to study the benefits and opportunities of bicycle and pedestrian pathways and natural surface trails in the state; specifying Task Force membership and staffing; providing additional duties to the Wyoming Business Council; requiring reports; and providing for an effective date.

**Legislative Directive:**

- ❖ Develop a report to help the Wyoming Department of transportation, Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Department of Health, Office of Tourism, Wyoming Business Council and local communities better understand the opportunities and challenges of bicycle and pedestrian pathways.
- ❖ Submit a preliminary report on or before October 1, 2016 and a final report on or before October 1, 2017 with respect to the issues specified...submit to the transportation commission, tourism board, Wyoming business council, the joint travel, recreation and wildlife interim committee and the joint transportation, highways and military affairs interim committee.
- ❖ Task Force – Mission and Vision; Developed as recommended in Governor Mead’s Board Handbook, “Set Strategic Direction”:

**Mission:** The Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force will provide to the legislature and other governmental agencies a report identifying the benefits, opportunities and challenges of bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure for Wyoming communities, residents and visitors.

**Vision:** Wyoming is a thriving place where people chose to walk and ride on a greatly enhanced transportation and recreation system.

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian System Report - Outline**

### **1. Introduction**

### **2. Executive Summary**

### **3. Report Sections**

- I. Community Pathways and Local Streets
- II. Main Streets and Downtowns
- III. Rural Bicycling and Walking Routes
- IV. Natural Surface Trails
- V. Health Benefits and Safety Analysis

### **4. Recommendations for:**

- a. State of Wyoming Legislature
  - i. Joint Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs Committee
  - ii. Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife, Cultural Resources Committee
- b. State agencies: WYDOT, Health, State Parks, WBC, Tourism, State Lands
- c. Local government: Wyoming's Towns and Counties
- d. Federal Land agencies: BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service

### **The proposed sections could include discussion on:**

- 1. Existing conditions – what we have now
- 2. Needs of Wyoming residents, local communities
- 3. Challenges – concerns and issues to address
- 4. Future plans – opportunities
- 5. Recommendations unique for each report section

### **Sub-Committee Assignments**

Community pathways & local streets	Jack, Angela, Jeff, Patrick
Main streets & downtowns	Jack, Angela, Andy
Rural bicycling & walking routes	Matt, John, Greg, Jim, Jeff
Natural surface trails	Domenic, Peggy
Health benefits & safety analysis	Matt, Wendy, Peggy, Greg

\*Domenic will also help with economics

\*Tim will help coordinate each sub-committee and help out as needed

\*Patrick needs to be included

## Section I. Community Pathways and Local Streets

### **Introduction:**

Discussion of existing and proposed pathway systems around Wyoming, and use of local streets for bicycling and walking. Explain terms used, “pathways” as in shared-use facility for biking, walking and other nonmotorized uses like skateboards, wheelchairs, typically hard surfaced, 10’ wide; define “local streets” as in city, town, and/or county streets and roads, typically paved, especially those commonly used by people biking and walking.

1. Opportunities for using bicycle and pedestrian pathways, and local public streets and roads to benefit economic development through enhanced tourism opportunities and community enhancements.

#### Task Force Discussion:

- Provide examples of other states or events, and seek relevant studies, like the Outdoor Industry sources, Headwaters Economics. Look at Lea MN study.
  - Connections to business and lodging districts
  - Utilize WYDOT Bike/Ped planning to distribute to tourism and local government entities that can use for economic development and promotional needs. (Look at Iowa-By-Trails bicycle on-line maps as example)
2. Identify and evaluate options to fund the construction and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian pathways and local streets for state and local governments, including:
    - a) Private individuals
    - b) Corporate funding and sponsorships
    - c) Nonprofit organizations
    - d) Local Governments - Cities, Towns and Counties
    - e) State of Wyoming sources
    - f) Federal sources. Show the FAST Act funding table for options.

Describe these funding opportunities and include examples where helpful.

3. Recommendations on the various ways the state can coordinate with and assist efforts to develop local and state bicycle and pedestrian pathways and local streets.

List the current federal and state grant sources; consider coordinated grant efforts, like RTP, TAP, WBC Main streets.

4. Consider the extent to which bicycle and pedestrian pathways should be available to people riding horses.
5. Consider the most cost effective method of construction of bicycle and pedestrian pathways along public roads.

Coordinate with other construction projects  
Use appropriate construction standards for the type facility  
Coordinate multiple government agency projects, like WYDOT's Authority to Render Services option for cities and towns.  
Coordinate with private developers, utilities  
Look at permit processes, potential streamlining, to help coordinate trail, path projects

6. Other considerations as the task force may deem appropriate
  - a. Environmental issues and benefits

## Section II. Main Streets and Downtowns

### **Introduction:**

Discussion of Wyoming Main Street program, downtown centers, economic importance. Explain term “Main Street” and walkable downtowns as community centers that facilitate people walking from shared parking to multiple commercial and institutional destinations. Widths and designs vary, but share common elements of street-front buildings, continuous sidewalks, parking access, bicycle access and parking, and may have amenities like public art, benches, way-finding signs.

1. Opportunities for using walkable and bike-friendly Main Streets to benefit economic development through enhanced tourism opportunities and community enhancements.

Describe WBC Main Street Program, participants, activities  
Tourism programs to connect visitors with great towns to visit  
Utilize WYDOT Bike/Ped planning to distribute to tourism and local government entities that can use for economic development and promotional needs.  
(Look at Iowa-By-Trails bicycle on-line maps as example)

2. Identify and evaluate options to fund the construction and maintenance of Main Streets for state and local governments, including:

- a) Private individuals
- b) Corporate funding and sponsorships
- c) Nonprofit organizations, community development groups
- d) Local Governments - Cities, Towns and Counties
- e) State of Wyoming sources; include any other WBC sources
- f) Federal sources

3. Recommendations on the various ways the state can coordinate with and assist efforts to develop and enhance walkable, bike-friendly Main Streets.

Communities participate in WYDOT’s STIP for main street projects

4. Consider the most cost effective method of construction of pedestrian and bicycle friendly Main Streets.

- Technical assistance for community main streets delivered by state agencies (WYDOT, WBC, Travel and Tourism)
- New Mobility West Technical Assistance (currently free with application process)

5. Other considerations as the task force may deem appropriate
  - a. Environmental issues and benefits

## Section III. Rural Bicycling and Walking Routes in Wyoming

### **Introduction:**

Discussion of rural bicycling and walking routes Wyoming, identify existing and proposed routes. Discuss tourism and economic benefits. Define term “rural bicycling and walking routes” to include commonly used local bike routes that begin and end in a community (city, county and or state routes), as well as longer distance routes that connect communities, or may be part of longer regional or national trails.

### **Rural Routes:**

Research and list common routes, seek input from Cities and Towns, WYDOT

### **Existing Long Distance Routes that cross Wyoming:**

- Trans-America Trail – Cross country bicycle route established in 1976 for Bicentennial
- Northern Tier – cross country bike route in northern WY
- Great Divide Mountain Bike Route – Connects Banff Canada and Mexico, crosses Wyoming
- Continental Divide National Scenic Trail – Congressionally designated trail from Canada to Mexico, primarily a hiking trail but also includes horse riders and mountain bikes in sections.
- Medicine Bow Rail Trail, connects national forest lands in south Albany county to Colorado

### **Potential Routes**

- Rails to Trails Great American Rail Trail – new proposal for cross county route using pathways and rail trails, in the development stage. Would like to cross Wyoming.
- Historic Trails that could be traveled by mountain bike, along Emigrants Trails; State Parks SHPO has information on historic trails, conditions.

1. Opportunities for using long distance bicycle routes and pedestrian trails to benefit economic development through enhanced tourism opportunities and community enhancements.

Discussion on elements that make for good routes, such as low traffic, access to public lands, and views of rural agricultural lands, all contributes to economic benefits; can it be enhanced?

2. Identify and evaluate options to fund the construction and maintenance of long distance bicycle and walking routes for state and local governments, including:
  - a) Private individuals
  - b) Corporate funding and sponsorships
  - c) Nonprofit organizations, community development groups
  - d) Local Governments - Cities, Towns and Counties
  - e) State of Wyoming sources
  - f) Federal sources

3. Recommendations on the various ways the state can coordinate with and assist efforts to develop long distance bicycling and walking routes. Discussion can include:
  - State parks could review options to assist cross country bike travelers
  - Local governments can coordinate with WYDOT on joint funding for important roads for cycling and tourism.
  - Assist with new routes being considered, like the Great American Rail Trail concept now in development.
4. Consider the extent to which long distance routes should be available to people riding horses. This could include the CDT route in Wyoming, and other natural surface trail routes.
5. Consider the most cost effective method of construction of long distance bicycle routes along public roads.
  - Options for Local governments to coordinate with WYDOT on joint funding for important roads for cycling and tourism, such as shoulder widening
  - State of Wyoming sponsored projects for key links or logical route enhancements
6. Other considerations as the task force may deem appropriate
  - a. Environmental issues and benefits
  - b. Value of hard surface rural farm to market roads
  - c. Add a section on maintenance needs, methods for rural roads, sweeping, surface maintenance, rumble strips, shoulders

## Section IV. Natural Surface Trails

### **Introduction:**

Discussion of Natural Surface Trails around Wyoming, including mountain bike trails, hiking, horse trails. Discuss various Federal land managing agencies, and State Lands trails. Discuss partnerships with local groups and state and federal land agencies. Define “Natural Surface Trails” as those routes on dirt single track trails or unimproved two-tracks, generally located on public lands and suitable for mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding.

1. Opportunities for using natural surface trails to benefit economic development through enhanced tourism opportunities and community enhancements.
2. Identify and evaluate options to fund the construction and maintenance of natural surface trails for state and local governments, including:
  - a) Private individuals
  - b) Corporate funding and sponsorships
  - c) Nonprofit organizations
  - d) Local Governments - Cities, Towns and Counties
  - e) State of Wyoming sources
  - f) Federal sources – public land agencies BLM, Forest Service, NPS
3. Recommendations on the various ways the state can coordinate with and assist efforts to develop local natural surface trails.
  - Coordinate with Federal Land agencies, BLM, FS, NPS
  - Options for WY State Lands
4. Consider the extent to which natural surface trails should be available to people riding horses. Most natural surface trails are open to horse use, and horses are allowed in Wilderness lands also.
5. Consider effective methods of construction of natural surface trails. Describe trail building partnerships between nonprofits and public land agencies, such as underway in Sheridan, Cody, Jackson, Casper, others.
6. Other considerations for Natural Surface Trails as the task force may deem appropriate.
  - a. Environmental issues and benefits

## Section V. Public Health Benefits and Safety Recommendations

An overall description of the benefits of active transportation and recreation, current chronic disease and public health concerns due to inactivity in Wyoming, and ways more active lifestyles can improve public health outcomes in Wyoming.

Present the safety analyses on bike and pedestrian crashes and recommendations to reduce crashes. Use data WYDOT has gathered for updated bike/pedestrian plan.

1. Health benefits to Wyoming residents of encouraging bicycle and pedestrian recreation and transportation and ways in which these benefits can be attained.
2. Overview of bicycle and pedestrian crashes, prevention strategies, both infrastructure and non-infrastructure safety programs, and recommendations to improve safety outcomes in Wyoming.
3. Consider safety analyses relating to fatalities and serious injury accidents involving motor vehicles and bicycles and pedestrians in Wyoming and safety concerns raised by the analyses.
  - Include analysis of pedestrian crashes in Wyoming and countermeasures
  - Include analysis of bicycle crashes in Wyoming and countermeasures
  - Review the areas and types of crashes that occur in different settings, urban, rural, intersections
  - Discussion of education efforts for people on bikes and foot, and for drivers
  - Recommendations for proper clothing, identification

Safety recommendations for natural surface trails, like horses and mountain bikers

- Identification of issues, and countermeasures