

November 15, 2021

Dear Missoula City Council and members of the Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee,

We are 20 Missoula residents who live on or near the 4 blocks of Schilling Street between South Avenue and the Bitterroot Trail. Ours is the only section of the Schilling Greenway that did not receive traffic calming improvements in June 2021. We are writing to request traffic circles, and a pedestrian crossing with flashing beacons at South Avenue, connecting and completing the Greenway. These are not expensive projects. According to the Long-term Transportation Plan, these improvements are scheduled for 2026-2035!

Vehicles routinely drive 40 mph on this short stretch that is supposed to be a Greenway, with traffic speeds of 15-20 mph. The new rezoning at Schilling and Dearborn will allow 42 new vehicles. Although most of us live within 150 feet of the rezone site, we understand that a protest would not allow our voice to be heard on traffic issues (because that would place a "condition" on zoning).

Ours has long been a calm, quiet neighborhood, but that character is quickly disappearing with developments that bring increased traffic. As more housing is built in our neighborhood, we need you to protect our quality of life. We understand that other Missoula neighborhoods have zoning overlays, neighborhood plans, and other protective devices. But ours is an "Invest Health" neighborhood, recognized as receiving less protection and investment, resulting in lower health outcomes.

The Long-term Transportation Plan states that, "Building out the neighborhood greenway network is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to make Missoula's low-traffic streets safe and comfortable places to walk, run, bike, scoot, and roll" (p.134). Achievement of the plan's goals are to be measured by "Number of projects completed in an Invest Health neighborhood or a low- to moderate-income census tract" (p. 130-132).

Two of us wrote to the TPCC in May to request that our stretch of the Schilling Greenway be included in the June project, but that did not happen. Then in August, South Avenue was chip sealed and repainted, without even a painted crosswalk at Schilling Street.

We look forward to hearing that these safety enhancements will be completed in the near future. Thank you for your dedicated service to our community.

Sincerely,
Jenny Mish & Scott Fels, 2505 Schilling St.
Mark & Layne Gray, 2500 Schilling St.
Frank & Becky Platz, 2514 Schilling St.
Shanon Daines, 2421 Schilling St.
Susan & Derry King, 2129 Livingston Ave.
Lisa McGrath, 2115 Livingston Ave.

Luke & Molly McGill, 2221 Livingston Ave.
Betty Jo & John Blomenkamp, 2206 Livingston Ave.
Krista Clark & Chanel Cleary, 2125 Livingston Ave.
Derek New, 2145 Dearborn Ave.
Ryan Demott, 2212 Dearborn Ave.
Vicke Schend, 2216 Dearborn Ave.
Rebecca Pettit, 2205 Dearborn Ave.