From:	Brian Schilling
To:	Town Council; County Commissioners
Cc:	Sean O"Malley; Bob McLaurin (bmclaurin@ci.jackson.wy.us); Tyler Sinclair; Alyssa Watkins
Subject:	Y intersection - Pathways staff review
Date:	Wednesday, November 09, 2016 2:52:52 PM
Attachments:	Y Intersection - WYDOT redesign 2016 JHCP Comments.pdf Jackson Streets WYO22 Intersection Y-int Grading Plans EXCERPT 20161018.pdf

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Council and Commissioners,
Several weeks ago, plan sets for the WY22/US89 ("Y") intersection were provided by WYDOT to several Town/County staff members for review. In advance of Monday's JIM, Pathways staff reviewed the proposed plan from the perspective of bicycle/pedestrian access and prepared comments to deliver to WYDOT. I wanted also to make these comments available to the Town Council and County Commission for purposes of Monday's discussion.

In brief, there are a number of issues with the proposed plan that are of concern for bicyclists and pedestrians. Overall, the redesigned intersection does not meet the Comp Plan or ITP goals of reconstructing the Y to safely accommodate all users of the public right-of-way. There are also additional concerns for transit and impacts to surrounding streets and neighborhoods. Staff recommends incorporating elements of a "protected intersection" to the design in order to improve safety for people on foot or bike, bringing engineering expertise specific to bicycle/pedestrian issues into the project team, and engaging the public and stakeholders to evaluate the impacts to surrounding areas and explore possible improvements for transit. By doing this, the project has an opportunity to improve conditions for all users—bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders included—in addition to increasing the capacity for motor vehicles. Without these changes, the intersection will fail to be safe or accessible for cyclists and pedestrians and will fail to meet the goals of Town and County planning efforts.

Another area of concern (which was not fully addressed in the comments to WYDOT) is compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The project is being moved forward under a Categorical Exclusion, which basically does not require public comment or review, as a "technical improvement," but there are potentially significant impacts to bike/ped access, transit, and travel patterns and planned land use for the area. If these impacts were deemed "significant" then a more extensive public input and review process would be required. (Additional background information can be provided). Review by an attorney familiar with NEPA and environmental compliance is recommended.

The attached comments to WYDOT go into much greater detail on staff's analysis and recommendations. I would be happy to answer any questions you have, so please feel free to contact me, and thank you for your attention to this very important project
Brian

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