

Mullan BUILD Mary Jane Boulevard Neighborhood Meeting Summary January 2022

On November 10, 2021, Big Sky Public Relations, DJ&A, the City of Missoula, and Missoula County held a neighborhood meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Missoula. This meeting centered on how the Mullan BUILD grant will impact Mary Jane Boulevard and was focused on updating the public and hearing their questions and concerns.

The 16 attendees were primarily local Mary Jane Boulevard residents who are directly impacted by the project. Due to COVID-19 precautions, RSVPs were collected for this meeting to ensure the room was not overcrowded, however, all interested attendees were welcome. The meeting began with a presentation ([linked here](#)) to bring attendees up-to-speed on the Mullan BUILD project and anticipated changes to Mary Jane Boulevard. Once a common understanding was established, the presentation transitioned into small breakout group discussions throughout the room.

During the discussion portion of the meeting, parking was raised as a major concern for attendees, and changes regarding parking were discussed throughout the presentation and in small groups. Residents brought forward parking concerns related to the park and preschool near the park; how parking around holidays/other events may impact resident parking; how driveways, alleyways, and garages are small and often cannot accommodate parking needs; and the lack of parking for RV's and trailers.

In addition, questions regarding total cost and how this project might impact property values were raised. Some had comments around increased property taxes and paying for infrastructure improvements. Attendees were also concerned for safety. Some residents spoke of their concern about children walking to school and high traffic speeds.

A complete list of concerns discussed during small group breakouts are delineated below.

RESIDENT CONCERNS:

- Parking at the park
- Driveway, alleyway and garages are small
- Holiday/event parking
- Lack of parking for RV's and trailers
- Child safety [kids walking to school]
- Fast vehicle speeds
- Preschool parking
- Lowered property value
- Lack of street-lights
- Crime with increased traffic
- Current funding for infrastructure

Discussions also included supported project elements. Most ideas centered around the placement of bike lanes or shared-use paths, lowering speed limits, and the inclusion of safe crossing especially adding flashing lights at crosswalks. Some discussion was had about the boulevard space and trees in the area.

SUPPORTED PROJECT ELEMENTS:

- Pro bike lane and parking
- Pro lowered speed on England
- Pro crosswalk flashing lights
- Pro 25 mph on Mary Jane Blvd
- Use Fifth and Sixth Streets as bike lane and parking examples
- Pro bike lane on Flynn versus Mary Jane Boulevard
- Crosswalk bulb outs
- Moving the boulevard
- Pro diseased tree removal
- Pro bus stops
- Pro having trees
- Original plan increases property value
- Good with losing boulevard
- Bike lane no buffer
- Pro bike lane only

NEXT STEPS:

As the purpose of the meeting was to provide information and collect feedback from attendees, no formal decisions were made during the meeting. Information collected from this meeting and prior feedback is being used to inform the Mullan BUILD team's next steps.

In addition to considering this meeting's comments, the Mullan BUILD team evaluated data and past public input, consulted with the neighborhood council, had discussions with City Council representatives and the Mayor, and reviewed best practices for public safety and engineering protocols. With this in mind, the City of Missoula Public Works & Mobility Department has decided to proceed as follows:

1. An interim design will be put in place on Mary Jane Boulevard towards the end of the first phase of construction [2022-2023]. This will consist of conventional on-street bike lanes with no parking removal. This will allow for gradual change and the ability for residents to experience the addition of a bike lane without loss of parking while the area continues to develop.
2. The ultimate configuration of Mary Jane Boulevard will include a buffered bike lane or protected bikeway, which may require removal of parking on one side of the street, and will be implemented when the following thresholds are met:
 - a. The remainder of Mary Jane Blvd is complete [including sidewalks and bikeways]; and
 - b. Traffic volumes on Mary Jane Blvd exceed 3,000 vehicles per day
 - c. Funding is available to complete the improvements.

3. The BUILD team will revisit the design options when these thresholds are met (which is likely many years in the future), including the option to implement protected bikeways, which would not require removal of parking, but may require a special improvement district (SID). Additional work may be required on Mary Jane Boulevard at that time, including implementing the roundabout planned for the Mary Jane Blvd/England Boulevard Intersection. As the project moves forward, residents and stakeholders will be informed as the BUILD team approaches the ultimate design goal.

Questions are encouraged. Please visit the BUILD webpage at www.mullanbuild.com or email Becca at becca@bigskypublicrelations.com.