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COMMUNITY SAFETY SUMMIT SET FOR MAR. 5

The Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization will host the Community Safety Summit on Tuesday, March 12, in the Franklin Elementary School cafeteria to engage stakeholders and the public in development of transportation safety strategies for the Missoula area. Check-in and opening remarks for the Summit will begin at 5:30 p.m. The interactive Summit activities will begin at 6 p.m. and end by 8 p.m.

The planning organization, called the MPO, which is based at the City of Missoula and does the transportation planning for the greater Missoula area, is undergoing a community transportation planning process to update the Missoula Area Community Transportation Safety Plan. The initial plan was developed in 2013. It identified the most important transportation safety issues facing the Missoula community and strategies to address these concerns. Five years later, it is time to evaluate the effectiveness of the previously employed strategies and to identify additional strategies that address the current safety needs of the Missoula area.

Members of the community with a vested interest in improving safety are encouraged to attend the Summit. The Summit will consist of a series of working sessions that will allow participants to work collaboratively with the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee and the planning team to develop practical and effective strategies to address Missoula's identified safety emphasis areas: intersection crashes, non-motorized users and high-risk behavior. Franklin School is located at 1910 S. 11th St. W.

The planning process is a collaborative effort among State, County, and City governments and nongovernment representatives working to reach Missoula's safety goals. The Plan is intended to address Missoula's safety concerns through innovative strategies that incorporate the 4 E's of Safety (education, enforcement, emergency services, and engineering). More information on the Plan update can be found on the project website: <https://www.missoulampo.com/community-transportation-safety-pla>

Public participation is a very important part of the planning process. Citizens are encouraged to attend the Summit or submit comments and concerns in writing, by mail to Scott Randall, Project Manager, Robert Peccia and Associates, P.O. Box 5653, Helena, MT 59604, or by e-mail to srandall@rpa-hln.com.

The Missoula MPO attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any service, program or activity of our department. Alternative accessible formats of information presented at the meeting can be provided upon request. We encourage the public to make accommodation requests at least 48 hours before the meeting. For more information, call (406) 447-5000.

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Ginny Merriam, Communications Director, 552-6007 (o), 546-7692 (c)