

**Chris Taggart**

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**From:** Bike Walk Montana <doug@bikewalkmontana.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 5:01 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NEWS FROM BIKE WALK MONTANA



September 29, 2020

## NEWS FROM BIKE WALK MONTANA

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Greetings to all of you and we hope you and your families are staying safe and doing well!

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### **BIKE WALK MONTANA AND MONTANA HEALTHY COMMUNITIES MINI SUMMIT - OCTOBER 8**

Our 2020 Bike Walk Montana Summit – Connected Communities Summit was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Bike Walk Montana has partnered with the Montana Healthy Communities to present a **FREE mini summit on October 8th**, running from 9:30 am till 5:00 pm. This follows up on an introductory session on September 10th – Healthy Design for the Triple Bottom Line with **Dan Burden** and **Mark Fenton**. Mark and Dan have agreed be the featured speakers on this session as well – if you don't know about these nationally known transportation pioneers click on their names above to find out more about each of them.

### **BIKE WALK MONTANA SEEKING INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We are now advertising for an Interim Executive Director (IED). The successful applicant will work alongside current Executive Director Doug Habermann through the next legislative session, and beyond, to advance our many current projects, efforts and initiatives. This will double our efforts to grow a walk, ride and roll able Montana. The IED will work with Doug, Outreach Coordinator Kris Bergman, our great board members and volunteers. A primary initial focus will be to pursue project and general operating grant support. We are looking for someone passionate about active transportation, willing to learn as well as to contribute, with

[Learn more about the mini-summit and how to participate here.](#)

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### **MONTANA LEGISLATIVE INTERIM TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RELEASES REPORT**

We have been working with the Montana Interim Transportation Committee in finding ways to help support maintenance and expansion of our shared use path (SUP) system in Montana. There is over 180 miles of SUPs on Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT) rights of way and the 2017 legislature passed The **Montana Shared Use Path Act** to provide for that system.

This act set up a funding system through vehicle registration and to date, over \$50,000 has been donated by Montana citizens to the fund. The funds are allocated by MDOT District and funds education and maintenance as priorities. It's not a large amount of money but has real potential to grow. The Committee, with leadership by Representative Denley Loge of St. Regis, is seeking additional methods of funding SUPs. There has been a great increase in bicycling and walking since COVID has kept us socially distant and craving exercise and more options for commuting to travel to work, essential shopping and school.

During the 2019 session, the Montana Legislature passed HJ45 which directed the committee's effort over the interim which they

experience being an advocate and working with diverse partners in a positive and outcome driven organization.

[See the full job announcement here, including how to apply.](#)

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### **MDOT HIRES NEW BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN COORDINATOR**

We, and many other advocates across Montana, have been asking MDOT to fill their Bike/Ped Coordinator with an employee dedicated solely to advancing the opportunities, safety and cause of active transportation in Montana for several years. These duties have been spread over a number of employees, including Sheila Ludlow, who has been covering the position part time. We are so pleased to welcome Karen Grosulak-McCord as the new coordinator and to Montana.

Here's Karen's bio: "Karen comes to MDT with a background in travel and tourism, non-profit marketing and communications, and is finishing up a BS in Geography and Geospatial Science at Oregon State University. Originally from Oregon, she is excited to be a new resident of Helena and is committed to fully understanding Montana's unique walking and biking needs. As a one-car household between she and her spouse, Karen has a personal connection to pedestrian concerns. She is also a recreational cyclist, Portland Trail Blazers fan, and

diligently did resulting in an excellent report detailing options and ideas for the next session. **The final report is available here.**

We will be part of a working group meeting on October 7th to further explore the possibilities for reinforcing the current funding approach as well as additional options. This is being set up and organized by MDOT at the direction of the committee. We want to thank all the members of the interim committee for their work over the last two years.

spends her free time with her husband and two cats.”

Karen will be integral in working with the working group, along with other MDOT staff. She can be reached at **kgrosulakmccord@mt.gov** or **406-444-9273**.

We thank Sheila Ludlow for her efforts in providing great information, support and her quiet enthusiasm for bicycling and walking in Montana. We know she will be a great resource for Karen and remain supportive of Montana’s non-motorized travelers! Thank you Sheila!

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## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!

With COVID, a legislative session on the horizon, and new opportunities to expand our focus, please consider an additional contribution to Bike Walk Montana. Our mission is to make bicycling and walking safe and accessible for all.

**DONATE NOW**

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### BIKE WALK MONTANA

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