



MINUTES
City of Flagstaff
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 4, 2014
4:30 pm

City Hall, Staff Conference Room
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Ken Lane, Chair
Dave Blanchard
Richard Hall
Jodi Norris
Paul Owen
Jeff Stevenson
Jack Welch

Members absent:

None

The following City and County staff was present:

Lucinda Andriani, County Public Works
Kevin Burke, City Manager
Mo El-Ali, Capital Improvements Manager
Martin Ince, Multimodal Transportation Planner
Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA General Manager
Stephanie Smith, City Manager's office

The following elected officials were present:

Karla Brewster, City Council
Matt Ryan, County Board of Supervisors

Public present:

Todd Barnell
John Deuel
Sharon Edgar
Therese Gribbins

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Jolene Hayes

Elson Miles

Kevin Parkes

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Paul Owen and Jack Welch introduced themselves as new members of the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Mr. Welch said that the new Arizona Trail FUTS connection is terrific.

2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

3. Approval Of Minutes

Mr. Blanchard made, and Mr. Welch seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 7, 2014. The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bikeways planning

Mr. Ince provided an updated outline for the bicycle master plan, which includes goals and policies for bicycling from the Regional Plan, potential performance measurements, and a list of strategies organized around the 5 E's. Mr. Ince said that the list of potential strategies was meant to be extensive, but that the list would be narrowed to the highest priority or most important strategies through the planning process.

The Committee discussed potential performance measures:

- Sometime it is difficult to collect baseline data as a starting point; do we have data for all the proposed measures?
- It may be helpful to start at the end and define where we want to get to.
- Start with things that are measureable and can be easily achieved.
- How do we get a good count of cyclists to use for baseline data? Is there existing data available as part of the FMPO's on-going intersection counts? Some

counts may have been done in the 1990's. It would be helpful to learn about the various methods for doing bicyclist counts.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposition 406

Kevin Burke, Flagstaff city manager, gave an informational presentation on Proposition 406, which would establish an additional City sales tax of 0.33 cents on every dollar to fund repair or reconstruction of City streets. The bond would also include money for on-going maintenance after the initial repairs have been done.

He said that when a street is repaired or reconstructed, the sidewalks and curb ramps must also be fixed or replaced to meet minimum ADA standards. Repairs also provide an opportunity to add bike lanes when possible. Although it was the desire of the citizen's committee to include construction of missing sidewalks, it was not included in the Council's recommendation. He said that the ballot language was worded so revenues could be used to fund the shortfall in the Walnut-Florence underpass of the BNSF tracks.

Councilmember Karla Brewster encouraged the group to vote for the proposition, and to encourage others to vote for it. She stressed that roads are vital to the economy, and although the Council has worked over the past several years to find way to invest in roads, the current funding mechanism is not working. The City needs to invest now in street repair in order to save money later.

Lucinda Andriani, deputy public works director at Coconino County, provided information on Proposition 403, which would increase the county sales tax by 0.30 cents to fund on-going County road operations, including maintenance, snow plowing, safety projects, and equipment. She said the net increase would be 0.175 cents, because the existing CPOS (County parks and open space) tax is expiring. She said some of the money would be used to widen shoulders, and that she would like to see Flagstaff become a national destination for bicycling.

County supervisor Matt Ryan said the County has been working to implement multi-modal improvements on County roads, but that funding has become an issue. He said the bond is a stop-gap measure for funding rather than a cure. He asked the group to support the proposition and to help get the word out.

There were a number of questions and comments about the Propositions:

- A suggestion was made to widen the shoulder on Highway 180 to the Grand Canyon to promote tourism and Flagstaff as a cycling destination.
- The shoulders on Highway 89A from Flagstaff to the switchbacks will be widened as part of an upcoming ADOT project.

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- Some BAC members thought that the Walnut-Florence underpass was held-up by the approval process at BNSF, not a lack of funding. Mr. Ince clarified that construction plans for the BNSF bridge have been approved, but there was a shortfall of approximately \$900,000 in funding.
- Cinders on roadways and bike lanes are a persistent concern for cyclists. Mr. Burke said they are working to restore cuts in street sweeping funding.
- There was a question about what the total sales tax would be if both measures were approved. Mr. Burke responded that the total would be 8.951 percent, and that it was important to the citizen's committee and Council to keep the total under 9 percent.
- Some wondered if there was a concern about losing big-ticket sales to other communities. Mr. Burke said that a study of other local sales tax increases shows that a small increase has little effect on sales. Fluctuations in sales are driven more by other economic factors.
- The group asked how the sale tax percent compares to other communities. Mr. Burke said that 9 percent is higher than many Valley communities by about 1/2 cents, but lower than or comparable to rural communities.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There was no discussion on the Reports.

2. Concluding Announcements

There were no Concluding Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.