



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 3, 2015 | 4:30 pm

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Ken Lane, chair
Dave Blanchard
Richard Hall
Jodi Norris
Jack Welch

Members absent:

Jeff Stevenson

One vacancy

The following City and agency staff was present:

Martin Ince, multimodal transportation planner
Dylan Monke, Montoya Fellow
Anja Wendel, City Attorney's Office

Public present:

Aaron Hayne
Reid Lewis

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Ms. Norris wondered if upcoming large developments would be thoroughly vetted for bicycle considerations. She said she would like to help in some way after her time on the BAC is over.

Mr. Welch asked if the plans called for the new Hospital Rim FUTS Trail to extend to the east, or if it would end at Beaver Street.

2. Public Comment

Aaron Hayne, Reid Lewis, and Anja Wendel all introduced themselves.

3. Approval Of Minutes

Mr. Welch made, and Mr. Blanchard seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 5, 2015. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Pedestrian and bicycle master plan

Mr. Ince made a short presentation of background information on the upcoming process to update the Regional Transportation Plan, including an outline of the document and a preliminary schedule.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Revisions to City of Flagstaff Engineering Standards for FUTS Trails

Mr. Ince presented a draft of proposed changes to the Engineering Standards that govern how FUTS trails are constructed. The Committee made several comments and asked several questions:

- In many cases weeds grow along the side of newly-constructed FUTS trails. Are revisions under consideration for reseeding requirements in the standards?
- Are there requirements for landscaping adjacent to FUTS trails? The new trail along the BNSF track behind Sportsman's would have benefitted from some landscaping as a buffer between the trail and the parking lot.
- What is the minimum width of an easement, and is there a requirement for a buffer adjacent to trails?

2. Electric bikes on FUTS trails and bike lanes

Mr. Monke provided information to the Committee on electric bicycles and the current state of regulation. Electric bikes are generally divided into two categories, throttle-assist and pedal assist, and are sometime regulated differently. At the federal level, both the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Federal

Highway Administration define and regulate electric bicycles, although neither would dictate if electric bikes should be allowed on FUTS trails.

The State of California has recently adopted new regulations for electric bikes, which divides electric bikes into several categories. Current definitions and regulations in Arizona Revised Statutes, and local ordinances in Boulder, Park City, and Tucson were also reviewed.

The Committee made several comments and asked several questions:

- There are some concerns that low-torque motors could dig holes or otherwise damage trails.
- Electric bikes are a nice option for people who need assistance. They would also allow more people to ride bicycles.
- Bicyclists who can ride at 20 mph are typically more experienced, and as a result are more likely to ride in the street than on a FUTS trail.
- Electric bikes would allow inexperienced riders to go fast.
- Electric bikes may be on the cusp of a surge in popularity.
- Speed limits for electric bikes or any bikes would be difficult to enforce.
- Electric bikes operate quietly, so there is potential to startle other trail users when they pass. Bicyclists don't often call out when they pass other trail users.
- One of the aesthetics of FUTS trails is that they are for non-motorized activities like walking, jogging, and biking.
- Paved surfaces may be more appropriate for electric bikes than aggregate trails.
- Electric bikes would probably not cause problems most of the time, but there is a concern that as they became more popular there would be more problems.
- The computer chips that limit the speed of electric bikes can be hacked into.
- Electric bikes are fairly expensive, but the cost will come down as they become more popular.

The Committee wondered if it was necessary at this time to get ahead of this issue, and determined to monitor the experiences in other communities before considering a course of action for Flagstaff.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There were no Reports

2. Concluding Announcements

There were no Concluding Announcements

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm