



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 7, 2015 | 4:30 pm

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

Dave Blanchard, Acting Chair
Richard Hall
Jodi Norris
Jeff Stevenson
Jack Welch

Members absent:

Ken Lane, Chair
Paul Owen

The following City and County staff was present:

Tom Boughner, Community Code Compliance
Sara Dechter, Comprehensive Planning Manager
Martin Ince, Multimodal Transportation Planner

Public present:

Andrew Benally, Transportation Commission

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Ms. Norris said that she has switched offices, and as a result her bicycle route now includes quiet streets. She reported that the difference is amazing; much less stress and she does not have to worry about congested times.

Mr. Welch reported that the first phase of the Fort Tuthill Bike Park is complete. They are asking people to stay off the course until spring to avoid damage.

2. Public Comment

Tom Boughner gave a quick update on the Safe Sidewalks program. Enforcement of snow removal on sidewalks is now in its sixth year. So far this year 46 complaints have been received. For most areas enforcement is complaint-driven, although significant corridors will be patrolled following a storm.

He reported that bike lanes are suffering terribly because snow is plowed into and stored in the bike lane to keep it off sidewalks. In some places, like Butler Avenue through the Southside, this creates a winter-long problem because the bike lane remains in shadows and the snow never melts. One potential solution may be to identify problem spots like Butler for special treatment. Ideally, Public Works crews are storing snow half on the sidewalk and half in the bike lane.

Cinders are also a significant problem in bike lanes, but there were also negative side effects with deicer.

3. Approval Of Minutes

Mr. Welch made, and Mr. Hall seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 4, 2014, with one correction. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bicycle master plan

Mr. Ince went through an outline of the process to prepare and adopt specific plans for bicycling, walking, and trails. The Committee raised several questions and comments:

- How do we build support for the plan, beyond people who are already cyclists
- What is the process for setting priorities, and how do we choose between projects and programs that may differ greatly in scope and aim
- It will be important to establish a connection to public health
- A Safe Routes to School program is important to teach kids good habits that last a lifetime
- Traffic calming is important to bicyclists, but there seems to be opposition from traffic engineers and public safety (police and fire). The Committee discussed speed tables and raised crosswalks

There was a short discussion about public involvement, which culminated in three suggestions for the public process:

- Go to where people are – community events, etc. rather than relying on people to come out to a public meeting.
- Give participants one specific task, for example select the highest priority from a list of potential projects.
- Work with neighborhood on local projects that are meaningful to them.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Plan

Sara Dechter, comprehensive planning manager for the City, provided information on the on-going process to update the La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Plan. Three public workshops are planned for the end of January, including a transportation workshop on January 26. The transportation workshop will cover three main topics:

- Options for improving traffic efficiency along the Milton corridor
- Plans for an extension of Clay Avenue to the west of the neighborhood
- Pedestrian and bicycle crossings to improve non-motorized access to/from the neighborhood along the BNSF tracks, Milton, and Route 66.

Ms. Dechter showed potential cross sections for Clay Avenue, including some changes to make it more bike, pedestrian, and transit friendly to help mitigate the impacts of additional traffic. One possibility for the Clay Avenue extension is to limit it to bus and bikes only.

There was a question about how to create a better crossing at Route 66 and Blackbird Roost. One option is to limit left turns.

Ms. Dechter showed a map of the planned FUTS along the Clay Avenue Wash. An alternative alignment is to follow Clay Avenue to the west.

There was a discussion about the Florence-Walnut underpass. The neighborhood is in very much in favor of it. With the passage of the road repair and safety bond, the funding gap for the project has been closed.

The Committee said that a lot of bicyclists use the unofficial route through the Millpond Village neighborhood to avoid Route 66. Other options will be important to strengthen this connection for cyclists.

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 6:20 pm.