



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 5, 2016 | 4:30 pm

Flagstaff City Hall, Council Chambers
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Steven Richard, chair
Dave Blanchard
Richard Hall
Jodi Norris
Jack Welch

Members absent:

Joseph McGhee
Jeff Stevenson

The following City and agency staff was present:

Martin Ince, multimodal transportation planner

Public present:

Jason Matteson

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Blanchard has seen survey crews working along State Route 89A. He wondered if this was the start of the project to widen the shoulders.

Ms. Norris reported that the rut in the Arizona Trail near the Matt Kelly Bridge has been fixed.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Matteson introduced himself and said he was here to observe what is discussed by the committee.

3. Approval Of Minutes

Ms. Norris made, and Mr. Welch seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of April 7, 2016. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Pedestrian and bicycle master plan

Mr. Ince presented information regarding an inventory and prioritization of missing bike lanes, including:

- Hierarchy of bicycle facilities
- Factors to consider for when bike lanes should be included on a street
- Maps of existing and missing bike lanes
- Categories of missing bike lanes – short segments, corridors, and intersections
- Finished/unfinished status of street
- Potential prioritization factors

The committee reviewed the information and had several comments and questions:

- There was a question about the long-term maintenance of bike lanes, and the quality of paint used to mark the stripes.
- Does the City use vehicle counts to verify that turn lanes are necessary?
- The committee stressed the importance of having bike facilities continue through intersections.
- The committee stressed the importance of parkways as a place to store snow, collect cinders and debris, and locate trash bins and place construction signs.
- Prioritization factors should include future growth areas as a consideration.
- The committee expressed its concern that the traffic signals at Beulah and Lake Mary were changed, to the detriment of cyclists, for no apparent reason.
- Augusta Drive should be removed from the list of bike-lane eligible streets.

Mr. Ince said staff would further develop the prioritization factors for the next meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. High occupancy housing plan

Mr. Ince provided information on the City's planned process to study the impacts and mitigation of high occupancy housing. He provided copies of the recommendations from the Student Housing Action Plan, which were developed by an ad hoc committee that met for several months in 2015. The recommendations emphasize walking, cycling, and transit to mitigate the potential transportation impacts of student housing projects. The Committee had several comments and questions:

- What becomes of student housing projects if NAU does not meet its enrollment projections?
- What happens if the impacts of student housing cannot be mitigated?
- The committee compared the density of various existing and proposed projects.
- There was a discussion about the potential impacts of student housing projects on walking and biking routes. The impacts of some projects could be significant enough to warrant new facilities, even though they may not have been planned previously. The example of the Hub's impact on Southside streets was used. Cottage Avenue would not have been considered previously for enhanced bike facilities, but with development of the Hub it should be because of the number of residents/students who will use it to cycle to campus.
- The plan needs to be cognizant of potential emerging walking and biking issues when and where student housing is proposed. It is important to plan ahead, but the City needs to be prepared to respond when new high occupancy housing is proposed. This means having good policies and standards in place.
- It is important to know where new development might be located, as part of the planning process.

Mr. Ince said that a member of the BAC and/or PAC will be asked to sit on the steering committee for the process.

2. Potential grant to study widening the US 180 curve

Mr. Ince reported that they are working with Coconino County on a Planning Assistance to Rural Areas (PARA) grant application to ADOT to conduct a preliminary engineering study to widen the curve on US Highway 180 just beyond City limits. The widening would allow shoulders for bicyclists. The study would put us in a better position to take advantage of future projects, funding opportunities, and grants to build the shoulders.

Mr. Welch made, and Ms. Norris seconded, a motion to write a letter from the BAC in support of a PARA grant application to study widening the curve on US Highway 180. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0)

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

The committee discussed several items on the Reports list:

- Mr. Ince provided a brief status update, and explained the long-term timing for the realignment of the FUTS trail along Route 66.
- Mr. Ince provided a brief update of three on-going FUTS projects.
- The committee asked for an update on high capacity bike parking for Heritage Square

2. Concluding Announcements

There were no Concluding Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm