

DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Thursday, September 7, 2017 | 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 4:38 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Mark Haughwout, chair
Kim Austin
Susan Hueftle
Matthew Mitchell

Members absent:

Margaret Penado

Two vacancies

The following City and agency staff was present:

Alicia Becker, NAIPTA
Martin Ince, multimodal transportation planner
Maggie Twomey, volunteer coordinator

Public present:

Trevor Cotter
Jeff Goulden

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Ms. Hueftle asked why the shared lane markings through downtown and the southside were not being maintained.

Mr. Haughwout said that the trail along the east side of San Francisco Street through the NAU campus cannot be accessed from McConnell due to a cable barrier between the trail and the street.

Ms. Austin reported that the sidewalk closure in front of the gas station under construction at First Street and Route 66 is forcing cyclists into the street. Those traveling westbound are on the wrong side of the street. Mr. Ince said that the cyclists should be using the FUTS trail, which remains open, and not the sidewalk.

2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Mitchell made, and Ms. Austin seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of August 3, 2017. The motion was approved unanimously (4-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Active transportation master plan

Mr. Ince reported that the Citizen's Transportation Tax Commission has been appointed and is scheduled to begin meeting this month. The Committee discussed ways to ensure that bicycle and pedestrian issues are represented. A question was raised about the rate of the current transportation tax. The Committee asked if they could be given a schedule of the meetings.

The Committee reviewed the proposed criteria for prioritizing FUTS trails, and considered how NAIPTA's ridership versus coverage dichotomy could be applied to FUTS planning. The ridership end of the spectrum would focus on enhancing existing trails that are well used, while coverage would extend the trail system to all parts of the City.

The Committee discussed school pick-up and drop-off as a major contributor to traffic. Better FUTS access would allow more kids to walk or bike. The discussion turned to ideas about how to encourage more kids to walk or bike to school. One example is a safe routes-to-buses program, and having more kids ride Mountain Line in place of school buses.

The Committee also reviewed draft themes, goals, and strategies for the Active Transportation Master Plan. The plan needs to demonstrate how many vehicle trips can be taken off the road if more people walk and bike to demonstrate that walking and biking will help manage traffic congestion.

The City's Bicycle Friendly Community may provide guidance on needed strategies and priorities.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. NAIPTA Five-Year Transit Plan Update

Alicia Becker, transit planner at NAIPTA, provided the Committee with an update on NAIPTA's 5-year planning process.

She said ridership has increased since 2001, and that as ridership increases the cost per rider goes down.

The planning process is considering an appropriate balance between two divergent goals, ridership (or productivity) and coverage. At this point, the NAIPTA board has given direction to keep the current balance, but if additional funding should become available it would be used to increase productivity.

She described the public engagement process, and said that NAIPTA was also planning a future study to resolve first/last mile difficulties.

Ms. Becker explained the concept of a permanent transit network, which would be included in the final plan.

Next steps in the process include drafting route and service scenarios with and without a funding increase, conducting a statistically valid public survey, and opening the 60-day comment period for the draft plan. She said they planned to take the plan to the NAIPTA board in December for final approval.

The Committee asked a number of questions about the plan:

- If ridership continues to increase, will the cost per rider continue to go down? Ms. Becker said some additional savings could be realized, but there is a diminishing return.
- Does the NAU student transportation fee go towards Mountain Line and Mountain Link service? At this time it does not, but a future ecompass for students has been discussed.
- Five new articulated buses have been introduced this year on Mountain Link. Last year students were left behind because buses were full.
- Will service ever be extended to Kachina Village and Mountaineer? At this time there are no plans for a service extension. The sales tax that supports transit is collected only within the City, so it cannot be used to extend service beyond City limits.
- There was a discussion about the use of bus pullouts, and managing the interaction between buses and bikes.
- Secure bike lockers would be useful to extend the transit service area to outlying neighborhoods such as the Ponderosa Trails or University Heights.

- Are there options for increasing the number of bikes that can be taken on the bus?
- Is the plan considering options for extending service hours?

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

Mr. Ince announced that a multi-jurisdictional application for a regional trails plan has been accepted as part of the National Park Service's Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance program. The agencies involved include the City, County, Forest Service, National Parks, Flagstaff Biking Organization, and Arizona Trail Association. The planning process is expected to commence later in the month.

Ms. Hueftle reported that she will be attending Interbike, and will participate in electric bike demos.

2. Concluding Announcements

There were no Concluding Announcements

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm