

DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Thursday, April 5, 2018 | 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 4:34 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Mark Haughwout, chair
Kim Austin
Jeff Goulden
Estella Hollander
Susan Hueftle
Matthew Mitchell

Members absent:

Margaret Penado

The following City and agency staff was present:

Jason Blair, Flagstaff Police Department
Martin Ince, Multimodal Transportation Planner
Julie Leid, Transportation Commission

Public present:

Paige Hardman
Bill Sandercock

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the previous BAC meetings were not available.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Pedestrian-bicycle project funding in transportation tax renewal recommendation

Chair Haughwout summarized the contents of the letter from the BAC to the City Council, and said that the Council was looking for more detail about projects that would be funded.

Ms. Leid introduced herself as a member of the City's Transportation Commission who was appointed to represent them on the Citizens Transportation Tax Commission (CTTC). She said she was interested in attending more BAC meetings, and invited the BAC to attend Transportation Commission meetings.

She reported that the Transportation Commission had developed a recommended list of projects for the CTTC, but the tax rate needed to fund the projects would have exceeded 1.0. The CTTC's final recommendation holds the tax rate at 0.426, because the CTTC thought it important to match the current rate.

She said that at the previous evening's Transportation Commission meeting, the Commission was asked and affirmed that the Transportation Commission still supports the CTTC final recommendation.

There is an opportunity to use the \$29 million for pedestrian and bicycle projects to leverage other grants and partnerships. The roadway projects have been labeled as "congestion relief," but may more accurately be called complete street projects. These projects include:

- West Route 66
- Butler Avenue
- J.W. Powell Blvd
- Neighborhoods plans
- Unplanned projects
- Advanced traffic signals
- Street light replacement
- Unplanned projects

She said the Transportation Commission recognizes and supports its committees, and supports a tax to provide transportation funding. She said the CTTC met a final time and determined that they would not continue to meet to discuss the tax

Ms. Leid and the Committee engaged in a discussion about the proposed tax package:

- Is there a way to address the concerns of the Sustainability Commission. Regional Plan policies were the basis for both the Regional Transportation Plan and the CTTC's recommendation.
- There was a discussion about the Lone Tree bridge project and how it improves connectivity.
- The Committee wondered how projects will be identified and prioritized for funding through the tax.
- The Committee discussed the percentage of pedestrian and bicycle projects that could be funded with \$29 million, and discussed a separate ballot measure for only pedestrian and bicycle projects. There could also be another question that asks for additional funding for pedestrian and bicycle projects.
- There was a question about how much of our sales tax is paid by visitors versus residents. The Committee discussed the current tax, and what it is used for.
- There was a discussion about whether widened roadways would be comfortable and attractive for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Road projects identified in the tax have not been prioritized.
- The Committee closed with a lengthy discussion about the facilities that might be funded.

2. Pedestrian-bicycle project funding in transportation tax renewal recommendation

Officer Blair provided information regarding bicycle crashes and citations for the past several years. He said that the investigating officer typically assigns fault to one of the parties involved in the crash. This is difficult in the case of bicycle crashes, because there is little physical evidence to go on and eyewitnesses can play a key role. Often no one is issued a citation.

Regarding the texting ban, he said there is often a disconnect between citations issued and the outcome of court cases. He said that in texting cases, the civil standard of "more likely than not" is still difficult to provide to the judge's satisfaction.

Officer Blair reported that there were 43 distracted driving citations issued in 2017; 57 in 2016, and 77 in 2015. There have been seven to date in 2018. Distracted driving has not been an enforcement priority for the Department.

Coconino County's laws prohibit using a phone while driving, but in Flagstaff, the prohibition covers only texting while driving. This makes enforcement of Flagstaff's law even more difficult. It is not practical to ask drivers to hand over their phones to see if they were using them.

It is a primary offense, which means a driver can be pulled over and ticketed for texting as the only offense. There is nothing in state law, although ARS 28-701a (speed greater than prudent; failure to control vehicle) can be used. The penalty is a civil citation, which is usually a \$170 to \$300 fine and no points deducted.

The Committee asked if it were possible to collect information on distracted driving citations in bicycle crashes, and wondered how many incidents are not reported.

III. NEW BUSINESS

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 6:35 pm