

DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Thursday, September 6, 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:

None

One vacancy

The following City and agency staff was present:

Leah Bloom, Housing Grants Administrator
Sarah Darr, Housing Director
Dan Folke, Interim Community Development Director
Martin Ince, Multimodal Transportation Planner
Donna Lewandowski, ADOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator
Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA

Public present:

Bill Sandercock

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Goulden reported that he is working with Jack Welch on litter clean-ups.

Ms. Hueftle said that shared lane markings have worn away on most streets, and need to be replaced.

Mr. Ince introduced Donna Lewandowski, who is the new ADOT bicycle and pedestrian program coordinator.

2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Mitchell made, and Mr. Goulden seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of July 5, 2018. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Active Transportation Master Plan

Mr. Ince presented information regarding the update of the FUTS priority evaluation analysis. He said that a formal report was near complete, and would be shared with the Committee when available.

The presentation ended with 20-year projections for the FUTS system, based on developments that were likely to move forward in the next 20 years, roads that would be built, and capital funding available for FUTS trails identified as high priority. Mr. Ince said that the projections are based on an assumption that there would be no grants available for FUTS trails in the next 20 years. The amount available for capital funding through the transportation tax would be less than the amount provided in the previous 20 years.

Mr. Ince called attention to a handful of areas around the community where there will be gaps in the FUTS system in the next 20 years, and asked for the committee's reaction. The committee had several questions and comments:

- There is a concern about how to provide comfortable bicycle facilities along the roadways that would be widened with the transportation sales tax.
- Social factors should specifically address elderly populations.
- There was a discussion about the likelihood that the Rio de Flag flood control project will be complete in the next 20 years.

- A question was raised about extending the FUTS along Woody Mountain Road, and about plans to rebuild the overpass at I-40.
- The Committee wondered if Gore would be willing to fund construction of FUTS near their Woody Mountain campus.
- There was a discussion about the FUTS along Butler Avenue, and how it might connect to the rest of the system.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Transportation Tax renewal presentation

Dan Folke introduced Jeff Meilbeck, Sarah Darr, and Leah Bloom, who would present information regarding Propositions 419, 420, 421, and 422, which will be on the ballot in November.

Jeff Meilbeck made a presentation on Propositions 419, 420, and 421, which are three transportation-related sales tax measures. He described the measures as a multi-modal approach to transportation.

- Proposition 419 extends the current transportation sales tax for another 20 years. Mr. Meilbeck listed projects that have been completed with the previous sales tax, and described projects that could be built if the tax is extended.
- Proposition 420 is a new sales tax that would fund construction of the Lone Tree Overpass. The project would be funded via the sale of revenue bonds, which would be repaid with the sales tax.
- Proposition 421 is a new sales tax that would be used to increase the frequency and extend the operating hours of the bus system. This tax would sunset after 11 years, rather than 20 years like the other propositions.

He showed how existing sales tax rates would be affected by the propositions, and provided a comparison of Flagstaff's sales tax to other communities in Arizona. He said that five public open houses are scheduled in September and October.

Sarah Darr said that Proposition 422 will authorize \$25 million in general obligation bonds that will be used to fund a variety of housing affordability programs. She said the specific programs are not known at this time, but would be determined by a housing advisory commission that would be convened to make recommendations. This will provide the program with flexibility to meet changing conditions over the 20-year timeframe of the bonds.

She showed a variety of slides regarding wages, rents, the cost of housing, and the cost of living in Flagstaff.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the committee had a number of questions and comments:

- There was a concern that the other Arizona communities that were selected for comparison were cherry-picked and not representative.
- The committee asked about the current breakdown of the sales tax. Mr. Meilbeck was unsure, but indicated that the current transportation tax and the road repair and street safety tax totaled about 1 percent.
- There was a discussion about secondary property taxes, which are used to pay-off general obligation bonds, and policy versus statutory limits on the City's capacity.
- A question was asked about protections against misuse of the program by developers. Ms. Darr responded that the developer's participation in future programs would be codified in development agreements, which are legally enforceable. Mr. Folke added that the level of benefits to developers is directly tied to the extent and permanency of community benefits.
- There was a discussion about the use of development incentives to provide affordable housing. Financial incentives are limited, and regulatory limits would not be changed.
- The committee asked if there was an opportunity to fund transportation improvements that promote housing affordability. Ms. Darr responded that there is not, as the proposition is written.

Mr. Folke closed with an explanation of the regional plan, housing density, activity centers, and some of the problems with siting affordable housing.

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 6:34 pm