

DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Thursday, August 1, 2019 | 4:30 pm

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Mark Haughwout, chair
Kim Austin
Jeff Goulden
Susan Hueftle

Members absent:

Daniel Crim
Estella Hollander
Matthew Mitchell

The following City and agency staff was present:

Martin Ince, Multimodal Transportation Planner
Christina Parry, Assistant City Attorney

Public present:

Will Carlstrom
Rose Houk
Joe Koenig

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Ms. Austin said she recently visited the Fort Tuthill Bike Park, and observed that most riders were wearing helmets. She also asked about planned bicycle and pedestrian improvements along McConnell Drive under I-17.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Houk expressed concerns about the bike lane along Beaver Street between Route 66 and Butler. She said this is a main commuter route for cyclists, but there is more traffic along the street and on side streets. She said the green paint, bike lane stripe, and bike lane symbols have not been maintained for several years. There are also numerous blockages, ranging from trash cans to construction equipment. There are also delivery vehicles and parked cars in the bike lane. She said there is a concern for right-turning vehicles, particularly at Butler, and said that drivers need to be alerted to the presence of bicyclists. The green bike lanes seem to help.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hueftle made, and Mr. Goulden seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of July 11, 2019 with one correction. The motion was approved unanimously (4-0). The correction is to change the roll call to reflect that Ms. Hueftle was present at the meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Active transportation master plan/FUTS master plan

Mr. Ince made an introductory presentation on capital planning for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, which involves prioritizing the facilities that will be included in the next 20 years, and refining the prioritization to identify the facilities that will be built in the first five years.

The Committee discussed potential grant sources, and asked about methodologies to count pedestrians and bicyclists.

2. E-bike amendments to City Code

Mr. Ince reviewed the City Council's amendments to City Code for electric bicycles. Class 1 and 2 electric bicycles are allowed on FUTS and sidewalks with two exceptions, and Class 3 is prohibited. The exceptions are the Nate Avery Trail and Arizona trail, which would be off-limits to e-bikes.

He said that the Council gave direction to the BAC, PAC, and Transportation Commission to consider three questions:

- Should the Nate Avery Trail and Arizona Trail remain closed to e-bikes
- Should additional trails be considered for e-bike prohibitions

- What can be done in the way of education and signing to promote trail etiquette and reduce conflicts.

Mr. Ince provided information on the two trails that would be closed to e-bikes, and provided a variety of examples of information and signing on trail courtesy.

Mr. Carlstrom expressed a concern that the section of Arizona Trail between Route 66 and Butler is very useful for commuting, especially the tunnel under Butler. He said that most people who use e-bikes are not interested in going fast. It seems like e-bike prohibitions would be difficult to enforce.

Mr. Koenig believes that the reason the Arizona Trail is excluded is out of respect for the Arizona National Scenic Trail. He said he regularly uses the Route 66 Trail to travel from Foxglenn to downtown. He thinks other trails should be added to the e-bike prohibition, including the Karen Cooper Trail.

Mr. Haughwout said that the section of Arizona Trail through Buffalo Park, and the asphalt segment under I-40, are both used by motorized service vehicles.

Ms. Austin said that although the section through town is part of the Arizona Trail, its character is different from the rest of the trail. She is concerned that allowing e-bikes on the portion through town is a piecemeal approach that will lead to confusion. The Committee considered the fact that there will be a change in rules at all locations where FUTS trails connect to Forest Service trails.

The Committee reached consensus that the paved section of the Arizona Trail – from the fire station on Ponderosa Parkway south to the duck pond – would be open to the e-bikes, but the aggregate section from the fire station north would be closed.

The Committee conducted a straw poll on e-bike prohibitions:

- The Committee voted 3-1 to prohibit e-bikes on the aggregate section of the Arizona Trail
- The Committee voted 4-0 to keep the prohibition of e-bikes on the Nate Avery Trail
- The Committee tied 2-2 on the question of whether other trails should be added to the list of excluded trails

Other potential trails include the Mars Hill Trail and Observatory Mesa Trail. The Committee expressed a desire to have further discussion on the issue at the next meeting, with more members present.

On the issue of trail etiquette, the Committee discussed messaging for pedestrians to be aware when traveling side-by-side, and for bicyclists to leave appropriate space when passing.

Other issues seem to be more of a concern, including the presence of transients on certain trails, and equestrian use of trails near Fort Tuthill. The Committee indicated an interest in getting the Police Department's perspective.

The Committee would like to have further information and discussion on the topic.

III. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

The Committee asked for an update on the Mill Town project.

2. Concluding Announcements

There were no Concluding Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm