

Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee

Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, October 10, 2007 Regular Meeting

Himmel Park Library, 1035 N Treat Avenue

Tucson, AZ

Prepared and Submitted by
Secretary Richard E. Corbett

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of September Meeting Minutes

A quorum being present, Vice-Chair Brian Beck called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Members and guests present then introduced themselves (see the attendance at the end of this document).

Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams moved to approve the minutes of the September meeting, Member Jean Gorman seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

2. Call to the Public

Citizen Eric Ryberg stated that he was aware that citizen Bill Katzel had asked for a “law enforcement summit” and is curious as to what has happened in that regard.

TDOT Staff member Tom Thivener answered that Assistant City Manager Liz Miller held a meeting to discuss these concerns, and a specific plan of action was developed and agreed on.

Citizen Jeff Seligman asked about potential changes to the Rillito shared-use path, especially the section east of Campbell Avenue. He also mentioned the danger of motorized bikes using the path.

Facility Sub-committee member Roy Schoonover responded that he has been working with the 2008 County Bond Committee, and there are several path projects included there, as well as others in the RTA plan approved last year (see the Facility Sub-committee report). He went on to say that two projects were not included – 1) Julian Wash path improvements, and 2) El Paso & South Western Greenway. Schoonover stated that he and other Facility members had met with County Administrator Chuck Huckleberry to urge funding in the Bond Package for the two projects

In answer to the question about the Campbell Avenue bridge, it is in the RTA Plan and has \$500,000 allocated to add bike lanes across the bridge, according to PCDOT Staff member Matt Zoll.

3. Law Enforcement Report from Tucson Police Department, and updates on Enforcement Activities

Lt. Mike Pryor reported that two weeks ago the meeting mentioned earlier was held, and Tucson Police Department has done much since then to respond to law enforcement concerns relative to the region’s pursuit of a higher (platinum) bicycle friendly community rating. He related that the Department’s representative on the

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PAG Platinum Task Force, Bike Sgt. Paul Tosca, was already doing many positive things that Police management was not fully aware of. He then turned the floor over to Sgt Tosca.

Sgt Tosca related that he is an avid cyclist, who cares a lot about cyclists. He has four officers on his Platinum Task Force Committee, each of who is charged with contacts with other regional police agencies, including South Tucson, Pima County, Oro Valley, Marana, Sahuarita, Tohona O’Odham, and Pascua Yaqui.

He mentioned that all the Bike Sergeants have additional duties, and that his is to be the Training Sergeant.

His plan has been (and is) to seek three things: 1) more substantial reports on bike and related collisions; 2) more and consistent officer contacts with cyclists; and 3) bike officer staging of child bike skills training events.

He reported that there was an August 15th meeting, at which he and other officers met to discuss how to standardize training, both for officers, and children.

He asked that he and his officers have involvement in the police training video that he is aware of. BAC Enforcement Chair Eric Post stated he would be more than happy to have Tosca’s involvement. Sgt Tosca went on to state that it is the Department’s intent to have this video become mandatory for all officers.

Sgt Tosca is also working on shorter role call training videos, six in total, covering both motorist violations against cyclists, and cyclist violations that cause the greatest percentage of crashes. In his role as Training Sergeant, he has used the standard State training outline, which he has out into a PowerPoint presentation (he passed a hard copy of this around). He related a number of recent actions law enforcement is taking:

- His PowerPoint covers all the ARS bike laws and special Tucson code provisions.
- There was a recent meeting of command level police officials from multiple jurisdictions to address cyclist concerns.
- The Police agencies are modifying their electronic crash reporting form to add a check-off for “bike citation”.
- Today a memo was issued, calling for targeted enforcement of both leading motorist and cyclist offenses, both by bicycle officers and motorcycle officers, to be implemented with two hours per officer per month.

Sgt Tim Beam noted that this effort would be quite a bit different from the targeted enforcement done two years ago under a grant from the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, which created a public backlash.

Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams suggested that one focus be wrong way riding.

PCDOT staff member Matt Zoll asked about the timing of the bicycle operator offense diversion program, as it will fit in quite well with the new enforcement program.

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Facility Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson mentioned the potential for misguided enforcement when a cyclist comes to a stop sign, downshifts, slows to almost a complete stop, and has their ‘down foot’ ready to put down, *if needed*, then proceeds only if safe to do so.

Member Jean Gorman mentioned the availability of bike classes and educational materials.

Secretary Richard Corbett mentioned the importance of sensitivity when applying targeted enforcement, especially for stop signs. Lt Pryor responded by saying he agrees and will be sure to emphasize the difference between a cautious, careful, but still not technically legal stop, versus one where the cyclist pedals through the stop sign, or relies only on hearing (without visual scanning).

Facility Sub-committee member Roy Schoonover mentioned the PAG bicycle crash report prepared by Tom Fisher and Richard Corbett, as an excellent source of information and perspective on the real problems in terms of bicycle rider behavior.

Member Dave Boston asked about the effect of different times of day (especially night time), and whether the 3’ minimum passing law will be one of the behaviors to be targeted?

Sheriff’s Sergeant Ken Coultas stated that he wants to see the Sheriff’s motorcycle units undertake the same program as Tucson Police motorcycle units will be carrying out.

BAC Enforcement Chair Eric Post offered some thoughts on how to make the 3’ passing distance judgment. Lt Pryor said he would make use of role call training to work on this.

PCDOT staff member Matt Zoll stated that the experience in Seattle has been that conversion of 4-way stops to traffic circles has resulted in dramatic reductions in crashes. He also mentioned Seattle’s significant efforts to make traffic signal detection work with cyclists, especially on bikeways. Vice-Chair Brian Beck offered his help in achieving these objectives.

Citizen Jeff Seligman stated that there are different perspectives as a driver, versus a cyclist, and suggested that voluntary driver safety classes might be well received.

Sgt Tosca stated that 1) TPD has community access to allow citizens to voice concerns and provide input, and 2) an officer has been assigned to contact Davis CA, to get details on their bicyclist-friendly enforcement program.

Lt Pryor stated that TPD wants to communicate their successes, and be quick to modify elements that do not work. Member Wayne Cullopp asked if Lt Pryor would come back in 6 months and provide a report. Lt Pryor responded that he does not want to wait 6 months – it will be sooner.

Sheriff’s Sergeant Ken Coultas gave an update on the recent Mt Lemmon highway hit & Run, where a truck sideswiped a cyclist, seriously injuring him, and fled the scene.

He related that the Sheriff's Office knows the vehicle involved, and detectives have been attempting to locate the driver, who may have fled to Mexico. They are continuing with the case.

4. Letter to Town of Marana

PAG Staff member Gabe Thum reported that he has contacted Marana Town Planner Paul Popelka, and that he seemed receptive to expanding the material dealing with bicycle issues in the General Plan update. Popelka liked the idea of a staff member dedicated to bicycle issues – he asked for 'ammunition' to help him make his case to Town management.

Facility Sub-committee Chair Bill **Adamson moved to develop a letter to Marana**, asking for: 1) more recognition of bicycling in the General Plan; 2) dedication of a staff member to deal with bicycle issues and needs; and 3) asking Marana to fill the vacant seat on the BAC. **Member Wayne Cullop seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.**

5. Amendment of BAC Bylaws

Once the revised By-laws are adopted, they will need to be sent to the City and County Boards and Commissions staff.

Member Donna Aversa moved to approve the revised By-Laws as presented, and Parliamentarian Steve Bresler seconded the motion.

There were some questions:

1. Are the proposes stated in Article I, B, Purposes, too narrow? Parliamentarian Steve Bresler answered that the actual application is in fact to be broader, and apply to all jurisdictions, if so desired.
2. What are the implications of Article 2, B, "shall not be employees ... City... or County"? Secretary Richard Corbett answered that the two larger jurisdictions can afford to limit staff involvement, while the smaller jurisdictions need the flexibility (i.e., the University of Arizona). Member Karen Berchtold agreed, as did Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams.
3. Should we change the 40% minimum attendance requirement to a larger number? Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams stated that there were cases when valuable members might have valid reasons to be absent, so he want to leave it as is. Can we leave to the discretion of the Executive Sub-committee? PCDOT staff member Matt Zoll pointed out that sometimes new members may not 'get the word' and may be absent for one or two meetings.

The vote on the motion to approve the amended Bylaws was taken, and was passed unanimously (16 – 0).

6. BAC Letter to Support 2008 County Bond bike projects

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Facility Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson explained the great amount of work that he and other BAC members have put in, working with the Pima County Bond Committee, to get bike beneficial projects included.

He moved that the BAC approves supporting projects for the potential 2008 County Bond Election that are beneficial for bicyclists safety, education and enjoyment. The BAC Chair or Officers are authorized to communicate this to County officials, commissions, committees, and organizations as deemed necessary. Secretary Richard Corbett seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

7. Davis California Bike Conference Recap from attendees

Time being short, attendees gave abbreviated reports, and planned to provide follow-up written reports.

TDOT Staff member Tom Thivener stated that the best session he attended was the one on bicycle advisory committees.

PAG Staff member Gabe Thum stated that his two best were 1) the facilities tour, that showed how resources could be finely targeted, and 2) a session on bike planning in other cities.

Secretary Richard Corbett stated that while he has attended many bike conferences over the years, this one was a very good quality one, with many informative sessions with ‘fresh’ information. He especially benefited from pedestrian sessions.

8. Sub-committee Reports

Executive: Vice-Chair Brian Beck reported that the Executive SC had spent time understanding the Staff reports from the Davis conference, and had made preparations and plans for the up coming BAC Retreat.

Education: Sub-committee Chair Brian Beck reported that that they are working on an ‘adopt a shop’ program, to have more personal and direct connections to the bike shops and ‘spread the word’ about BAC and bike safety. He passed a He also mentioned three opportunities to help staff tables that will provide BAC and bicycle safety information.

Enforcement: BAC Enforcement Chair Eric Post reported that there were 247 bike crashes this year to date (compared to 244 last year). Recent month crashes included five wrong way riders, and one with no lights at night.

Sheriff’s Sergeant Ken Coultas reported one fatal, one failure to yield when turning left (motorist), and two hit and runs. He also mentioned some problems occurring across the County line in Saddlebrook.

There was discussion as to whether letters approved at the Enforcement meeting just prior to the BAC meeting could be approved tonight. The general agreement

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He finished by reporting the filming, later in the week, of the first law enforcement training video.

Facility: Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson stated that he had already reported on the County Bond issue; he went on to praise the PAG bike-ped working group as being very effective in balancing the various factors in the programming of specific projects.

Downtown: Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams stated that the Courthouse Project (which resulted in the closure of key bicycle routes into/out of downtown) might not get built after all. He hinted that we might be able to ask that Council and Grosetta streets be re-opened. He also mentioned that the Downtown Links Committee has been ‘on and off’.

PAG Platinum Task Force: Secretary Richard Corbett, who is the elected PAG Platinum Task Force Chair, reported that the Task Force is on schedule, and has its next meeting October 18th. All five committees are functioning well, and are producing steady updates and additions to the application materials.

9. Action Item Review

The Action Item List was reviewed, and the only change is the addition is the need to transmit the amended Bylaws to the City and County Boards and Commissions staffs.

10. Staff Reports

TDOT Staff member Tom Thivener handed out the new BAC Notebooks, and introduced his new Intern, Ann Chanecka.

PCDOT staff member Matt Zoll reported that (as Eric Post mentioned earlier) the filming of the safe passing video, Friday, October 19th.

PAG Staff member Gabe Thum mentioned the upcoming availability of Safe routes to School grant funds, and invited applicants.

11. Announcements

Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams mentioned the need to watch Rio Nuevo closely for potential impacts on the El Tour de Tucson Start/Finish area.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm

~~~ ATTENDANCE ~~~

**Members**

Bill Adamson, Pima County  
Donna Aversa, Oro Valley  
David Bachman-Williams, Pima County  
Brian Beck, Ward 2 (Vice-Chair)  
Karen Berchtold, Pima County  
Dave Boston, Ward 6  
Steve Bresler, Ward 1 (Parliamentarian)  
Richard Corbett, Ward 5 (Secretary)  
Tony Crosby, Pima County  
Wayne Cullop, Ward 4  
Jean Gorman, Tucson Mayor's Office  
Merritt Howard, Pima County  
Norm Land, Pima County  
Martha Lemen, Pima County  
Zach MacDonald, Pima County  
Eric Post, Pima County

**Staff**

Sgt Tim Beam, Tucson Police  
Ann Chanecka, TDOT  
Sgt Ken Coultas, Sheriff's Office  
Lt Mike Pryor, Tucson Police  
Dep. Ryan Roher, Sheriff's Office  
Tom Thivener, TDOT  
Gabe Thum, PAG  
Sgt Paul Tosca, Tucson Police  
Matt Zoll, PCDOT

**Members of the Public**

Erik Ryberg, citizen  
Jeff Seligman, citizen