

Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee

Draft Minutes of the Wednesday, September 12, 2007 Regular Meeting

Himmel Park Library, 1035 N. Treat Avenue

Tucson, AZ

Prepared and Submitted by
Parliamentarian Steve Bresler, and
Secretary Richard E. Corbett

1. Call to order, Introductions and Approval of August meeting minutes

A quorum having been achieved, Vice Chair Brian Beck called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Member Charles Franz moved to approve the August minutes, Member John Fleming seconded, and they were approved unanimously.

2. Law Enforcement Report on Bicycle Crashes to date and updates on Enforcement Activities.

Pima County Sheriff's Sgt Doug Hanna reported two incidents involving cyclists. Both found the cyclist at fault.

Enforcement Chair Eric Post asked if he could get copies of bicycle crash reports. Sgt. Hanna indicated that he would present the request to the Department.

3. Call to Public

Citizen Bill Katzel read a letter that will be presented to Mayor & Council in rebuttal to Erik Ryberg's Guest Opinion in the Tucson Citizen. Mr. Katzel indicated he would request that M&C institute an Enforcement Summit to help ensure fair & equitable dispensation of the law with regard to bicycle/motorist incidents.

Citizen Denise Benjes reported that it is unsafe for cyclists on Lago Del Oro in Catalina. It was requested that the Facilities sub-committee investigate.

At this point, Chair Diana Tolton arrived and took over running the meeting.

Citizen Eric Gonnason reiterated that it is safe for cyclists to ride throughout the region.

Citizen Erik Ryberg agreed that Bill Katzel's recommendation of an Enforcement Summit is a commendable idea and suggested that the BAC support it.

4. ADOT Frontage Road Bike Access

ADOT representatives Laurel Parker and Rod Lane, in response to concerns about the rumored closure of the I-10 Frontage Roads to cyclists, stated that once I-10 construction is nearing completion, the frontage roads will be re-stripped and no physical or functional restrictions will be in place for bicycle access.

However, during the construction phase, the frontage road will remain with three eleven-foot lanes and a one-foot right shoulder. The frontage road now has in excess of 50,000 vehicles using it daily. **While no bicycle ban has been instituted, ADOT strongly recommends that cyclists not use the frontage road.**

Matt Zoll mentioned that an international safety researcher, Dr. Simon Washington from ASU, could give an opinion on the safety of the frontage road for bicycle traffic during the I-10 project. He also went on to mention that there are many roadways in Tucson with similar characteristics to the frontage roads, including traffic volumes and speeds. Some of these roadways include: parts of Speedway, Grant, and Euclid (all of which don't have bike lanes or paved shoulders, but where bicycling is permitted.)

All reconstructed underpasses will have a striped shoulder for cyclists' use and will be striped at least to the City's five-foot requirement, when completed.

Intersection of Broadway and Aviation Highway - northbound continuance. Ms. Parker was receptive to the concerns regarding on/off ramps. ADOT has no plans to improve the intersection and would be willing to review current City plans. Mr. Lane stated that there is no specific requirement for on/off lanes; construction methods are determined by traffic volume.

A motion was made by Member Norm Land and seconded by Member Zach McDonald, to invite Greg Gentsch, ADOT District Engineer, to the October BAC meeting. The motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Parker indicated that he would be interested in attending.

5. Downtown Bike Plan

Downtown Task Force Chair David Bachman-Williams moved to accept the Downtown Bike Plan as presented last month, and Member Merritt Howard seconded. Wayne Cullop requested clarification and/or rationale for Congress St to be 'blue lined.' Bachman-Williams indicated that Congress St was #1 priority to be re-done for cyclist accommodation.

6. Location of El Tour de Tucson Start Line

Director of Transportation Glock will meet with Greg Gentsch to request that the El Tour Starting line remain at its present location and will ask for a 30 minute closing of the Frontage Road to accommodate the start. Mr. Lane felt that there should not be a problem honoring the request.

7. Consent Agenda

Parliamentarian Steve Bresler moved that the consent agenda be approved, with Brian Beck seconding. The motion was passed unanimously.

8. Sub-committee reports

Executive. Diana Tolton reported that during the last Exec. Subcommittee meeting, the agenda for the BAC retreat on Oct 13 was determined. The subcommittee also discussed the need for a positive media spin on safe cycling. The PSA videos are ready for Education and Enforcement sub-committees' review.

Education. Brian Beck reported that there was no meeting.

Enforcement. Eric Post indicated that 2 meetings had to be cancelled due to lack of quorum and requested additional participation. Scenario's are being developed for future training videos.

Facilities. Merritt Howard reported that SR 77 Oracle actions have begun – Bob Lamb is the lead. Single Point Urban Interchanges were discussed by Roy Schoonover. Roy and Merritt met with Pima County Parks/Rec re: Bond recommendations. 5 projects totaling \$25+ million are in Tier 1. RTA Pedestrian Bicycle Working Group – 4 jurisdictions have voted in the affirmative; 1 more is needed.

Downtown Bike Task Force Will resume meeting 3rd Monday, beginning this month.

Platinum Challenge. Next meeting is 10/18.

9. Action Item Reviews

Vice-Chair Brian Beck will keep the Action Item List current and will remind those whose actions are due.

10. Staff Reports

Matt Zoll – Pima County DOT: Continuing to advance the proposed Bicycle Driver Diversion Program. City attorney's staff are very supportive of the program, and want to move forward with it. Class for the first offense would be a 4 hour class including some free bike safety handouts; second offense within one year a cyclist could instead take the 9-hour Road 1 class (or pay the ticket). The program is intended to be regional to include the Pima County court system and the UA.

Submitted a joint \$500,000 federal Transportation Enhancement grant proposal with the City of Tucson for a middle school bike education program. Pima County is providing \$250,000 in matching funds.

Striping bike lanes on Kolb Road from just north of Valencia to I-10 in October in time for El Tour and completed bike lanes on Kolb south of I-10 last month. Also striping bike lanes on Valencia from Alvernon to Craycroft; will stripe bike lanes on Valencia from Craycroft to Kolb by October.

Working with the Town of Sahuarita on an Intergovernmental Agreement to build bike lanes on Old Nogales Highway from Duval Mine Road to Continental Road, a distance of over 5 miles. The bike lanes should go to construction in January 2008.

Working on setting up a contract for a Bicycle Ambassador's program, to conduct public outreach and safety classes. Plan to have the program in place by November.

Developing new bicycle and pedestrian Public Service Announcements and should have several running before and during El Tour. The PSAs can be seen at www.dot.pima.gov/tpcbac .

Have finished working with area jurisdictions and volunteers to update the regional bike map and we should be getting 60,000 copies of the map delivered by late next week. Also working on an update to the bicycle Share the Road guide, and the pedestrian Share the Road guide.

Distributing several hundred plastic packets (which include Share the Road guides, safety bookmarks, bike maps, bike safety class schedules, bumper stickers, and other items) to bike shops for them to give out to their customers as part of bike sales and repairs. The packets will also include the BAC bookmark, when it's complete.

Conducting numerous bike rodeos this fall. If anyone wants to help out let me (Matt) know. Working on the velodrome/youth bicycle safety training center project for which \$2.0 million has been secured as a match to the proposed Pima County bond program. Now working on various potential sites for the project.

Jeremy Papuga – PAG: Three Bike Ed projects have been presented to the RTA Board for approval; The PAG Platinum Challenge Task Force continues to make good progress; and the Safe Routes to School program is continuing to advance.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

~~~ ATTENDANCE ~~~

Members

David Bachman-Williams, Pima County
Brian Beck, Ward 2 (Vice-Chair)
Karen Berchtold, Pima County
Dave Boston, Ward 6
Steve Bresler, Ward 1 (Parliamentarian)
Tony Crosby, Pima County
Wayne Cullop, Ward 4
John Fleming, Ward 3
Charles Franz, University of Arizona
Merritt Howard, Sahuarita
Norm Land, Pima County
Martha Lemen, Pima County

Zach McDonald, Pima County
Eric Post, Pima County
Diana Tolton, Pima County (Chair)

Staff

Melissa Antol, TDOT
Nancy Ellis, Oro Valley
Sgt Doug Hanna, PC Sheriff's Dept
Rod Lane, ADOT
Jeremy Papuga, PAG

Staff, continued

Laurel Parker, ADOT
Matt Zoll, PCDOT

Members of the Public

Denise Benjes, Citizen
Ann Chanecka, Citizen
Ala Golenko, Citizen
Eric Gonnason, Citizen
Bill Katzel, Citizen
Bob Lamb, Citizen
Dwight Nelson, Citizen
Nancy Nelson, Citizen
Tara Pal, Citizen
Eric Ryberg, Citizen
Wesley Saxon, Citizen
Roy Schoonover, Citizen
Eric Standecker, Citizen
Phillip Weddle, Citizen