

Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee

Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, June 13, 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 Meeting Minutes

A quorum being present, **Chair Diana Tolton called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.** Members and guests present then introduced themselves (see the attendance at the end of this document).

The minutes of the May meeting were approved with one minor correction (John Pilger is the President, not the Chair, of the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocates Committee), **on a motion by Member Charles Franz, seconded by Member Jean Gorman, and passed unanimously.**

2: Law Enforcement Reports

Sheriff's Sgt Ken Coultas reported that there have been 25 County bicycle crashes so far this year, nine with injuries. The last injury crash was June 9th, and is not in the reporting system yet; while the last crash without injury was June 8th. He went on to mention that police reports can be done in several different ways, and that sometimes affects the reports he is able to provide.

Member Bill Adamson asked if Sgt Coultas is aware of any problems with cyclists on Mt Lemmon? Sgt Coultas said that he was not aware of any.

Member David Bachman-Williams asked about reports of Madera Canyon speeding, mentioning specifically Forest Service and BLM concerns. Sgt Coultas said he would check into it.

Gorman asked, of the 25 total bike crashes, which party was cited? Sgt Coultas said he would try to get the information, but does not have it now.

3: Call to the Public

Citizen Roy Schoonover stated that: There are 20 bike-ed classes scheduled in June, and that 780 cyclists were trained last year; He met with County Administrator Chuck Huckleberry and discussed: 1) Kolb Road – the original cost for an interim solution was estimated at \$275,000, but has grown to \$600,000; and 2) Sahuarita Road – P.C. Maintenance Manager David Cummings has stated he plans to chip seal the PC portion of the road. Asked if chip sealing could be used to add shoulders, he said he thought it could, but additional shoulder preparation would be needed. He went on to say that County Administrator Huckleberry asked him to prepare a cost estimate for doing this on both the County and Town of Sahuarita portions.

Citizen Bob Lamb, President of the Saddle Brook Saddle Masters, stated their concerns about the need for standard or better shoulder bike lane widths through Catalina, especially with existing vehicle speeds often being at or above 55 mph in the 45 mph speed zone. Citizen Schoonover stated that ADOT would have to deal with this, as it is a State highway. PAG Staffer Gabe Thum mentioned that he had tried to arrange a meeting with

the ADOT project manager to discuss this but had not been successful. Chair Tolton suggested that Lamb work with the Facilities Sub-Committee.

Pending Member Karen Berchtold announced Houghton Road master plan meetings coming up soon – Citizen Schoonover stated that Facility Sub-Committee citizen member Heather O'Connor is representing them at the Houghton meetings.

Citizen Eric Gonnason asked about the status of connections between the Rillito, Santa Cruz and Canada del Oro linear parks. Citizen Schoonover stated that County Parks has requested funding in the potential 2008 County Bond Election to purchase land and construct the connections for the three shared use paths.

7. Bicyclist Behavior (Mission Road, Mt. Lemmon, Madera Canyon)

This item was moved up at the Chairs discretion, to be sure law enforcement representatives were present during the discussion. Member Adamson stated that he requested this agenda item.

Member Adamson asked citizen and Co-Chair of the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocate Committee, Jim Jordan, to explain these concerns. Jim said the rangers are concerned about the potential for collisions with pedestrians, especially birders, who may not be watching closely for traffic. The tree shadows across the road add to the difficulty of safe passage. Secretary Richard Corbett mentioned the approach taken in Sabino Canyon – radar speed guns and real (\$50) tickets for bicyclist speeders.

Citizen Jordan went on to describe problems on Mission Road with the Saturday 'Shootout' ride. Complaints include cyclists 'filling the entire road, and 'blowing' the stop sign at Duvall and Mission Roads. Chair Tolton stated that if people want to race, they should get a license and go to organized races. This situation needs to be dealt with – cyclists need to obey traffic laws. Member Adamson asked if it would be possible for the Education and Enforcement Sub-committees to come up with a plan of action. Citizen Schoonover thinks Mission Road has dropped off the discussion list due to Tohono O'Odham unhappiness with cyclists' behavior.

Parliamentarian Steve Bresler urged the use of educational materials and the enlistment of bike shop leaders to influence such behaviors.

Sgt Coultas said he sees packs behaving okay. He stated that he does not cycle, his wife does not and his kids will not – he sees too much that causes him concern.

Member Norm Land asked about Mt Lemmon. Member Adamson says the Sheriff's Office will check it out – it appears that most of the problem is motorcyclists. Member John Thaxton stated that it could also be unhappiness of motorists with cyclists being in the middle of the lane as they go downhill (usually at the posted speed limit).

Some discussion then took place as to whether there needs to be (or should be) a meeting in July. Chair Tolton pointed out that BAC only needs to hold ten meetings per year.

Secretary Richard Corbett moved that the BAC not hold a meeting in July, Member Norm Land seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

4: Annual Report from Chair, and BAC Retreat

Chair Tolton stated that she really wants to set the date for a BAC Retreat. She prefers a fall date. Discussion about possible dates took place. **Secretary Richard Corbett moved that the BAC Retreat be held Saturday, October 13th, Parliamentarian Steve Bresler seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.**

Chair Tolton handed out a first draft annual report. She stated that she wants each Subcommittee Chair to provide input into the final report. **The report should list accomplishments and set forth elements of a ‘vision’ for the future year (2007-8).**

The web page update has generated more public interest and contacts for Chair Tolton. She cited the recent Tucson Weekly article as yet another way the BAC has gotten publicity, and contacts.

Member Bachman-Williams asked if the Downtown Task Force should be included in the annual report? Chair Tolton answered yes.

The idea of a theme for the annual report was brought up – maybe ‘Get on the Road!’ (As cyclists) might draw community attention and support?

Member Adamson asked for clarification – will the subcommittees’ materials be attached? Chair Tolton answered yes

PAG Staffer Thum volunteered to help develop and package the report, using the various inputs from the Officers and subcommittee Chairs.

Chair Tolton finished her report by inviting any members to go to Cloudcroft New Mexico with her in June - July (June 28th – July 5th), and described the community there as about 9,000’ in elevation, with many trees and flowers, and a ‘festival’ atmosphere.

5: Consent Agenda

There were five motions on the consent agenda:

- 1) Letter of support for Tucson Department of Transportation to improve bicycle access at the 9th Avenue/Franklin/Church intersection.
- 2) Letter of support for Safe Routes projects for the 2008 Bond Program.
- 3) Letter of support for Santa Cruz River Bike Path improvements at Congress St.
- 4) Letter of support for Velodrome/youth bicycle safety education center for the 2008 bond package.
- 5) Resolution 2007-1 Regarding Suggested Standards

Secretary Richard Corbett moved to approve the Consent Agenda, with Member David Bachman-Williams seconding, and the motion passed unanimously.

6: U of A Bike & Pedestrian Enhancements (Charles Franz)

Member Franz handed out two pages of illustrations showing the proposed Transportation Enhancement Grant projects that he is asking support for. One is for an upgrade to the Highland Avenue Bikeway, south to where it connects at 2nd Street, and the other is for shade and other enhancements for the large bicycle parking area in front of the Chemistry Building on the Mall.

Member Eric Post asked if security would be decreased with the trees blocking some of the view? Member Franz replied that the need for relief from the direct sun outweighed the issue of security, especially on the main Mall, where high use takes place and shade is really needed.

Member Franz went on to state that there are about 11,000 total bike parking spaces at the University, and that his office has started a secure parking program, placing 335 lockers at several locations.

Secretary Richard Corbett moved to support the two T.E. applications, with Member David Bachman-Williams seconding, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Bicyclist Behavior (Mission Road, Mt. Lemmon, Madera Canyon)

(This item was moved up and dealt with earlier in the meeting)

8: Sub-Committee Reports

Enforcement Sub-committee: Chair Post mentioned the Enforcement Sub-committee meeting held immediately prior to this meeting, and that the subcommittee is settling in on content for a police training video. The Enforcement Sub-Committee meets once a month at the Himmel Park Library, at 5:00 to 5:45 pm, just prior to the regular BAC meeting. The Enforcement Sub-Committee's 'work group' often has a working session that meets once a month at 4:30 at Ward VI just prior to the Executive Sub-Committee.

Facility Sub-committee: Chair Adamson stated that Citizen Schoonover had already given half of his report. He mentioned that Member Merritt Howard is Facilities Vice-Chair and the contact point when Adamson is gone.

He went on to describe a Tohono O'Odham Transportation Enhancement grant application being developed by ADOT to install a Ped-Bike bridge over the Santa Cruz River. Cyclists would have to dismount to cross. This proposal is very conceptual at this point. The Tohono O'Odham grant coordinator has withdrawn their previous request for a BAC endorsement letter, due to the lack of details for the safe accommodation of bicycle travel. The Facilities Subcommittee has expressed a desire to work with the Tohono O'Odham representatives when the more details are known.

He described a successful meeting with ADOT staff on the I-19/Esperanza underpass TE grant application (to get shoulders through the underpass on Esperanza).

He stated that ten Tucson, and nine Pima County RTA projects have been approved so far, as well as a shared use path in South Tucson. Representatives of the Facilities Subcommittee, the SCVBAC, and PCDOT met with Sahuarita Town officials and resolved the potential right-hook situation at the Walmart entrance on Duvall Mine Road, as well as learning that Sahuarita is accelerating the RTA Old Nogales Highway bike lanes.

Downtown Task Force: Task Force Chair Bachman-Williams reminded everyone that the Task Force has been meeting every two weeks since December 6th, and is very close to completing their recommendation for downtown bike facilities. He went on to report that the preliminary design for the Aviation Highway extension has, in spite of efforts to prevent them, free-flow on-off ramps at the connection with Broadway. These are a danger to cyclists, and will be vigorously opposed, as they are distinctly not bicycle friendly. Secretary Corbett mentioned that the Walkable Communities Workshops hosted by the

City of Tucson and presented by national authority Dan Burden, had stressed smaller, friendlier intersections, without 'free turns'. Member Adamson suggested getting the ADOT District Engineer involved. Secretary Corbett suggested member contact with City Council Members too. Member Bachman-Williams **asked that this item be on the August BAC Agenda**, including asking ADOT representatives to attend to try to resolve the dangerous ramp design proposal. He also reiterated his report from last month, that the Task Force was successful regarding the Streetcar track locations and alignment, to preserve the El Tour de Tucson Start-Finish area. 4th Avenue track locations are still an issue (the first street car is slated to begin running in 2010).

Executive Sub-committee:

Past Vice-Chair Cullop is checking on the ability to post materials to the website more directly, and Chair Tolton mentioned that the Executive Sub-committee has further refined the agenda process (the agenda must be set by the Executive Sub-committee meeting).

Secretary Corbett has produced a first draft of revised BAC By-Laws, to address concerns that the Boards and Commissions staff had expressed several months ago. This will be included in the August meeting packet for review and discussion.

Chair Tolton said BAC needs a log of all letters created by the Committee (note: PC staffer Matt Zoll created such a log on June 11, 2007). Also we need to come up with an annual calendar in order to better anticipate the need for letters and other documents. Secretary Corbett said he might be able to draft such a calendar by looking back at the last year's minutes.

The Executive Sub-committee meets the last Wednesday of the Month (two weeks prior to the BAC meeting) at Ward VI, at 6:00 pm.

9: Ride of Silence Recap

Member Gorman reported that the ride went very well. There were about 175 riders in Tucson and about 80 in Green Valley. The reception by the public was positive, the Tucson ride had both motorized and bike mounted police escorts, and the Green Valley ride had a Sheriff's motorcycle escort.

10: Action Items Report and Update

No report

11. Staff Reports

Tucson Bike Coordinator Tom Thivener reported that he is working on new member packets, and that he and PAG Bike Coordinator Gabe Thum were invited to Raytheon and were able to really promote bike use during their visit.

PAG Bike Coordinator Gabe Thum mentioned that the PAG Platinum Task Force is official now, as authorized by the PAG Regional Council's on May 24th. He is currently working on the downtown bike map, bringing up a bike facilities database, and will maintain an annual 'snapshot' of regional bike facilities.

12. Announcements

Secretary Corbett announced that the third Platinum meeting (the first since the PAG Regional Council authorized the Platinum Task Force) was held June 7th, at PAG, and the next meeting will be the 16th of August, at 3:00 pm at PAG.

13: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm

~~~ ATTENDANCE ~~~

**Members**

Bill Adamson, Pima County  
David Bachman-Williams, Pima County  
Dave Boston, Ward 6  
Steve Bresler, City Ward 1  
(Parliamentarian)  
Richard Corbett, City Ward 5 (Secretary)  
Charles Franz, U of A  
Jean Gorman, City Mayor's  
Representative  
Merritt Howard, Sahuarita  
Norm Land, Pima County  
Zach McDonald, Pima County  
Eric Post, Pima County  
John Thaxton, Davis Monthan AFB  
Diana Tolton, Pima County (Chair)

**Staff**

Sgt Ken Coultas, PC Sheriff's Dept  
Nancy Ellis, Oro Valley  
Gabe Thum, PAG  
Tom Thivener, TDOT

**Members of the Public**

Karen Berchtold, Pending BAC Member  
Eric Gonnason, citizen  
Dennis Korger, Saddlebrook Club  
Bob Lamb, Saddlebrook Club President  
Eric Ryberg, citizen