



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff

PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 14, 2011
4:30 pm

City Hall, Council Conference Room
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Kim Austin, Co-Chair
Heather Taylor, Co-Chair
Georgia Duncan
Joyce Browning
Cecile LeBlanc

Members absent:

Rebecca Snow

One vacancy

The following City staff was present:

Martin Ince, Multimodal Planner
Rebecca Kiener, Flagstaff Police Department
Bret Petersen, Capital Improvements

Others present:

Jim Tuck
Jack Welch
Barbara Wells
Van Wells

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Ms. LeBlanc asked if an email could be sent out to determine a date and time to meet to plan for Flagstaff Walks! During the day, rather than the evening, probably works best.

Ms. Duncan reminded the group that Saturday is Earth Day.

Co-chair Taylor mentioned that the Arizona Health Matters website provides health-factor indicators by County. Coconino County is "in the red" for pedestrian death rate.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Welch reported that a pedestrian was struck by a car on Cedar Avenue near West Street. The pedestrian, who is a student at Coconino High School, was not injured. They were apparently crossing to have lunch in the Safeway Plaza.

3. Approval Of Minutes

Ms. Duncan made, and Ms. LeBlanc seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 10, 2011. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Interstate 40 – Initial Design Concept Report

Bret Peterson, senior project manager for the City's Capital Improvements Section, gave a presentation on the content and process for the I-40 Initial Design Concept Report.

The Committee had several comments and questions regarding alternatives for the Butler traffic interchange:

- How well do roundabouts accommodate pedestrians, in particular multi-lane roundabouts?
- Grade-separated pathways need to serve both sides of the street.
- The double cross-over diamond might cause driver confusion, but is it more or less than roundabouts?
- Pedestrian signals included in the double cross-over diamond option are an advantage
- Although there may not be an opportunity for landscaping, there should be a barrier of some type to help buffer pedestrians in the middle of the road in the double cross-over diamond option
- Are there existing examples of the double-cross-over diamond configuration?

- Traffic needs to be slowed/calmed, and protection and buffering for pedestrians should be included
- The standard diamond option should have sidewalks on both sides
- This area is not comfortable now for pedestrians, although pedestrians are frequently observed
- Roundabouts are beneficial to cars, but less so for bikes and pedestrians, especially when they are busy
- The proximity of schools – Knoles, NPA, and Sinagua – should be considered. Because Sinagua is one of only two middle schools in town, students may have to cross the interstate through this area to get to the school
- Pedestrian tunnels that are not easy to see through, and that are not used much, can create public safety problems
- The wider the street/intersections the worse for pedestrians, and especially for those with mobility limitations

Mr. Petersen reported that a public open house was tentatively scheduled for the week of August 22.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Walking School Bus Workshop

Co-chair Austin provided an update on the workshop. The workshop will be conducted by Robert Johnson of PedNet, on Tuesday, May 10 from 8:30 am to about 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided by Safe Kids. All participants must register in advance with Brian Fellows.

The format has been changed from a regional to a community workshop, which means that it is more targeted to local program sponsors and organizers. Co-chair Austin said it was important to have the right people in attendance.

2. FMPO Highway Safety Improvement Program Projects

Mr. Ince provided an update on the project to repaint various crosswalk markings with higher-visibility, more-durable markings. He also provided a summary of pedestrian crashes in Flagstaff over the last 5 years, which was reviewed and discussed by the PAC.

3. FUTS Planning Discussion

This item was held over to the next meeting.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

Mr. Ince reported that we are still waiting to hear about the status of our Walk Friendly Communities status, although an announcement is expected next week. A decision regarding the Pine Knoll FUTS trail grant application will be made by the State Transportation Board at their May 19 meeting in Flagstaff. Staff is still working to begin construction of the Florence-Walnut Underpass later in the summer.

2. Announcements

There were no Concluding Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.