

**Approved by PAC
1-14-2016**



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 10, 2015 | 4:30 pm

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Heather Williams, chair
Kim Austin
Joyce Browning
Brandon Cruickshank
Cecile LeBlanc
Jim Tuck

Members absent:

None

One vacancy

The following City and agency staff were present:

Jeff Bonar, Flagstaff Police Department
Martin Ince, multimodal planner
Jeff James, Flagstaff Police Department

Others present:

Brad Eubanks
Rachel Eubanks-Rhoades
Aaron Hayne
Jim McCormick

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Cruickshank introduced himself as the newest member of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, having been appointed at the Transportation Commission meeting the week before. The other member of the PAC introduced themselves to Mr. Cruickshank.

Mr. Tuck reported that the Fourth Street crossings were under construction and progressing.

Ms. Williams said that the state grant for injury prevention was running out, and next year's grant would be cut by 50 to 70 percent. The program will likely lose staff if the reduction is that large. More information is expected tomorrow.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Hayne said he is new to town and works as a landscape architect. He also attended the Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr. Eubanks and Ms. Eubanks-Rhoades reported that they were involved in a traffic accident on Fourth Street, and they want to help improve conditions.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Tuck made, and Ms. Austin seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 12, 2015. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Pedestrian and bicycle master plan

The Committee asked several questions about the draft pedestrian and bicycle crash report:

- Is there data regarding distracted driving as an influence in crashes? Mr. Ince said that data was collected, but it was probably unreliable because the investigating officer would not know if the driver was on the phone, texting, or otherwise distracted in the moments leading up to the crash. The Committee wondered if the County has data about citations issued for cell phone violations.
- Is it possible to pull out crash data for children?
- There is a lot of information in the report. To help make it more understandable and usable, the Committee recommends pulling out a handful of main points.

The PAC will review the document.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Walk Friendly Community renewal application review

Mr. Ince provided a link to the City's draft application, and said that it was due the following Tuesday.

2. Police Department pedestrian safety campaign

Sergeant James introduced himself as the supervisor for the PD's new traffic safety unit. He also introduced Officer Bonar, who will be monitoring and attending future PAC meetings.

The Police Department has instituted various traffic safety programs in the past, including red light running and bicycle safety. Problems are typically identified at weekly staff meetings. In this case a pedestrian safety program was initiated following three pedestrian fatalities in the past three months. So far in 2015 there have been five pedestrian fatalities, usually involving intoxicated pedestrians in the roadway.

The pedestrian safety program was started on December 1 and will run for three months. PD has conducted in-service training for patrol squads. All violations contributing to pedestrian crashes will be targeted, including violations by motorists and pedestrians. Enforcement does not always mean that citations are issued; officers are encouraged to interact with the public and provide information. PD is elevating their response to intoxicants in the roadway so they can get there more quickly. PD also wants to incorporate public information in the campaign.

An analysis of crashes done by PD found that motorists and pedestrians are each at fault about half the time, and that most collisions occur in the downtown area. They will be monitoring the crossing at Humphreys and Beaver, as well as the new crossings on Fourth Street. It is not feasible to have someone stationed at the crossings all the time.

Mr. Tuck asked how the PAC could help. Sgt. James said the best way to help is to spread the word and call in whenever they observe pedestrians in jeopardy or vehicles violating traffic laws.

Mr. Cruickshank expressed his concerns that vehicles do not stop for pedestrians in crosswalks along South Beaver and San Francisco Streets. He asked if we could use yield-to-pedestrian signs in the crosswalk, similar to those he has seen in Colorado and Utah.

Ms. LeBlanc said that vehicles frequently do not stop for pedestrians in the crossing at Humphreys Street and Butler Avenue.

3. Sechrist School crossing

Mr. Tuck said that the principal of Sechrist School would like a flashing crossing light similar to the one on Cedar near MEMS.

Mr. Ince explained that Fort Valley Road is under the jurisdiction of ADOT. He provided copies of ADOT's policy on flashing pedestrian beacons, which includes a score sheet to determine if the location is suitable for a pedestrian beacon. Preliminary scoring for the Sechrist location would be in the range of 21 to 32 points, however a minimum of 35 points is needed to warrant consideration.

The Committee wondered if the crossing at Forest may be a better location for an enhanced crossing. It was suggested that the principal at Marshall School would support the crossing at Forest and Fort Valley.

Mr. Ince asked if there were interest in scheduling an observation when the weather is better. The Committee recommended asking Jack Welch when the busiest crossing times are.

Mr. Tuck said he would report back to the principal at Sechrist. It would be beneficial to let the school know who to contact at ADOT.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

The Committee would like to get data from NAIPTA on how well the school deviations are working.

The Committee would also like an update from the Police Department and the Traffic Section on the status of pick-up and drop-off issues at Basis School.

Two new FUTS trails were recently completed; the Hospital Rim Trail and a missing segment of the McMillan Mesa Trail.

2. Announcements

A copy of the 2016 regular meeting schedule was distributed to the Committee.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm.