

Approved by PAC
7-9-2015



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 11, 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 4:30 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Kim Austin, co-chair
Heather Williams, co-chair
Joyce Browning
Georgia Duncan, vice-chair
Adam Langford
Cecile LeBlanc
Jim Tuck

Members absent:

None

The following City staff was present:

Ben Anderson, intern
Martin Ince, multimodal planner
Dylan Monke, Montoya Fellow
Randy Whitaker, Capital Improvements project manager

Others present:

Jack Welch

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Ms. Duncan reported that the truncated dome panels along the Fort Valley FUTS Trail are missing or loose.

Ms. Austin said she had talked with the mother of the little boy who was killed by a car in the Best Buy parking lot. She learned that traffic laws are for the most part, not enforceable in private parking lots, but that is where 17 percent of all pedestrian fatalities occur.

Mr. Ince introduced Dylan Monke and Ben Anderson.

2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Duncan made, and Mr. Tuck seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of May 14, 2015, with one correction. The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Flagstaff Walks!

The Committee provided several corrections to the dates listed in the schedule.

There was a brief discussion about potential themes for the Science in the Park booth.

2. Pedestrian master plan

Mr. Ince had no new information for the Committee, and asked that discussion be held over to the next meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. NAIPTA planned service changes

Mr. Langford outlined planned service changes for several Mountain Line routes. He said the service changes will go into effect on August 2, and they are currently conducting public outreach and seeking public comment. The following service changes are planned:

- The frequency of Route 2 will increase from 30 minutes to 20 minutes during peak hours, and from 60 to 30 on weekends
- Routes 2 and 3 will include route deviations to serve Basis School and Northland Prep during the morning drop-off hour and afternoon pick-up hour

- Route 5 will include an extra “shadow” bus at certain times to help meet demand due to FALA

Mr. Langford explained that these changes require no significant infrastructure costs. He said they are working closely with the schools to provide outreach and training to students and faculty.

The Committee asked for updates at future PAC meetings.

2. Fourth Street sidewalk and crossing plans

Randy Whitaker, who is the project manager for the City’s capital improvements division, provided a brief history of the Fourth Street crossings and sidewalks plan. He explained that the proposed project will include two crossing points and sidewalks along the east side, based on the recommendations of the Fourth Street Corridor Study.

He showed a concept layout for new facilities along the corridor, which will include 2 crosswalks with flashing beacons, pedestrian refuges, sidewalks, and bus pull-outs. The project will be phased, and the crosswalks and flashing beacons are planned for construction this summer.

Mr. Whitaker said that the temporary facilities have attracted pedestrians to the crossings, based on recent before and after pedestrian counts. The bus stops, which will be located at or near the crossings, will also attract pedestrians to those locations.

A raised median pedestrian refuge is planned for the remainder of the corridor, where possible. The sidewalks will include a parkway/furnishing zone on one side and a landscape buffer on the other. There is some funding available for aesthetic enhancements.

There was a question and brief discussion about “double jeopardy” crashes. Sharks teeth (advanced yield line) and “yield here” signs will be used to help prevent this type of crash.

Mr. Tuck said that two curb ramps are preferred to one, and expressed his concern that the City has not progressed and is still using a single ramp.

There was a question about whether the median islands will be landscaped. The City’s Beautification and Public Arts Commission would like landscaping, but there is a concern about the size of the islands and the space available.

The corridor plan calls for the realignment of the Fourth – Sixth – Seventh intersections, but this is too costly and complicated for this project. Options are still under study.

The Committee suggested that the project be presented to the City's Disability Awareness Commission, particularly the ramps and crossings.

3. Basis School pick-up/drop-off issues

Mr. Ince provided a letter from Basis that is part of the original development approval and outlined steps that must be implemented to avoid congestion at pick-up/drop-off. He said that the City's traffic division will be in contact with the school. Most of the infrastructure fixes have already been implemented, so the remaining strategies focus on education and enforcement.

Ms. Austin offered to help with education.

Mr. Anderson said he was a teacher for a time at FALA, and noticed that drop-off/pick-up only started to work when parents began scolding other parents for bad behavior.

Ms. Williams and Ms. Austin offered to provide bullet point suggestions based on their observations.

The Committee noted that there is no booster group or PTA at Basis to help organize carpools.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There was no discussion on the Reports.

2. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.