



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 14, 2016 | 4:30 pm

City Hall, Council Chambers
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Brandon Cruickshank, acting chair
Joyce Browning
Cecile LeBlanc
Stephanie Stearns
Denise Wynne

Members absent:

Kim Austin
Heather Williams

The following City and agency staff were present:

Martin Ince, multimodal planner

Public present:

Keith Becker
Louise Kisinger
Jack Welch

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Ms. LeBlanc said she is planning to take a break this fall to travel, and won't be active on the Committee. She advised that a replacement for her position should be sought.

Ms. Wynne and Ms. Stearns introduced themselves as new members of the Committee.

Mr. Ince provided details on two upcoming bicycle safety classes.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Welch reported that his walk series "Take a Walk" was exploring the new signs along the FUTS trails. He said they have been averaging about 18-22 participants for the first walks.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. LeBlanc made, and Ms. Stearns seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2016. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Pedestrian and bicycle master plan

Mr. Ince provided a summary of the information included in Working Paper 7: Missing sidewalk inventory and prioritization.

The Committee asked if there are other options to sidewalks, for example, are bike lanes a legitimate substitute for sidewalks in some situations. Mr. Becker said that a bike lane would not be safe for a blind person or people who use wheelchairs. Mr. Ince said that although a bike lane would give a pedestrian a place to walk out of traffic along a road, a bike lane would not be considered an adequate facility to accommodate pedestrians.

There was a discussion about whether sidewalks were needed along both sides of the street, or if a sidewalk along one side could be considered to help save costs. Mr. Ince said that the City's first position should always be a sidewalk along both sides. However, in some very specific circumstances it might be considered. Mr. Becker said it was important to have sidewalks along both sides of streets that are transit routes. He also said he agrees that sidewalks along Fourth Street Should be a priority.

The Committee suggested including a brief write-up for the highest priority segments to explain why they are important or priorities. The Committee thought this would be more compelling than presenting the information in the form of a 4-page list.

The Committee wondered if there were a way to get actual counts of pedestrian use on streets where there are no sidewalks, rather than relying on anecdotes and theoretical models.

Ms. Stearns reported that NAIPTA is working on a project to improve accessibility at 34 bus stops.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. In street pedestrian crossing signs

Mr. Ince provided some information regarding in-street pedestrian crossing signs (MUTCD R1-6). The Committee had several comments and questions:

- Will the signs last, or will they be run over by traffic? Can they be removed in the winter?
- There was a question about how the yield to pedestrians law applies to blind persons using a cane. Arizona Revised Statutes requires a motorist to yield to pedestrians once they have stepped into the crosswalk. The question is if the law requires motorists to yield to blind persons with a cane when they are standing on the corner, before they have stepped off into the crosswalk.
- Are there any studies regarding the effectiveness of in-street signs?
- Are there other options for this type of sign, including warning signs along the side of the road or over the road? The middle of the street is probably the most visible location.
- The signs are a good educational opportunity and would seem to have a positive impact on motorist behavior.
- There was a discussion about the new crossings on Fourth Street. They may be too close to main streets (Route 66 and Cedar Avenue) and leave too large of a gap in between the crossings. Requiring users to push the button in the middle continues to be a problem.
- The Committee asked for a future discussion on signs that reduce right turn crashes.

The Committee indicated a general support for using this type of sign, and asked to have a discussion at the next meeting to review possible locations. Pedestrian crash data, in particular crashes where the motorist did not yield, should be available for the meeting.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

Mr. Ince will share the result of the police department's pedestrian safety campaign.

The Committee would like information regarding FUTS trails that are currently in the planning phase.

2. Announcements

The Committee asked if the agenda could be sent out in advance when there is a substantial amount of information to be reviewed.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.