

DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Thursday, September 14, 2017 | 4:30 pm

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Brandon Cruickshank, chair
Jodi Norris
Zach Schwartz
Jack Welch
Denise Wynne

Members absent:

Amy Young

One vacancy

The following City and agency staff were present:

Alicia Becker, NAIPTA
Martin Ince, multimodal planner

Public present:

Evelyn Elkinton

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Welch indicated that staff could use some help from PAC members at the Community Market.

2. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Schwartz made, and Mr. Welch seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 10, 2017. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Active Transportation Master Plan

The Committee reviewed potential crossing locations along Humphreys Street. There is a concern that crossings may not be visible when traffic is backed up along the street. In those situations, other visual clues along the side of the street will be important. The Committee discussed crosswalk markings, in particular which marking styles are most visible. A question was raised about whether FHWA allowed a solid-color crosswalk, similar to green bike lanes.

The flags that were put out at the Forest and Fort Valley crossings were also discussed. It is not clear who provided the flags, but it was not the City or ADOT. The flags serve only to increase the visibility of pedestrians in the crossing.

The Committee asked to have a future agenda item to discuss crossing enhancements, and asked if it were possible to provide other interim measures before more substantive crossing improvements could be provided.

Mr. Ince showed the Committee a series of online interactive maps, and asked how they could be improved or used as a public outreach tool. The Committee had several thoughts.

- A future map that allowed route planning for pedestrians between an origin and destination would be very useful.
- Pedestrian wayfinding signing would also be a benefit.
- The ability to turn on and off other layers would add to functionality, for example adding crossings to see the relationship to sidewalks.
- An aerial image would also enhance the map.

The Committee discussed the concept of "core" routes for sidewalks, bike lanes, and sidewalks, which would be priorities in terms of construction, maintenance and clearance.

Mr. Ince briefly explained the draft scoring criteria for prioritizing FUTS trails. The Committee noted that the criteria heavily weights a transportation function for the trails over a recreation function, even though the trail users survey reveals that more

people use the trails for recreation than transportation. Better connectivity to open space and other recreational facilities on FUTS would enhance both the recreation and transportation function of trails.

Health and quality of life should be strong considerations for funding priorities. Public health linkages should be emphasized.

2. Flagstaff Walks!

The schedule of events has been finalized. For Science in the Park, it would be helpful if Jim Tuck would be willing to give advice based on his experience in previous years.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. NAIPTA Five-Year Transit Plan Update

Alicia Becker from NAIPTA provided an update on the update process for the five-year transit plan. She reported that transit ridership has reached 2 million this year for the first time. As ridership increases, the cost per rider goes down.

She explained that the plan was seeking to find a balance between two divergent goals, ridership (or productivity) and coverage. She also outlined public outreach efforts for the planning process, and gave a summary of the results of a public survey.

Ms. Becker said the NAIPTA board of directors has given direction that the plan should maintain the existing balance between ridership and coverage, assuming that funding levels remain constant. If additional funding can be obtained, it should be used to promote ridership goals.

She described the concept of a permanent transit network, where transit would always serve regardless of future budget cuts, and where investment in transit infrastructure and transit-oriented private investment would be focused.

She outlined the process moving forward, which will include soliciting additional stakeholder input and going back out to the public with a draft plan. Final approval of the plan by the NAIPTA board is anticipated in December.

The Committee had a number of questions and comments:

- What is the potential source of new funding, sales tax revenues or grants? NAIPTA will continue to seek grant funding, which is already a significant source of revenue. Renewal of the City's transportation sales tax provides another opportunity.

- To what extent does an increase in ridership affect revenues, and does the resulting increase in revenue reduce or offset subsidies? Increases in ridership increase revenue, but no transit agency can operate on fare revenues alone.
- Does NAIPTA collect a fee from NAU students for bus service? A student fee has been discussed before, but is currently not in place.
- How can service be extended to Kachina Village and other outlying areas? A vanpool program is available, but the transit sales tax is paid only by City residents, so there is not funding to extend service beyond City limits.
- What is the timing for implementation of the recommendations from the plan? The plan has a five-year horizon, although some projects may be beyond that.
- The system has improved tremendously since 1995 and Pine Country Transit.
- The PAC should consider how the pedestrian network – sidewalks, FUTS trails, and crossings – connects to transit stops.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There were no Reports.

2. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm