

DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Thursday, December 13, 2018 | 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, chair
Megan Hosterman
Zach Schwartz
Jack Welch

Members absent:

Jodi Norris

Two vacancies

The following City and agency staff were present:

Paige Hardman, Montoya Fellow Intern
Martin Ince, multimodal planner

Public present:

None

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Schwartz made, and Mr. Welch seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 13, 2018. The motion was approved unanimously (4-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Active Transportation Master Plan

Mr. Ince provided an outline of the draft Public Engagement Plan for the Active Transportation and FUTS Master Plans.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Bike share, e-bike legislation, and shared/micromobility devices

Mr. Ince presented information summarizing Flagstaff's six-month bike share pilot program with Spin bikes. The information included ride data and the results of a community survey. He also outlined the City's plans for issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to continue the program this spring.

The Committee's discussion included a variety of questions and comments:

- During the pilot program, the Committee's impression is that there did not seem to be a problem with bikes left on sidewalks.
- Is there data to indicate if the bikes were used more by visitors or residents? Ms. Hardman responded that there is no data to answer that.
- The Committee thinks that it is a good idea to limit contracts to a single vendor.
- The Committee asked if there was crash data for the bike share bikes. Ms. Hardman said there is not.
- There was a discussion about the logistics of renting a bike. The Committee wondered if the bikes were used more for transportation or recreation.
- Bells would be useful equipment for the bikes.

Mr. Ince then summarized existing legislation for Arizona and Flagstaff regulating bicycles, electric bicycles, and other electric mobility devices. He said that vendors may want electric scooters to be part of the contract. There may also be an opportunity to have e-bikes as part of the rental fleet. The Committee discussed the issues:

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- The ability to enforce the law will always be an issue for electric devices. There would be an advantage to equipping the Police Department with e-bikes.
- If e-bikes and scooters are going to be used at a scale that benefits the transportation system, then they should be allowed in most places.
- There are not many locations downtown where bike corrals can be located; it would be appropriate to remove street parking to create space for them.
- It would be useful to monitor the use of these devices to see the extent to which they offset demand for parking and vehicle trips.
- There is a concern about allowing Class 3 e-bikes on FUTS trails; 28 mph seems to be too fast.
- There is generally a concern about the speed and control of Class 3 e-bikes and scooters. Do the people who rent scooters have the necessary skills to control them adequately?
- There seems to be some benefit to including e-bikes in the bike share fleet; however Class 3 e-bikes should not be included. Bike share bikes are typically clunky, and having an assistive motor would be beneficial. If e-bikes are part of the fleet, do they need docking stations where they can be charged, or are they charged separately?
- If the City contract allows e-bikes and scooters, is there an economic benefit to the vendor, and does the City have better services as a result?
- The City's Disability Awareness Commission (now called the Commission on Inclusion and Adaptive Living) should be involved in this process, and in particular they should weigh-in on any issues with bike parking on sidewalks.
- Outreach events would be more instructional if there were demos with relevant e-bikes and scooters.
- Bike share is beneficial to the community and the transportation system, especially as Flagstaff and NAU continue to grow. It could help offset the demand for parking and it should be included as an incentive in student housing projects.
- The Committee expressed less enthusiasm for scooters, although they acknowledged that more transportation options are better for the community.
- The Committee asked to be provided a copy of the Scottsdale ordinance.
- In terms of City Code, scooters can be regulated similarly to bicycles.

- The Committee wondered about the energy efficiency of e-bikes and scooters, and how much energy it takes to charge the devices versus how much is saved by their use.
- The Committee indicated that engagement of the community will be important for this discussion.

The Committee closed their discussion with the idea that how we travel will change dramatically in the coming years. Rather than fighting new technology, we should embrace it as a potential mobility enhancement that reduces our reliance on automobiles.

At the same time, we should work to change the built environment to be more accommodating of new technology and less disruptive to the pedestrian and bicycle environment. There is already limited space in the pedestrian and bicycle realm, and new mobility devices have to compete for that space. Perhaps the transportation system should be redistributed to provide more room for new mobility devices and less space for automobiles.

2. Safe Kids Coconino County – International Road Assessment Program

This item was not discussed.

3. PAC meeting dates for 2019

Mr. Ince provided a schedule for Pedestrian Advisory Committee dates for 2019.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

Mr. Ince reported that there are now two vacancies on the Committee.

2. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 pm.