

DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Thursday, March 11, 2021 | 5:00 pm

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Brandon Cruickshank, chair
Whitney Holeva-Eklund
Tahany Huerta
Matt McGrath
Ron Norton
Zach Schwartz

Members absent:

Jodi Norris

The following City and agency staff were present:

Jeff Bauman, transportation section manager
Charles Hernandez, Police Department
Martin Ince, multimodal planner
Jim McCarthy, City Council
Adam Shimoni, City Council

Public present:

Michele James

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Schwartz introduced himself.

2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were not available.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Active transportation master plan/FUTS master plan

The committee continued review of proposed first priority projects for missing and planned sidewalks, bikeways, FUTS trails, enhanced crossings, and grade-separated crossings:

- There was a question about whether building narrower sidewalks would help stretch the money available. Five feet is a minimum width, anything below is not usable for two people walking side-by-side.
- Several of the planned sidewalks will provide challenges, both for constructability and working with the neighborhood.
- Is there an opportunity to include money for sidewalk replacement? The Street Section has requested and received increased funding for sidewalk replacement and has started a more formal program for systematic replacements.
- The planned sidewalk along the east side of County Club Dr would be beneficial to the neighborhood. Some consideration should be given to increasing its “Need and Functionality” score.
- The sidewalk along Switzer Canyon Dr would be a good addition, even through it is listed as a second priority.
- There was a question about why Fine was selected as a location for a crossing of Humphreys St instead of Elm. The primary reason is that the visibility is better on Fine compared to Elm because of the hill in that section of Humphreys.
- A crossing at Snowflake and Highway 89 would be beneficial for that part of town.
- Crossings are needed all along Milton Rd.
- The intersection at Forest and Fort Valley should be a top priority.

- The crossing at McConnel along Woodlands Village Boulevard might be higher than a second priority. There was a discussion about plans for a signal, and using a beacon crossing in the interim.
- There was a question about whether planned bridges over I-40 between Lone Tree and Beulah would interfere with the future Lone Tree interchange.

Mr. Ince provided information on FUTS and bikeway planning. He said that traditionally Flagstaff included bike lanes on busy streets and in some cases a parallel FUTS for those who preferred to not ride in the street. This arrangement does not always work well. The plan going forward is to provide separated bike lanes along busy streets, which are comfortable for a much wider segment of the population. As a result, it is possible to reconsider where FUTS are planned along busy streets as part of the old pattern. He showed images of separated bike lanes that are adjacent to the sidewalk, and asked the committee to weigh in on the concept:

- The main spine through the NAU campus, which places bikes in the middle and pedestrians to the outside, is working well.
- It is important to clearly distinguish the two sides.
- The committee generally supports the concept of separated bike lanes, which would be comfortable for both pedestrians and bicyclists.
- There was discussion about electric bikes on separated bike lanes, and a concern about the potential speed of Class 3 electric bikes.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Buffalo Park/Nate Avery Trail accessibility grant**

Mr. Ince provided information on a proposed project to enhance accessibility at Buffalo Park. The project was developed out of an accessibility audit of FUTS trails conducted by the City's Commission on Inclusion and Adaptive Living. The project includes resurfacing the Nate Avery loop trail with new FUTS material that is better for wheelchairs, adding accessible parking, and providing information and signing including directions for the accessible cut-off. The committee offered several comments:

- Better information and signing would be very helpful.
- Even slight grades are very difficult for people who use wheelchairs. Larger aggregate also makes it difficult.
- Signing for the accessible cut-off should be placed near the entrance, to keep people from making the first left and going down the steep section.

- The new surface material should be extended to the ramada just north of the entrance, to make it easier to access.
- Additional benches along the path would provide places to rest. Covers or shade structures should be considered.
- Suggest using “less-steep route” as the terminology for the cut-off.
- Consider incorporating QR codes into the signing.

Mr. Ince said that the committee would likely be asked to provide a letter of support for the grant application.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

The Committee reviewed one item on the Reports:

- Fourth-Cedar-Lockett roundabout: options were presented to the City Council, who recommend using the single roundabout configuration. The project now moves on to design.

2. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.