

# DRAFT MINUTES

## City of Flagstaff BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**Thursday, June 2, 2022 | 4:30 pm**

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Flagstaff City Hall, Staff Conference Room  
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona  
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Kim Austin  
Daniel Crim  
Jeff Goulden  
Estella Hollander  
Susan Hueftle, chair  
Matthew Mitchell

### Members absent:

None

One vacancy

### The following City and agency staff were present:

Jeff Bauman, traffic engineering manager  
Martin Ince, multimodal transportation planner  
Jim McCarthy, City Council liaison  
Stephanie Santana, senior transportation engineer

### Public present:

Maddie Mitchell  
Bryan Randall

**I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Announcements**

Ms. Austin asked if anyone saw the bicycle safety message on the ADOT overhead signs. She reported that 75 helmets were sold at the bike bazaar, 30 people rode in the Kidical Mass ride, and 60 kids rode to Sechrist School for bike-to-school day.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the May 5, 2022 regular meeting were not available.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Active Transportation Master Plan**

This item was not discussed.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**2. Butler-Beaver protected bike lane pilot evaluation**

Mr. Bauman gave a presentation on the evaluation study of the separated bike lane pilot project. He provided a schedule of upcoming presentations, culminating with a presentation to Council on June 14. The Council meeting is a work session, but all are welcome to attend.

He gave a brief history of the project and described the project components. He said the green markings have worn out but will be replaced with permanent markings that are larger.

Mr. Ince summarized some of the benefits of separated bike lanes, based on empirical studies in other communities.

Mr. Bauman reported that they did not see a change in vehicle speeds, or a large increase in cyclists, although the study period was very short. It will be interesting to collect longer-term data.

He reviewed the information received from other stakeholders. The Streets Section reports that the curbs have seen extensive damage, and that significant work hours have been spent to repair them. The damage continued after the winter months. Damage to the delineators

seems to be from mirror hits, as well as getting run over. The original delineators are being replaced with more sturdy versions.

Mr. Bauman summarized comments received from Parks and Recreation, Risk Management, Police, Fire, Mountain Line, and FUSD.

Mr. Bauman described the process and costs for snow removal. There was a discussion about snow removal. The number of crashes was similar to previous years.

Staff's recommendation is for no additional installations of this treatment, to remove the barrier along Butler Ave, to keep the barrier along Beaver St but make adjustments, and to experiment with buffered bike lanes. He said the Transportation Commission recommended replacing the barrier along Butler Ave with a buffer, keeping the barrier on Beaver, and continuing to collect data on ridership and maintenance.

The committee engaged in discussion:

- Ms. Hollander asked if we have considered lowering the speed limit on Butler Ave. Mr. Bauman said that artificially lowering the speed limit does not change speeds. Ms. Hollander asked about a comparison on Butler Ave to other streets, and said that Butler Ave has been changed to have lower speeds.
- Councilmember McCarthy asked about the potential changes to Beaver St. Mr. Bauman responded that there will be some adjustments to barrier sections, including breaks for trash cans.
- Chair Hueftle said she was reluctant to see them removed too soon. We do not know if we have given the community enough time to adjust to them. She would like to see other options for separation explored. She would like to see the survey results, and wondered if we can separated the interested-but-concerned respondents for the hypothetical ratings.
- Mr. Crim said the recommendation to remove feels like a knee jerk reaction. This is the most visible piece of bicycle infrastructure the City has installed. Pushback from drivers is not surprising. He is disappointed that they will be removed. Additional visible accommodation is needed if we are going to make a change. Removing the pilot would communicate that the status quo is adequate, and that its great that people bicycle, but not if it affects vehicles.
- There was a discussion about speed limits and traffic calming. Chair Hueftle asked if there are other measures that could help slow traffic.
- Ms. Austin said that change is difficult. It would be sad if the city did not give people the chance to get used to it. Scrapping it early sends the message that bikes are not important. It feels like people will get used to it, especially if we tweak it to make it work better.

- Mr. Mitchell thought it should be left up for a year. It is disappointing that the curbs did not impact traffic calming. He said he rides on Butler Ave every day. The snow was tricky, and sometimes he had to ride in the travel lane. Overall it made him feel more comfortable.
- Mr. Goulden said that he rode on Butler Ave a few times but did not feel real comfortable because of the snow and ice. It is better than it was before. He would be more comfortable with a higher barrier. He is opposed to pulling it out at this point and would like to make tweaks. Butler Ave is a tough section of road; cars go way too fast. It requires vehicles to make a sudden movement to get into the turn lanes at Sawmill. We need a main east-west route for bicycles.
- Councilmember McCarthy said he would not ride a bike along Butler Ave, but there are no good alternatives. Route 66 is too far away. He noted that the Transportation Commission has already voted to remove the barriers on Butler Ave.
- Chair Hueftle said that Butler will be a more important bike route when the connection to Continental is completed.
- Mr. Ince described a process of transitioning from buffered bike lanes to separated facilities
- Mr. Crim said that pushback will occur every time we make changes. We need to be prepared and have resolve.

#### **IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **1. Reports**

BAC appointments: Mr. Ince summarized the subcommittee's work and recommendations. He reported that appointments and reappointments were not made at the previous afternoon's Transportation Commission meeting. Mr. Goulden said that he will not seek reappointment. He has the opportunity to serve on the Flagstaff Trails Initiative and intends to leave the committee unless he is needed for a quorum. Mr. Bauman said the Transportation Commission is scheduled to meet again in August, but it may be possible to hold a special meeting for the appointments.

##### **2. Concluding Announcements**

There were no Concluding Announcements

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm