



Richard J. Berry, Mayor

# GABAC



**GREATER ALBUQUERQUE BICYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT, PO BOX 1293

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103 (505) 768-2680

## MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2013

- **Welcome and Introductions** **(4:30 pm)**

### Members Present

Steve Mathias, Chair	Ronald Nelson
Scott Hale, Vice Chair	Diane Albert
Don Simonson	Moises Gonzales
Ed Hillsman	

### Staff Present

Melissa Lozoya, COA DMD	Julie Luna, MRCOG
Julian Paul Butt, COA P&R	

### Members Absent

Bruce Farmer	James Plagens
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### Guests

John Barncastle	John Thomas
Jennifer Buntz	Mahn Tran
Kris Cadena	

- **Mr. Mathias called the meeting to order**
- **Mr. Mathias established the presences of a Quorum**
- **Approval of the April 8, 2013 Agenda**  
Meeting Agenda was approved

- **Approval of the Minutes, January 7, 2013 Meeting**  
January 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes were approved.
- **Approval of the Minutes, February 11, 2013 Meeting**  
February 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes were approved.
- **Approval of the Minutes, March 11, 2013 Meeting**  
March 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes were approved.
- **Visitor Presentations**

**Bike Summit Report.....GABAC/BSNM and Duke City Wheelman**

Ms. Buntz stated that there was a Women’s Forum that preceded the Bike Summit was very successful in promoting and encouraging women to bicycle. The day long event consisted of presentations that were given to encourage and help women become comfortable with bicycling. As a part of the Summit the delegation meetings appeared to be very successful. The delegation that we have is interested in bicycling issues and the need for transportation budget. They understand there is a need to address safety for all road users. Ms. Buntz went on to say that the focus of the speakers at the Summit was on creating community activity zones. Ms. Buntz went on to say that Albuquerque does not have the same population density as some of the communities that have these community activity zones.

Ms. Albert stated that the theme of the Summit was Bike’s Mean Business. There were a total of 750 attendees representing each of the 50 states and 3 Canadian Provinces. The Board of Directors for the League of American Bicyclists (LAB), which Ms. Albert is a member of, is very diverse and includes more women now than in the past. Prior to the Summit Ms. Albert called the staff of each of the five (5) delegation members to try and set-up meetings. Ms. Albert went on to say that they had a meeting with Representative Lujan Grisham that was very successful. A packet was provided to all 5 members of the delegation that was prepared by the Board, which contained information and support of the President of REI, a letter of support to the USDOT to gather information on bicycle crash rates, and finally information on inviting delegates to a bike related event within NM.

- **Announcements**

The following are comments made by the Chair:

Mr. Mathias stated that he had extended an invitation to Ester Tenanbaum, Manager of the 311 call center, to speak at this month’s meeting. However, she was unable to attend. He will ask her to attend the May GABAC Meeting.

Mr. Mathias went on to say that there have been reports of motorcycles using the Bear Bridge over I-25. Motorcycles appear to be using the bridge as a shortcut.

Mr. Mathias asked Mr. Simonson about his term as a GABAC Member and if he was aware that he was being replaced. Mr. Mathias referred to an Executive Communication (EC-13-366) dated February 13, 2013. Mr. Simonson stated that he had received a letter from the Mayor’s office informing him of the expiration of his term and thanking him for his service. Mr. Mathias

requested that information on the process to elect new members and replace existing members be investigated.

Mr. Mathias closed by stating that since last months meeting with the Director, Mr. Michael Riordan, Ms. Lozoya has been very proactive in getting information back to the Chair. Mr. Mathias went on to say that a meeting was held between himself and Ms. Lozoya to discuss what should be on the agenda and share information. Mr. Mathias stated that he will plan on attending future coordination meetings with Ms. Lozoya if his schedule allows. Mr. Mathias went on to say that he feels things are moving in a better direction, however, everyone needs to keep in mind that there are existing projects that are further down the road and there may not be an opportunity for GABAC to review and provide feedback at the milestone submittals that were agreed upon.

Mr. Simonson brought up his concern with the upcoming Earth Day event (April 20<sup>th</sup>) at the Bio-Park and the lack of publicity for the bike valet service that is to be provided at the event. Mr. Simonson stated that he has been working since February to try and get this aspect of the event promoted. He has not been successful in getting anyone from Parks and Recreation to respond. Mr. Simonson closed by asking for any help to get the bike valet promoted for the event.

Mr. Hale stated that Susan Kelly has contracted with Parks and Recreation to work on the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan. Currently there is no information on the schedule for the work that is to be done on the document.

Mr. Simonson stated that as he was out riding he ran into a bike accident involving a bollard located at Murray Road and Chris Chavez Loop. The woman that was involved appeared to be injured and possible had broken ribs.

Ms. Albert stated that as she was riding the Paseo Trail she was passed by two gentlemen on a large motorcycle. Ms. Albert stated that she called 311 to report the incident.

- **Public Comment**

Mr. Thomas stated that as a member of GARTC that as an organization does not appear to work very well. Mr. Thomas went on to say that they do not get high quality trails or maintenance on the facilities. Mr. Thomas stated that he feels that GABAC and GARTC need to change the way that their needs are made known. Mr. Thomas suggested that perhaps running the organizations through the MPO would be more appropriate and allow for more involvement from a regional level. He suggested that the Chair be a City or County planner with the Vice Chair being a Traffic Engineer. Mr. Thomas closed by saying that the two groups need to work together because what they have now does not appear to be working.

Mr. Barncastle stated that the Lomas/Vassar crossing continues to be an issue. Recently (March 14<sup>th</sup>) there were construction barricades which blocked the access. Mr. Barncastle went on to say that he brought this to the attention of construction services and feels that construction services needs to be made more aware of locations like this so that accommodations are made for bicycles so that access is not disrupted.

Ms. Buntz stated that the Careless Driving Legislation did not pass. However, Senate Memorial 69 was passed which forms a committee tasked with coming up with recommendations on

improving safety, this committee will meet from now until September 2013. Ms. Buntz as a member of the committee asked that people send her recommendations. Ms. Buntz went on to say that the Dave Anderson Ghost Bike on Paseo is being vandalized. She stated that there is an effort to bring this to the public's attention so as to try and inform people that this is unacceptable and illegal.

- **Staff Reports**

Ms. Lozoya provided information on a number of initiatives that are being moved forward by Engineering. These items being the bollard concern, inventory of missing bike route signs, bike route way finding signs, and a study to look at the proposed Fair Heights Bike Boulevard. Ms. Lozoya went on to say that these efforts are just getting off the ground and stated that the selected Consultant(s) would attend the May GABAC Meeting to present information and gather feedback from the group. Ms. Lozoya requested that the Committee work with Engineering on the Fair Heights Bike Boulevard to make that project as successful as possible in the event the new Councilor in that district is interested in moving the project forward.

Ms. Lozoya went on to say that the Engineering Division in conjunction with the Chair of GABAC is moving forward with a media campaign. Mr. Mathias has been invited to attend a scoping meeting with the Consultant to review the proposed campaign. Ms. Lozoya went on to say that comments from the GABAC chair would be incorporated into the campaign. Once a draft version of the campaign is developed the Consultant will present it to the Committee for their feedback.

Ms. Lozoya stated that there will be a special bike map placed in the Journal in conjunction with the Bike to work day event.

Ms. Lozoya provided the Committee with information regarding the status of the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan update. Parks and Recreation have contracted with Susan Kelly and Diane Scena to work on the Trails portion of the Study. Ms. Lozoya went on to say that according to Mr. Lewis minor changes, if any, will be made to the on-street bikeways portion of the Study and will be in contact with Mr. Mathias to coordinate on the study and possibly come speak to GABAC. Mr. Mathias stated that GABAC's main issue is that the study has been taken out of DMD and handed over to Parks and Recreation. Mr. Mathias asked if the removal of the Plan is a permanent or temporary situation.

- **Discussion/Action Items**

**Response to Mr. Riordan..... GABAC**

Mr. Mathias passed out copies of a letter that he prepared in response to Mr. Riordan's letter dated March 15, 2013. Mr. Mathias asked if anyone had any comments and if the letter could be sent. The Committee agreed that the letter could be sent to Mr. Riordan with minor revisions. The Committee requested that a second letter be sent to the Mayor/Parks since the community expects GABAC to be involved with paved trail facilities. Parks is not involving GABAC in trail related issues.

**Capital Projects List..... GABAC**

Mr. Mathias started by saying that at the last Meeting Mr. Riordan requested that the Committee develop a list of projects that are a priority for the group. Mr. Mathias requested a list of projects from the group and received feedback from Mr. Hale and Mr. Hillsman. Mr. Mathias went on to say that short list of projects needs to be developed and agreed upon by the Committee. Mr. Mathias stated that the list should cover on-street facilities, off-street, and intersections. A consensus of what the list of projects needs to be and consist of needs to be determined by the group. Ms. Lozoya offered to compile the list of projects provided by the Committee. Coordination on the off-street projects would need to be coordinated with Parks and Recreation. Mr. Mathias requested that the members send him a list of their top 10 projects broken out by on-street, off-street, and intersections within a week. Mr. Mathias stated that he would send this information to Ms. Lozoya to compile and have the list at the May meeting for a vote.

**Loop Detector Locations..... GABAC/COA Staff**

Mr. Mathias stated that the Engineering Division has elected to remove the bicycle loop detectors from the Spain Bike Lanes project. Mr. Mathias went on to say that Engineering is looking for suggestions on where the bike loops can be places as a pilot project. Mr. Mathias asked if all directions of travel would be addressed at an intersection. The group discussed various intersections and decided that Rio Grande/Mountain, Indian School/Washington, and Pennsylvania/Constitution were ideal locations. In addition the Committee requested that the Constitution Corridor between Washington and San Pedro be evaluated to see how loop detection would work with synchronization. Ms. Lozoya stated that a study would be done to look at each individual intersection for implementation and cost.

**University Blvd. Plans..... GABAC/COA Staff**

Mr. Cadena, the City project manager for the University Bike lanes (Rio Bravo to Gibson) project presented information. Various alternatives were presented as possible alignments that would be studied during the Design Analysis phase of the project. At the end of the presentation Ms. Lozoya requested that GABAC members provide feedback on issues and concerns that may need to be taken into consideration. Mr. Cadena stated that the estimated construction start date for this project is early 2015. Ms. Lozoya stated that another presentation on this project would occur sometime in June or July of 2013. Ms. Lozoya encouraged that members provide feedback/information/comments via email to the Chair that they think should considered/investigated as the project moves forward.

**Singer Bridge Plans..... GABAC/COA Staff**

Mr. Tran indicated that copies of the Singer Widening Plans are available for review in the Engineering Division Office. Mr. Tran gave a brief description of the project, indicating that the undercrossing will be located on the east side of the North Diversion Channel (NDC). Mr. Tran stated that the design is complete. Ms. Lozoya stated that the goal of the trail undercrossings is to eliminate at grade crossings at uncontrolled intersection. Ms. Lozoya went on to say that in the future with the Chappell Road Widening project an analysis will be completed to see if there is a possibility/feasibility to include a trail section along the west side of the NDC so that bicyclists' who want to stay on the west side of the NDC and access Renaissance can do so. Mr. Hale asked

questions regarding access from the trail to Singer and if a switch back movement is needed if you are heading north and want to go west on Singer. Ms. Lozoya stated that the intent is to bid the project in August of 2013 if the right of way can be acquired within the needed timeframe, otherwise the project will need to wait another year due to the AMAFCA moratorium for the NDC during the monsoon season. Mr. Mathias also brought up concern regarding the proposed detours that may occur with the construction of the project. Mr. Mathias went on to say that the City needs to make sure they we are not asking bicyclists to make unusual movements to get around construction activities.

**W. Central Plans..... GABAC/COA Staff**

Mr. Tran gave a brief description of the West Central Project (San Pasquale to Rio Grande). Mr. Tran went on to say that the focus of the project will be the intersection of San Pasquale/Lomas/Central and the Central and Rio Grande Intersection. In addition, Mr. Tran stated that as a part of this project a trail connection will be studied between Rio Grande and the Bio-park. Mr. Tran requested Committee feedback on the possible alignments being proposed, one of which was utilization of the alley behind the Walgreens to approximately New York. Mr. Hale pointed out that the "alleyway" has a lot of automobile traffic to trailer park. Currently cyclist use either Dora or Hollywood. Mr. Hale went on to say that Dora nice and wide and would be a good "Bike Route" to New York Bio Park Entrance. Ms. Lozoya requested that the members of GABAC provide feedback to be considered in the design analysis phase of the project. Ms. Buntz stated that bike lanes need to be incorporated on Central west of the San Pasquale/Lomas/Central intersection. Ms. Buntz went on to say that crash data for bicyclists needs to be looked at and considered. Comments should be submitted via email to the Chair prior to the next GABAC Meeting scheduled for May 2013. Mr. Hale suggested that a field meeting be held so that members of GABAC and the design team could go out and ride the area together.

- **Adjourn**