



Richard J. Berry, Mayor

GABAC



GREATER ALBUQUERQUE BICYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT, PO BOX 1293
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MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2013

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

Members Present

Steve Mathias, Chair	Scott Hale, Vice Chair
Ed Hillsman	Ronald Nelson
Diane Albert	Bruce Farmer
Douglas Stiebler	Moises Gonzales

Staff Present

Melissa Lozoya, COA DMD	Tony Abbo, NMDOT Dist. 3
Julie Luna, MRCOG	Tom K, NMDOT Dist. 3
Mike McEntee, COA DMD	Debbie Bauman, COA DMD
Mark Shepard, COA DMD	

Members Absent

James Plagens

Guests

John Barncastle	Jennifer Buntz
Diane Cress	Eric Froberg
Scott Perkins	Audra Gallegos
Bert Thomas	Coby Dax
Denise Weston	Kain Swaving
Savina Garcia	Stephen Verchinski
Michael Smelker	Chuck Malagodi
Ross Lujan	Anthony Tio
Alysa Lucero	Shelley Gregory

- **Mr. Mathias called the meeting to order**
- **Mr. Mathias established the presences of a Quorum**
- **Approval of the September 9, 2013 Agenda**
The agenda was revised to remove the Unser Construction item from the Discussion/Action Items and place it on the October Agenda. The meeting agenda was approved with the modification.
- **Approval of the August 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes**
Meeting Meetings were approved
- **Visitor Presentations**

PDN/I-25 Interchange.....Wilson & Co./COA Staff

Mr. Scott Perkins with Wilson and Co. began by saying that a number of presentations over the last several months have been made to the public and GABAC to ensure that people were kept informed of the projects development through preliminary design. Wilson and Co prepared the RFP and advertisement for the job along with the performance/technical specifications (over 2500 pages) that detail the goals, objectives, requirements, and design guidelines for the project. The contractor, Kewit, along with the design consultant, Bohannon Huston (BHI), have since been selected as the design/build team and are currently working on the final design/construction of the project. Mr. Perkins sated that any questions or comments on the project should be directed to Mr. **Michael Smelker** who is the **NMDOT District 3 Project Engineer (575) 202-3339**.

Mr. Bert Thomas with BHI described the proposed pedestrian amenities for the project and they are moving the project from the 30% design that was prepared by Wilson and Co. to the final design-build plans. According to Mr. Thomas the bicycle/pedestrian improvements will provide a connection from the east side to the west side of I-25 via a pedestrian bridge. Mr. Thomas went on to say that the project will utilize the existing bicycle/pedestrian paths that are located near the Target shopping center. The users will be directed along the pathways, as free flow movement, to a separate pedestrian/bicycle bridge over I-25 and down into the Journal center via a switch back. From that point the users will be directed to Headline and possibly controlled intersection, at Jefferson that will get them to a proposed facility/pathway along the north side of El Pueblo.

Mr. Thomas went on to say that a **public meeting is scheduled for September 25th at the Courtyard Marriot from 5:30 to 7:30** where the same information will be presented along with more information about the interchange itself. In addition the graphics and information presented will be available on the Paseo/I-25 website for viewing. Mr. Thomas stated that there is opportunity to provide input. However, the design/build process has a very tight schedule so any comments and feedback should be provided in a timely manner.

Mr. Hale had a question regarding the location of the bicycle/pedestrian structure, since he recalled that the structure was located further south from the actual interchange. Mr. Thomas stated that there was a change in the location of the crossing and it is now closer to the interchange. The reason for this was to reduce the number of switch backs needed to get the pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the various freeway structures. Mr. Hale stressed that safety for bicyclists is important and should be considered when trying to make the appropriate connections.

Mr. Mathias stated that the information presented appears to be different than information that was presented in the past. He went on to say that it is very difficult to get an understanding of the proposed improvements because of the lack of detail. Mr. Mathias asked if additional information will be provided, since it is very hard to see what is happening. Mr. Thomas stated that the design and detail for the crossing is still conceptual, but as it is being developed it will be made available on the website as the project moves forward.

Ms. Albert stated that she supports the proposed bicycle/pedestrian facility to connect the east side to the west side of I-25 near Paseo.

Mr. Hale expressed some concerns with the proposed improvements but felt that the concerns and questions could be addressed if the communication between Mr. Thomas/BHI and members of GABAC is maintained and on-going throughout the process. Both Mr. Hale and Mr. Mathias stated that this area is missing the needed bicycle/pedestrian facilities and there is a potential to fill in a gap.

Concerns from the Committee were voiced regarding the project budget and their thoughts that if the budget gets tight the pedestrian/bicycle facility will be cut from the project. The Paseo/I-25 team stated that this aspect of the project will not be cut from the project should the budget get tight.

Mr. Thomas stated that comments can be made via the project website at www.paseoi25.com or on the hotline at (505) 245-3140.

Mr. Hale stated that the bicycle community should be kept informed regarding the potential installation of the signal on Jefferson. Mr. McEntee, the City's representative for the project, stated that the City is supportive of a signal at Jefferson and is currently in discussion with the NMDOT on this topic.

Bicycle Awareness PSA.....Media Match/COA Staff

Mr. Maligodi began by saying that the reason for the production of PSAs is to get a message out to the community about various topics as they relate to bicycle use for both bicyclists and motorists. Per recorded statistics, Mr. Maligodi stated that wrong way travel is a contributor to a large number of accidents and fatalities that occur. Mr. Anthony Tio with Media Match stated that two PSAs were produced both in English and Spanish. The first PSA that was presented was the 5-Foot Rule followed by Wrong Way Riding.

The Committee expressed their concerns and displeasure with the PSAs. They did not like that the woman in the 5-Foot Rule PSA was wearing black, did not signal that she was moving over, and did not cross the white line into the travel lane to avoid the debris in the bike lane. The Committee suggested that the ordinance stating motor vehicles are required to provide a 5 foot separation be sighted on the PSA.

Ms. Lozoya stated that the City is interested in moving forward and running the PSAs. The Committee felt that the appropriate storyboards or coordination was not done to keep the committee informed of what was going to be in the PSAs.

Mr. Hale made a motion that the PSAs not be run until the appropriate storyboards are shared with the committee so that the safety issues can be discussed and addressed appropriately. In general

the committee did not like or agree with the Wrong Way riding PSA. They did not like the fact that the character in the PSA was wearing a suite while riding a bike backwards. They did not like how the statement was made and the message was portrayed.

Ms. Shelley Gregory the owner of Media Match provided some insight into the reason why the messages were done the way they were. The point of the character and how the message was delivered was to grab the viewer's attention. Ms. Gregory stated that the 30 second PSA will most likely be shown during a sporting show or in the middle of a movie on television and it is important to make sure people watch it. Mr. Hale felt that the Wrong Way Riding PSA missed the mark.

Mr. Hale made a motion to stop the process and not run the PSAs until the message for the safety aspects can be discussed and addressed using story boards. The committee voted unanimously that they do not endorse the PSAs and do not want them aired on television.

- **Announcements**

Mr. Mathias stated that at the last meeting there was a presentation on the City's Traffic Calming Measures. As a follow-up Mr. Mathias, Mr. Hale, Ms. Albert, and Ms. Jennifer Buntz met with representatives from Council. According to Mr. Mathias it appeared that a couple of the Council members were sympathetic to the issue that the City's Bicycle advisory committee was not involved/consulted with during the development of the traffic calming program/document. The document is scheduled to be in front of Council on September 16th.

Mr. Mathias went on to say that MRCOG is having public feedback meetings for the Draft UNM/CNM Sunport Corridor Plan later that week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. For more information please contact Mr. Mathias.

Mr. Hale made an announcement regarding the Mayor's Bosque Plan. Mr. Hale went on to say that there is \$2.9 million available to put a crusher fine or paved trail in the Bosque from Central to I-40. There were 400 people in attendance at the public meeting that was held. Mr. Hale stated that people should keep an eye on this since the things that the Sierra Club is pushing could have a negative impact on the bicycling community.

Mr. Hale went on to say that he attended a BRT Meeting last Friday and was happy with what he heard from the development side. However, when Mr. Bruce Rizzeri spoke he was disappointed since everything that was said was very auto-centric. Mr. Hale also stated that BRT in general will have a big impact on the bicycling community.

- **Public Comment**

Mr. Barncastle stated that no progress has been made regarding the gravel problem on the North Diversion Channel Trail. However Mr. Barncastle has noticed an issue with the Bear Canyon trail and the North Diversion Channel Trail not being weeded, mowed, or sprayed. Mr. Barncastle stated that he has talked to Mr. James Lewis with Parks and Recreation and it appears that it is AMAFCA's responsibility to address. Mr. Barncastle reported that he has seen some success on the bollard issues. Mr. Barncastle reported an issue with people walking across the Downs parking lot near the Fairgrounds and the Downs security officers are harassing individuals/bicyclists that are wearing backpacks.

Ms. Jennifer Bunts, president of Duke City Wheelman, made an announcement regarding a ride that is open to the public along Central on September 29th at 3pm. They are expecting several hundred bicyclists to attend. Ms. Buntz encouraged the individuals in attendance at the GABAC Meeting who work on bike related activities to coordinate with the various bicycling committees/organizations to obtain valuable feedback and comments.

Mr. Stephen Verchinski spoke regarding his concerns on the proposed improvements for the Paseo and I-25 Interchange and the associated bike facilities. Mr. Verchinski stated that the presentation given had more information regarding the bike/ped aspect of the Paseo and I-25 project. He stressed that the project needs to look at how they are going to bring people into the Journal Center, using bikes lanes, routes, etc. Mr. Hale spoke up in support of the NMDOT and Mr. Thomas. Mr. Hale stated that Mr. Thomas is very reputable along with his company (BHI) and he is confident that the communication between GABAC and the project team will occur during the design/build process.

- **Staff Reports**
No staff reports were provided.

- **Discussion/Action Items**

NMDOT Partial Paving.....NMDOT/GABAC

Mr. Mathias presented three options for paving that were given to Ms. Albert by NMDOT regarding the paving of Tramway. According to Mr. Mathias everyone would like to see the full width of the roadway to be repaved. Mr. Mathias stated that he visited the site and did not see where there was a 10' shoulder. According to Mr. Mathias it appears that the shoulder is currently 8.5' to 9' when the original roadway was built with a 10' shoulder. GABAC questioned why the shoulder of the roadway is not being maintained per the original intent of 10'. Mr. Tom K, NMDOT Maintenance Engineer, stated that the roadway/driving lanes need to be maintained or repaved more frequently than the shoulder since the driving lanes see the actual impacts from the motor vehicle traffic. However, when the roadway is repaved the shoulder does get a fog seal which acts to revitalize the pavement. In addition to the deterioration from vehicles and the need to maintain several hundred miles of roadway maintenance money is limited and if the shoulder does not need to be repaved then it allows for more miles of roadway to be maintained. A motion was made by the committee that NMDOT should repave edge to edge for their maintenance projects.

Unser Construction.....GABAC (Scott)/COA Staff

This item was deferred to the October GABAC Meeting.

Bike/Pedestrian Bridge Resurfacing.....GABAC (Ron)/COA Staff

Mr. Nelson reported that someone resurfaced the bridge (open space) near the Alameda Open Space and the result is great. Mr. Nelson went on to say that he relayed the information to Ms. Lozoya who in turn forwarded it to Parks and Recreation, Mr. James Lewis. Mr. Lewis stated that the treatment is being considered and may be used on the wood bridges along the North Diversion Channel Trail. Mr. Nelson was encouraged that the wood bridges may see a new life with this treatment. In addition, Mr. Hale stated that the combined (2 piece), overlapping ¼” welded steel plates used as expansion joint covers need to be removed and replaced with flexible, beveled expansion joint covers specifically designed for bicycle facilities (usually aluminum). The

problem with plate covers is they expand and raise during summer heat and create a very harsh joint that is hard on both equipment and anatomy.

- **Adjourn**