



Richard J. Berry, Mayor

GABAC



GREATER ALBUQUERQUE BICYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT, PO BOX 1293

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MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2013

- **Welcome and Introductions**

(4:30 pm)

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Melissa Lozoya, COA DMD	Julie Luna, MRCOG
Kris Cadena, DMD	Juan Carlos Samuel, DMD
Diane Sholtis, DMD	Manh Tran, DMD
Julie Luna, MRCOG	Tony Abbo, NMDOT D3

Members Absent

James Plagens

Guests

John Barncastle	Dan Wilkinson
Roz Gibel	Larry Gibel
Lee Lockie	Annie Jones Francis
Jeff Freeman	Chad Gruber
Larry Toning	Stephen Verchinski
Diane Cress	Mathew Nighbert
Eric Froberg	Eric Hawton

Guests (continued)

Gabe Campos	Ron Taylor
Linda Tairne	Clarissa Freeman
Sharon Freeman	John Myers
John Thomas	

- **Mr. Mathias called the meeting to order**
- **Mr. Mathias established the presences of a Quorum**
- **Approval of the July 8, 2013 Agenda**
Meeting Agenda was approved – with minor revision to change “May 13, 2013” to “June 10, 2013” as requested by the Chair
- **Approval of the June 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes**
Meeting Meetings were approved – with a minor revision to change “Vice Chair” to “Chair” as requested by the Vice Chair
- **Visitor Presentations**

University ProjectEric Froberg (TYLin)

Mr. Cadena project Manager for the City introduced the project team and gave a brief description of the project and the various aspects/steps within the project development process. The Consultant, Eric Froberg-TYLin, provided details regarding the various segments and design alternatives that are currently being considered as part of the Design Analysis Report. Mr. Froberg was asked by Mr. Mathias to provide the traffic analysis that was completed.

In closing, Mr. Froberg provided information regarding the upcoming public meeting scheduled for July 31st at the Thomas Bell Community Center. Mr. Froberg went on to say that once GABAC, the public, and GARTC have had an opportunity to provide input the information will be used to determine the preferred alternative and the project will move forward into design.

Mr. Hale requested that the discussion of the University Project be moved to next month’s agenda due to the perceived lack of connectivity. Mr. Mathias and Mr. Hale questioned the statement that was made regarding the preference by GABAC of bike lanes vs. trail. According to Mr. Mathias GABAC has not provided input as to what is preferred at this point in time.

Bike Route Sign Inventory.....Eric Hawton (GFW)

Mr. Hawton provided information regarding the progress that has been made to date to identify the missing bike route signs along existing bike facilities. Using the City’s sign database they identified the existing signs in the field. Mr. Nieghbert presented an aerial depicting a 2.4 mile section between Comanche and Layton to illustrate the number of missing signs along this

particular corridor. In looking at the sign data and using the guidelines outlined in the MUTCD it was determined that 111 new signs are needed in this particular corridor.

Mr. Hawton went on to say that the same method and approach will be taken to inventory and identify the missing signs along all of the existing bike routes. Mr. Hawton went on to say that they will most likely break up the City into quadrants, using I-40 and I-25 as the dividing lines, when they summarize the number of signs needed and the associated costs. Once the cost is established to install the needed signs the City will then be able to allocate or identify funding. The Committee did not necessarily agree that the costs and number of signs be broken up into quadrants. They felt that the information should be broken up based on usage of the various corridors/routes. This way higher used routes are addressed first.

Bear Trail Phase I Bollards.....Juan Carlos Samuel (COA Staff)

Mr. Samuel provided information regarding the bollards that were installed as a part of the recently constructed Bear Arroyo Trail along Osuna from Wyoming to the west end of the Arroyo Del Oso Golf Course. Mr. Samuel identified each bollard (approximately), their location, and the reason why they were installed. Mr. Samuel went on to say that the installation and location of the bollards was coordinated and approved by Parks and Recreation. Mr. Nelson was the GABAC member to question the location of the bollards and was appreciative of the information that was presented. Mr. Mathias asked if the Parks department had a key to remove the bollards located near the sidewalk culverts. Mr. Samuel stated that they do have a key.

Bernalillo County Trail Count.....Julie Luna (MRCOG)

Ms. Luna presented information and locations of where Pedestrian/Bike counts are being collected. The majority are located along the Bosque Trail and Alameda Trail. Ms. Luna stated that pedestrians are being counted using cameras and inductive loops are being used to collect bicyclists. MRCOG is still working on getting the cameras calibrated so that the data that is being collected is accurate and consistent. For the most part the inductive loops seem to be working better. Ms. Luna presented the available counts and how it varies between the summer and winter months along with weekday vs. weekend. Ms. Luna stated that she is interested in expanding the system and locations where counts are being collected. Ms. Luna requested feedback from GABAC to see if there was preference on how the data should be collected, presented and/or summarized.

Mr. Hillsman stated that direction counts should be taken as people travel in one direction in the morning and may take another route to get home in the afternoon. Questions were asked regarding the location of the loops within the roadway and how they are placed. Mr. Hale inquired as to whether or not it would be possible to place detection on existing on-street bike facilities in the near future.

Bike In-Coffee.....Tony Abbo (NMDOT)

Mr. Hillsman provided some information regarding the situation with Bike In-coffee and the restriction of access from the Bosque Trail. Mr. Hillsman went on to say that he is generally supportive of businesses that cater to bicyclists along trail facilities. Mr. Abbo provided information regarding the situation with the gate and the newly installed lock. According to Mr.

Abbo the gate that provides access to Bike-in Coffee is located on MRGCD facilities and is located within the NMDOT access control. NMDOT Staff were notified that the gate was left open and so they went out to close and lock the gate. Mr. Abbo went on to say that access within the NMDOT access control is not allowed. When the right-of-way for I-40 was purchased the adjacent property owners were compensated since the area within the NMDOT right of way would be restricted. Mr. Abbo stated that the District 3 Engineer is working with the property owner and MRCOG to try and come up with a solution. In addition the Federal Highway Administration will also weigh in on the situation to see if there is a solution to the situation.

- **Announcements**

The Chair elected to skip announcements since the meeting agenda was full.

Mr. Stiebler and Ms. Albert made a comment regarding the repaving that has taken place on the Tijeras project. Ms. Albert requested that an item be placed on next month's agenda to discuss the NMDOT project.

- **Public Comment**

Mr. Wilkinson stated that he is with the Parks and Recreation advisory board and they recently lost their long term friend and bike advocate Mr. Bill Kramer. Mr. Wilkinson went on to say that he would like to reach out to GABAC and work a little closer. He was impressed with all the work that is being done and the concern that everyone has regarding safety.

Ms. Gibel spoke out in support of Bike-in Coffee and the benefits that the business provides. Bike-in Coffee has air pumps, gauges and other necessities that may be needed while using the Bosque Trail.

Ms. Tanning stated that she is the owner of the farm which houses the Bike-in Coffee. For many years they have been a produce farm that provided produce to the general public. Recently they began the Bike-in Coffee to provide a service to the individual's utilizing the trail. Ms. Tanning stated that they have had access to the gate for over 35 years. They have had discussions with the County, MRGCD, etc, but never thought that they needed to talk to NMDOT.

Mr. Tanning went on to say that they have had access for many years. Mr. Tanning went on to say that they are now a vegetable farm and are trying to figure out how to make the farm work. They saw that access as a way to provide services to the trail users. They have had trouble getting responses from the NMDOT regarding the issue and invite GABAC members to help if they can.

Mr. Barncastle mentioned that the access at Pennsylvania along the Bear trail has been completed. Mr. Barncastle went on to say that there continues to be an issue with gravel on the Bear Canyon trail west of Wyoming. This was an issue before the Bear Trail project, but it continues to be an issue. Mr. Barncastle indicated that the new Bear Trail is being watered by the sprinkler system that is part of the Arroyo Del Oso Golf Course. Both Engineering and Parks and Recreation are looking into the issue and it appears that the solution will require a substantial amount of money to change the configuration of the sprinkler system in that area. There have been improvements made to the bollards on the new Bear Bridge over I-25. Reflective tape has been added and the bollards have been painted yellow. Gravel on the multi-use trails seems to be an issue on many of the trails. Mr. Barncastle says he is working with Councilor Benton to try and address these issues.

Mr. Thomas discussed the subcommittee as part of GARTC that is working on coming up with a policy for all of Bernalillo County on bollards and their use on multi-use trails. They are basing the policy on the recommendations from the ASHHTO Guidelines for the Development of Bike Facilities. Mr. Thomas went on to say that he has been in contact and is coordinating with DMD and County.

Mr. Verchinski spoke regarding his concerns on the proposed improvements for the Paseo and I-25 Interchange and the associated bike facilities. He strongly feels that the proposed bike facilities have connectivity issues. The Chair suggested that Mr. Verchinski coordinate with him on getting a discussion item on an upcoming meeting agenda for GABAC.

• **Staff Reports**

Ms. Lozoya provided information on the upcoming Spain Blvd Bike Lanes Public Meeting on Wednesday, July 24th at the Holiday Park Community Center, 11710 Comanche Road NE, from 6 to 7pm.

Ms. Lozoya also provided information on the upcoming University Bikeway Project Public Meeting on Wednesday, July 31st at the Thomas Bell Community Center, 3001 University Blvd SE, from 6 to 7:30 pm.

• **Discussion/Action Items**

GABAC Annual ResolutionGABAC/COA Staff

The GABAC Annual Resolution outlining the committees meeting dates, time, and location for the upcoming year was approved by the committee.

Bicycle PSA Votes..... GABAC/COA Staff

The Chair presented the two additional ideas that were proposed by members of the committee for a vote to move forward in developing a PSA. The two topics up for a vote were “Helmet Usage for people under 18” and “Bikes are Traffic/Vehicles”. A brief description or discuss of the topics was had. There was one vote by Mr. Nelson for “Helmet Usage for People Under 18” and there were 7 votes for “Bikes are Traffic/Vehicles”.

Balloon Park Signal..... GABAC (Scott)/COA Staff

Mr. Hale provided information regarding the issues/concerns at the Balloon Museum Drive and Alameda Intersection as they relate to bicycle traffic and getting through the intersection. Mr. Hale indicated that a meeting was held in the field with Engineering and representatives from Traffic Engineering to look at the signal operation for cars, pedestrian, and bicyclists. Mr. Hale went on to say that one solution could be to run a test pilot using a loop detector for bicyclists. The committee decided that a test pilot could be run at this location for a bike loop to be placed in the straight north bound direction only.

“Treacherous Gravel Facilities”.....GABAC (Diane)/COA Staff

Ms. Albert brought the issue of gravel on bike facilities to the committee’s attention at the request of Mr. Barncastle. Ms. Albert went on to say that she has seen a lot of gravel on the NDC Trail just south of Osuna. Ms. Lozoya stated that locations that have gravel should be reported to 311 for clean-up. Ms. Albert stated that Mr. Barncastle sent pictures that appeared to show there is decorative river rock on the trail. Mr. Barncastle clarified that any type of rock or gravel that ends up on the trail is of concern. Mr. Mathias stated that a call should be placed to 311 to report this and if it is not addressed it should be brought to the committee for discussion.

- **Old Business/Watch List Items**

Bikeways and Trails Master Plan.....GABAC/COA Staff

Mr. Mathias expressed his displeasure with the fact that the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan is being “controlled”/rewritten by Parks and Recreation. Ms. Lozoya stated that she is currently working with Parks and Recreation to establish the plan/process to get the Master Plan complete and through the EPC process. Mr. Mathias went on to state that he did not agree that the Master Plan should be under Parks and Recreation. Mr. Gonzales stated that as a member of EPC he sees the Master Plan as a transportation related item and he does not agree that Parks and Recreation should be involved. Mr. Hale stated that he thinks that there is a much bigger issue with the situation and that is that GABAC as the advisory board has not been included in the selection of the Consultant for the original plan or the new plan. Mr. Hale went on to say that he is upset and feels that the City has dropped the ball and continues to drop the ball. According to Mr. Hale they need a plan and the data to move forward with the City’s bike facilities.

- **Adjourn**