



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

August 12, 2013

- **Welcome and Introductions**

(4:30 pm)

Members Present

Steve Mathias, Chair

Scott Hale, Vice Chair

Ed Hillsman

Ronald Nelson

Diane Albert

Staff Present

Melissa Lozoya, COA DMD

Julie Luna, MRCOG

Kris Cadena, DMD

John Kolessar, Traffic

Ramon Garcia, APD Motors

Members Absent

James Plagens

Douglas Stiebler

Bruce Farmer

Moises Gonzalez

Guests

John Barncastle

John Thomas

Diane Cress

Stephen Verchinski

Eric Froberg

- **Mr. Mathias called the meeting to order**
- **Mr. Mathias established the presences of a Quorum**
- **Approval of the August 12, 2013 Agenda**
Meeting Agenda was approved

- **Approval of the July 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes**
Meeting Meetings were approved

- **Visitor Presentations**

CABQ Traffic Calming Policy.....COA Staff

Mr. John Kolessar, the Division Manager for Traffic Engineering, gave a brief history of the City of Albuquerque's 1996 Speed Hump NTMP Plan. Mr. Kolessar indicated that this was the document or effort that started the new traffic calming policy being led by Council Services along with CH2MHill as the consultant. In addition, Council established a 16 member committee (stakeholders) to review and comment on the various recommendations that were developed, and identified the recommendations that would move forward to Council for approval.

GABAC members were interested in finding out what the driver of the plan was and who was leading the effort. Mr. Mathias stated that the focus/concern of the proposed plan is the point system or grading that was assigned to the bike/pedestrian element within the plan. GABAC members indicated that they had no knowledge of the plan and the fact that the proposals within the plan could potentially have a negative impact on the City's bike network and its users. It was also stated that the plan was motor vehicle centric.

Mr. Kolessar stated that there were several public meetings, upwards of 12 or more, held to inform the public of the new plan that was being developed to address speeding and other issues on local/residential streets. Notification of the public meetings was done in the Albuquerque Journal.

GABAC expressed concern and frustration with the process and that they were not invited to participate in the committee that was formed to review and provide feedback on the proposed traffic calming policy. GABAC stated that they would provide input either through the City Council Meeting or submitting written comment to the Consultant.

- **Announcements**

Mr. Mathias provided the committee members with information on the Spain Road Bike improvements that occurred on July 23rd at the Holiday Park Community Center. Mr. Mathias stated that it appeared there was not a lot of support from the community on the project to add bikes lanes and restripe Spain to a three lane section. Mr. Mathias also stated that the comment period had been extended to August 14th at the request of the public to allow more time for people to submit their comments.

Mr. Mathias discussed the NMDOT Tijeras Canyon project and the fact that the project has been restriped to its ultimate configuration and it has resulted in a nice paved shoulder on each side. Mr. Mathias went on to say that he had some concerns regarding the termini of the project and was disappointed to see that it started just east of deadman's curve. Ms. Albert stated that she had conversations with NMDOT and they indicated that the repaving and re-striping of the section including deadman's curve is programmed and will be done in the future.

Mr. Mathias stated that a presentation on the Paseo/I-25 project would occur at the September GABAC Meeting at which time the appropriate NMDOT staff and possibly the selected Consultant/Contractor will be present.

Mr. Hale stated that Rio Bravo to Atrisco Vista has been repaved and it is very rough. The new bike lanes are narrow and with the high speed of traffic on this road it is very uncomfortable to ride. In addition, Coors is currently being repaved and there are temporary asphalt ramps that have been installed by the contractor to get equipment up on the side of the road and pose a hazard for bicyclists. Mr. Hale has been trying to resolve this with NMDOT to see what can be done.

Ms. Albert stated that the understanding of the 5 foot rule by citizens and City transit is critical. Ms. Albert went on to say that the Route 66 bus almost hit her while she was riding her bike on Central and it really frightened her.

- **Public Comment**

Mr. Barncastle stated that AMAFCA has allowed gravel to be placed along the North Pino trail by the residents that live along there. In the process of placing the gravel they have damaged the trail and now it is not being maintained. Mr. Barncastle has been diligently working to get gravel removed from the Tramway and S. Pino Trail.

Mr. Verchinski spoke regarding his concerns on the proposed improvements for the Paseo and I-25 Interchange and the associated bike facilities. He stated that he was concerned that the proposed bike facilities were directing ped/bike traffic to an uncontrolled intersection at Lang and Jefferson. Mr. Mathias stated that NMDOT representatives would be attending the September GABAC meeting to present information on the project, at which time more discussion regarding Mr. Verchinski's concerns can be had.

- **Staff Reports**

No staff reports were given.

- **Discussion/Action Items**

University Project.....GABAC/COA Staff

Mr. Hillsman gave a brief report on the Public Meeting that took place at the end of July for this project and some of the comments that were received from citizens. Mr. Hillsman stated that overall it seemed that people were supportive of the project. Mr. Cadena (City Project Manager) gave a brief description and recap of the project and the various alternatives that were being explored. Mr Froberg presented details on each of the segments to the committee so that the members could vote on the various segments. New information regarding the new student housing project that is being developed on Transport was also presented to the Committee.

Mr. Hillsman made a motion to eliminate any alternatives or options that put bicyclists or pedestrians onto Gibson at an uncontrolled intersection or crossing. The Committee voted unanimously against putting Bikes/peds onto Gibson. GABAC did indicate that they are supportive of alternatives that direct pedestrians/bicyclists around the Thomas Bell Community Center via Transport, and a direct route which utilizes University to the Thomas Bell Community Center with access to the Community Center at Randolph.

The City will be moving forward with the Design Analysis Report with the recommendation to implement of both the “through” and “around” alternative. With the understanding that the “around” route will provide facilities to the new student housing development along Transport, and the “through” route will provide an alternative for those users that want a more direct route.

CABQ Draft Traffic Calming Policy.....GABAC/COA Staff

Mr. Mathias stated that this topic had already been discussed at the beginning of the meeting and would not be discussed at this point in the meeting.

Bear Canyon Bridge.....GABAC/COA Staff

Ms. Albert stated that she was contacted by Mr. John Jordan regarding the new Bear Canyon Arroyo Bridge and the safety concern with the handrail and getting a bicycle caught underneath. According to Ms. Albert, Mr. Jordan was riding his bike over the bridge and as he turned the corner on one of the ramps his handle bars got caught and he was thrown from his bike. Ms. Albert asked if there was anything that could be done or considered to address the concern. Ms. Lozoya stated that she would see what if anything could be done at this point.

- **Adjourn**