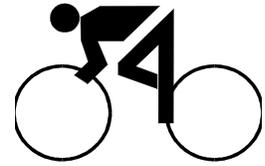




Richard J. Berry, Mayor

GABAC



GREATER ALBUQUERQUE BICYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT, PO BOX 1293
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103 (505) 768-2680

MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2014

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Melissa Lozoya, COA DMD	Michael Smelker, NMDOT
Julian Butt, P&R	Carrie Barkhurst, COA Planning
Diane Sholtis, COA DMD	

Members Absent

Ed Hillsman

Guests

John Barncastle	John Barncastle
Diane Cress	Jennifer Buntz
Tom Parker	

- **Mr. Mathias called the meeting to order** (4:35 pm)
- **Mr. Mathias established the presences of a Quorum**
- **Welcome and Introductions**
Mr. Mathias requested that all those in attendance at the meeting sign-in on the sign-in sheet located outside in the hall.
- **Approval of the January 13, 2014 Agenda**
The meeting agenda was approved.
- **Approval of the December 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes**
Meeting Meetings were approved.
- **Visitor Presentations**

Paseo Del Norte and I-25.....NMDOT (Michael Smelker)

Mr. Smelker started his presentation by stating that he would be interested in attending the GABAC monthly meeting in order to provide updates and get feedback.

Mr. Smelker indicated that a meeting was held on December 20, 2013 regarding a letter that was sent out to several officials. Mr. Smelker further discussed that an additional meeting would be set up by either himself or Mr. Bert Thomas at a later date. Mr. Mathias was concerned that Mr. Smelker would consider the GABAC meeting as the meeting that was promised to the group. Mr. Smelker reassured the committee that his attendance at the GABAC meeting was in no way a replacement for the promised meeting. It will be scheduled once they have made more progress on the pedestrian design. He stated that the pedestrian design had just started.

Mr. Smelker began his discussion of the pedestrian/bicycle facility design. He stated that the pedestrian/bicycle bridge has 13' of useable space for the trail. Mr. Mathias stated that he would like to see it in pictures. Mr. Smelker replied that it would be difficult to provide a picture since the plans are not finalized yet. He stated that the design team had already made adjustments to accommodate some of the comments that they previously received. Mr. Smelker went on to say that the slope had been adjusted to 6.5%. Mr. Mathias expressed that just because the slope had been reduced didn't mean that GABAC was buying off on 6.5%. Mr. Smelker stated that 6.5% meets AASHTO guidelines.

Ms. Lozoya wanted to remind the Committee that Mr. Smelker was there to keep the Committee informed and to receive feedback.

Mr. Hale commented that pedestrian and bicycle facilities should be separated. Specifically Mr. Hale would like separate facilities at crossing locations (i.e. crosswalks at Jefferson). Mr. Smelker stated that signalized right turns were added at Jefferson. The Committee indicated that they have significant concerns where cyclists are sent through crosswalks or have the potential to encounter vehicles. Those locations should be addressed. Mr. Farmer stated that he would like to see the two surface crossing eliminated and see the bridge placed in a spot that avoids crosswalks. Mr.

Hale stated that a “bicycle trail” that crosses a road via a crosswalk cannot be added onto a bike map therefore it is not a true bicycle facility with continuity. Ms. Lozoya asked if crosswalks were the main concern and Mr. Hale stated that they were. Drawings were requested for review. The Committee again requested that the crosswalks be addressed. The Committee expressed that they provided this feedback months ago and they still have not been heard.

After a lengthy discussion between the Committee and Mr. Smelker regarding whether a bike facility can indeed be called a “Bike Facility” if it requires a bicyclist to dismount to cross at a crosswalk, the Committee requested that Mr. Smelker provide the supporting Federal documentation that shows that the bike facility is in compliance with FHWA guidelines. Ms. Lozoya provided that the Design Team was looking at the areas of concern but they are not sure how to address all the concerns. She explained that with Design/Build projects that there are always developments and changes throughout the life of the project. The Paseo team is trying to accommodate everyone and keep everyone informed as the design develops. Mr. Mathias reiterated that the Committee would like to have responses to their concerns. Ms. Albert said that she appreciated the update but the plans are changing so quickly that a monthly report from Mr. Smelker may not be appropriate. She expressed a desire to work together and be more proactive not reactive.

Mr. Farmer asked if there was a line item in the bid for a Bike Facility. Mr. Smelker stated that it was a design build but he could get that information. Mr. Mathias asked Mr. Smelker to bring in the Federal guideline that shows this project meets the requirements, as well as, the budget that shows how much was set aside for the Bike Facility for the February meeting. Mr. Smelker did indicate that the criteria and specifications for the Bike Facility were online but not the budgeted dollars.

Mr. Hale asked what would happen if the bridge was moved. The Committee feels that safety is being sacrificed because no one wants to deal with the Right-of-Way at Ashley Furniture Home Store. Mr. Hale requested to see why the bridge didn’t work in the original location because the Committee has not seen any compelling evidence on why it could not work in that location. Mr. Smelker stated that the design was moving forward in the current location. He said that the other location could come later as a separate project but not with the Paseo/I-25 project.

Mr. Smelker asked for comments and Mr. Mathias stated that the Committee did not support this design.

Bikeways and Trails Master plan.....COA Planning (Carrie Barkhurst)

Ms. Barkhurst wanted to share the initial goals for the Master plan. She stated that Planning has a goal of completing the document by February, receiving comments by April, going to the EPC in June and to City Council by August.

Ms. Barkhurst said that she had run a small sample utilizing the Project Prioritization that MRCOG utilizes. She made a map as an example of how the prioritization would work. She requested feedback from the Committee to see if they felt the Project Prioritization made sense and whether we should use it for the Master plan. She provided a handout and requested comment.

Ms. Barkhurst discussed the handout. She said that the Prioritization has three goals. Mr. Mathias interrupted that he understood the need to prioritize but that this method of prioritization is a very “motor vehicle centric” scoring scheme. Ms. Barkhurst explained that she randomly selected a test case sample from the GFW Prioritization list just for this example. She stated that once we selected an appropriate prioritization plan that she would do the rest of the 150. She indicated that she would like to include a section that shows “Economic Benefit” but it’s hard to prioritize one facility over another. Mr. Hale agreed with Mr. Mathias that this prioritization was better suited for motor vehicles. Mr. Hale indicated that he would like to see something that was safety focused because what is dangerous for a bike isn’t necessarily the same for a pedestrian. Ms. Barkhurst reiterated that if this prioritization plan was not useful then we didn’t have to use it. Ms. Barkhurst expressed that she would like to keep the dialogue open between GABAC and Planning so that we can address the Committee’s needs as best as possible.

- **Announcements**

Mr. Mathias discussed the meeting held at Senator Udall’s office in December regarding Paseo and I-25. Senator Udall's office communicated that a commitment was made to reach out to the cycling community and arrange a meeting in January. At that meeting Mr. Bert Thomas asked about the Community’s feelings on an 8% slope. Mr. Mathias stated that he told Mr. Bert Thomas that he didn’t think 8% would work because it would be a slow, mixed use facility. Mr. Mathias would like to put a list together of things that the Community would want to see from the Project. He would like to vote on that list when it is complete.

- **Public Comment**

Mr. Mathias recognized Mr. John Barncastle. Mr. Barncastle shared that he attended the AMAFCA Board Meeting. He noted that three of the members are cyclists. He stated that he also told Kurt Wagner that there was gravel on the North Pino. He said that AMAFCA committed to cleaning it up. He also discovered that the City maintains the Bear Canyon Arroyo. He stated that a bulldozer has been cracking the trail. He said that James Lewis was going to contact Storm Drain Maintenance to discuss. He also stated that he would not like to see gravel next to any trail.

Mr. Mathias then recognized Mr. Julian Butt. Mr. Butt shared that the Esperanza Community Bike Shop was doing well. He said that 36 people have come in. He said that there is a Mechanical Class on January 24. He also wanted to share that preliminary meetings have started for Bike to Work Day which is on May 16.

Mr. Mathias then recognized Ms. Jennifer Buntz. Ms. Buntz shared that a Bike Swap would occur on February 1st. She said that it is sponsored by Duke City Wheelmen and would benefit Noon Day.

- **Staff Reports**

Ms. Sholtis did not have any.

- **Discussion/Action Items**

Acceleration/Deceleration Lanes.....Scott Hale, GABAC

Mr. Hale stated that he would like to table this item until next month in order to discuss the list of items desired for Bikeways & Trails Master Plan.

Bikeways & Trails Master Plan Comments.....Steve Mathias, GABAC Chair

Mr. Mathias stated that Mr. Hillsman and Mr. Hale had provided him comments for the Master Plan. Mr. Mathias would like to vote on the list. So far the list addresses these items:

1. All construction projects shall conform to standards.
2. All Intersections shall have bicycle sensors.
3. Parking shall be prohibited in bike lanes.
4. All lanes that don't conform shall be removed from the map.

Mr. Hale said it was very important to look at deficiencies, gaps and lanes that aren't wide enough. He would like to see those deficiencies be addressed by policy. Mr. Mathias stated that if the Master plan was not removing bad lanes that the current bike lanes could be categorized by deficiencies.

Mr. Stiebler asked that sweeping be addressed. Ms. Barkhurst stated that the plan will recommend maintenance policies. Mr. Nelson said that he would also see the Postal Service, Trash Collection and Parking also addressed in the plan.

Mr. Mathias requested that regular bike counts be instituted in multiple locations to get meaningful data for prioritization. The Committee would also like to see Bike Facilities on some interval or grid.

Mr. Mathias stated that he would send Ms. Barkhurst the list but that it was not official. Mr. Hale stated that he would like to see the comments shared among members. Mr. Mathias stated that it would violate the Open Meetings Act; although he does not feel it applies to the Committee.

Ms. Sholtis said that the City could not participate in GABAC if the Open Meeting Act was not followed. Mr. Mathias said that the City would not get Federal Funding without GABAC. Ms. Sholtis stated that the assumption that the City would not receive Federal Funding was incorrect. Mr. Mathias stated that we would see and adjourned the meeting.

- **Old Business/Watch List Items**

Mr. Mathias did not address.

- **Open Discussion**

None was had.

- **Adjourn (6:30)**