



Richard J. Berry, Mayor

GABAC



GREATER ALBUQUERQUE BICYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT, PO BOX 1293

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103

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MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2014

Members Present

Steve Mathias, Chair
Douglas Stiebler
Ronald Nelson
Bruce Farmer

Scott Hale, Vice Chair
Ed Hillsman
Diane Albert
Moises Gonzalez

Staff Present

Carrie Barkhurst, COA
Planning
Debbie Bauman, COA DMD
Chuck Malogoodi, COA P&R

Members Absent

Larry Gilbert

Guests

Michael Smelker, NMDOT
Albert Thomas, BHI
Jennifer Buntz
John Thomas
Lysee Mitri
Katie Richardson
Nathan Masek
Stephenn Verchinski
Dan Majewski
Diane Dolan
John Hooker
Hal Stevens
John Myers
Marianna Padilla

Julie Luna, MRCOG
John Barncastle
Joe Gallegos
Steve Horchemer
Hans Barson
Jeus Deichwaner
Tom Parker
Carolyn Donnelly
Andrew Webb
Susan Johnson
Dianne Cress
Keith King
Kelly Sanchez
Jeffery Hagermann

- **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 March 10, 2014 Agenda**
The meeting agenda was approved; however it was also suspended in order to be able to take public comment on the Paseo/I-25 Project with respect to bicycle/pedestrian aspects.
- **Approval of the February 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes**
Meeting minutes were approved.
- **Visitor Presentation**

PDN/I-25 Interchange Reconstruction Project Update.....
Michael Smelker, NMDOT and Albert Thomas, BHI

Mr. Smelker introduced Albert Thomas, BHI. A 25 minute presentation was made and the audience was requested to hold their questions and comments until after the presentation.

Mr. Thomas provided an overview of the total project and then focused the presentation on the bicycle/pedestrian accommodations that are included. The City's current Bikeways and Trails Masterplan, along with the Long Range Bicycles and Trails Map of the region prepared by the Mid Region Council of Governments were reviewed and the project location on both these visuals was identified for the audience. The Paseo project will be providing a connection from the existing bicycle/trail facilities on the east side of the Interstate to those on the west side of the Interstate.

The Paseo project will be providing new access from where the existing path ends near Target that will tie in to the north and going across the Frontage Road with signalized crosswalks. There will be a separate path that continues to PDN with a grade-separated bridge structure. Users would stay on this separate path with a crossing of the Frontage Road. Movements for bicycle and pedestrians will be able to go over the interstate on a separate structure. The separate path will follow along existing right-of-way until Headline. Headline will be reconstructed with as a signalized intersection with marked crosswalks to allow users to continue to travel to the west. At Headline the trail will turn to the south to the internal street system.

This is a change to the design since the last presentation to the public, where concern was expressed at the public crossings and the need at that time for users to go through the Jefferson

intersection. This change in the project to move the bicycle/trail connection to a signalized intersection was made based on feedback from the public and in an effort to address concerns. Additional accommodations have been made for ADA-users including a separate path from bicycle traffic that will have a less steep grade on the west side.

Another refinement to the design is the width of the trail. Previous comments regarding the need to separate bicyclists and pedestrians has been accommodated with this change. The multi-use path will be 8-feet wide and the bicycle facility will be 10-feet wide and have a 6-foot wide sidewalk. Bicyclists will not have to mix with the pedestrian traffic unless it is by choice.

- **Announcements**

Mr. Mathias provided comments from the Chair, expressing his frustration that the GABAC meeting was being used to discuss just the Paseo project. He also continued with a summary of his specific concerns with the revised concept. He wanted clarification that with the current design, bicyclists will be forced to use 5 crosswalks at the intersections and that this was not desirable. Mr. Mathias polled the audience asking for a show of hands for how many people stop at the crosswalk before they cross and the majority of those in attendance do not stop and dismount before crossing the crosswalk. The meeting was then opened to comment from the audience.

- **Public Comment**

Mr. Mathias recognized Mr. Scott Hale. Mr. Hale stated that crosswalks are barriers to bicyclists.

Mr. Mathias recognized Mr. Moises Gonzales. Mr. Gonzales stated that crosswalks are still an issue that that bike should not be treated like pedestrians. He does not want to get off his bike to cross a crosswalk.

Mr. Mathias recognized Mr. Scott Hale who expressed the opinion that bikes don't seem to matter significantly at the risk of the project. This is a vehicular-driven project.

Mr. Ron Nelson questioned whether or not there was federal funding on this project and was reminded that there is.

Mr. Bruce Farmer stated that he felt federal funding should not be spent on the bicycle component since there isn't one.

Mr. Moises Gonzales stated that the accommodations are useless for bicyclists as a transportation mode if they have to get off their bikes to cross intersections.

Mr. Ed Hillsman discussed his concern that the presentation stressed that right turns would not be permitted on red for motor vehicles exiting I-25 north to head east on Paseo, but that at other interchanges he has seen vehicle operators routinely ignore the posted prohibitions of right-turn-on-red. He is not convinced that the prohibition planned at the I-25/Paseo interchange would be respected or enforced, and therefore is not convinced that the crossing would be as safe as the presenter indicated, either for pedestrians or for bicyclists. There is also a prohibition against bicyclists riding in crosswalks to cross streets which isn't enforced either.

Ms. Diane Albert stated that she has been attending these meetings for six years and wanted to tell the team that she thinks they are working hard to address things; however, she does not like the current design. We should *not* be spending money for something that no one will use and that isn't safe.

Mr. Steve Mathias questioned how bikes get from north to south and that the design is short-sighted and not safe.

Ms. Jennifer Buntz asked who established the City guidelines for this project. Mr. Thomas replied that the design criteria are established by AASHTO.

Mr. Dan Majewski stated that what is currently planned should not be called multi-modal accommodations, because they aren't. This project is not respecting bicyclists.

Mr. John Barncastle provided an update on the AMAFCA gravel issue on the trail. Mr. Mathias asked the audience to only comment on Paseo and refrain from other types of comments.

Mr. Mathias stated that it was not his idea to use GABAC as the forum for comment on the Paseo project.

Mr. Joe Gallegos wondered why there wasn't more coordination with GABAC.

Mr. Jame (inaudible) stated that he is familiar with Design Build process and understands the constraints and that there is not an infinite budget, but no one is going to use this facility as currently designed.

(unidentified male) said that he applauded all the efforts to try to balance competing needs and users. Build it and they will come. It is time to stop arguing and move forward.

Mr. Stephen Verchinski stated that in his opinion the facility is substandard and not acceptable because safety is severely compromised.

- **Staff Reports**

None

- **Discussion/Action Items**

The only item discussed at the meeting was the bicycle and pedestrian facilities associated with the PDN/I-25 Project.

- **Adjourn (6:35 p.m.)**