



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

November 4, 2013

Members Present

Steve Mathias, Chair

Scott Hale, Vice Chair

Ed Hillsman

Ronald Nelson

Douglas Stiebler

Diane Albert

Moises Gonzales

Staff Present

Melissa Lozoya, COA DMD

Tony Abbo, NMDOT

Jason Coffey, NMDOT

Jessica Griffin, NMDOT

Jim Arrowsmith, COA DMD

Debbie Bauman, COA DMD

Diane Sholtis, COA DMD

Chuck Malagodi, COA Parks

Members Absent

Bruce Farmer

Guests

Savina Garcia

Danny Zamarripa

Jennifer Bunts

- **Mr. Mathias called the meeting to order** (4:32 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 November 4, 2013 Agenda**
The meeting agenda was approved. Mr. Mathias requests that the agenda be sent out by Melissa to the committee prior to the meeting.

- **Approval of the October 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes**
Meeting Meetings were approved.
- **Visitor Presentations**

**Intersection Improvements.....Wilson & Co/COA
(Savina Garcia, WC and Jim Arrowsmith, COA)**

Mr. Arrowsmith from the City of Albuquerque gave a brief description of the project and then asked Ms. Garcia to elaborate with the presentation. Ms. Garcia stated that six intersections had been selected for evaluation based on crash data, signal timing, number of lanes, lane continuity, time to cross, etc. The six intersections identified were: Indian School/San Mateo, Indian School/Louisiana, Indian School/Wyoming, San Mateo/Osuna, San Mateo/Constitution and Central/Alvarado. These intersections were selected based on the fact that they were generally similar in nature with a minor Arterial crossing with a major Arterial. Ms. Garcia requested feedback on what the Committee members experience as cyclists through these particular intersections.

Mr. Mathias, asked about the list that was provided to Gannett Fleming West (GFW) during the gathering of information for the Bikeways and Trails Masterplan. He wanted to know what was going to be done with the list and did not understand why the City is hiring consultants when there are federal guidelines already in place to identify how the intersections should accommodate cyclists. Ms. Garcia agreed that guidelines do exist however she will provide a variety of options that may fall within the City's budget.

Mr. Hale commented that he was not happy with the intersections that were selected and he felt that it was unprofessional. Mr. Mathias echoed his sentiment. Mr. Hale then asked what the criteria was for selecting the six intersections and why the list the Committee provided to GFW was ignored. Mr. Arrowsmith explained that he had a large list but that he was basing it on the San Mateo/Indian School model and concerns from the public. Mr. Mathias asked why crash data was not utilized for prioritizing the intersections. Mr. Stiebler stated that he felt that the evaluation of the intersections was not consistent; the Project should identify intersections with the most accidents and ask what those intersections have in common. At that point Ms. Lozoya asked for input on the intersections that had been identified.

With regard to the San Mateo/Osuna intersection, Ms. Albert noted that she felt motorists were confused; she would like uniform treatments at the intersection. Mr. Stiebler also stated that going east on Osuna is difficult because of the hill. Mr. Hillsman said that more time was needed for the eastbound movement because it was particularly difficult if cyclists were behind cars.

Mr. Nelson requested that ideas and concepts be brought forward for feedback from the committee.

Mr. Hale discussed that traveling East and West on Indian School around Uptown was difficult, particularly to make a left turn. He requested a better route around. Mr. Hillsman further explained that he has noticed that signage vanishes in that area. Mr. Stiebler also shared that there were no bicycle accommodations at San Pedro and Indian School.

Mr. Gonzalez asked why the six intersections were selected. He expressed frustration with the process. He felt that these intersections seemed random and questioned why the City wasn't focusing on intersections where cyclists are in danger. He stated that he did not understand the process. Mr. Arrowsmith attempted to explain that the intersections were selected based on similarities and public input. Mr. Mathias stated that he felt there were better and more important intersections that should be evaluated. Ms. Garcia asked for any additional comments that the committee might have and no further comment was received.

- **Announcements**

Mr. Mathias wanted to share information regarding the Tramway/Roy Rd Reconstruction. He stated that the road was going to have full width reconstruction rather than partial paving. Mr. Abbo from the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) was present and asked to comment. He discussed the continued work the NMDOT was planning for Tramway/Roy and that the new work would be from edge of pavement to edge of pavement, bridge replacement, no rumble strips and would provide bicycle facilities. Mr. Mathias asked how bicycles would be handled during construction. Mr. Abbo stated that the new bridge is on the north and the traffic should continue to operate as it is now.

Mr. Nelson asked when the project would start. Mr. Abbo stated that construction would begin sometime between December 2014 and January 2015. Mr. Hale asked if it was a combined Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility and Mr. Abbo stated that they were separate.

Mr. Mathias informed the Committee that there would be a public meeting on November 7th at 6 PM in Bernalillo to discuss the Corridor Study for 550 through Bernalillo

Mr. Mathias discussed projects that he had requested come before the committee;

- Railrunner Montañño location – Mr. Mathias has stated that he has tried for two months to get someone present information on the project but he has not been successful.
- 50 Mile Loop – Mr. Mathias requested a presentation for this month and reminded the Committee that Mr. Riordan had promised that all projects would come before the Committee. He stated that he would ask again for someone to come next month. Ms. Lozoya noted that she would speak with Mr. Riordan but that she believed he was speaking about projects within DMD and this project was being handled by the Mayor's Office. She also notified the Committee that they were not at 30% but said she would contact the project team. Mr. Mathias indicated that the Mayor's Office had stated that public comment could be provided through other avenues. He believes that they are deliberately avoiding the Committee.

Ms. Albert wanted to share that the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRCOG) was holding a public involvement meeting on November 7th at MRCGO to discuss the Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan Kickoff. They are kicking off the plan called "Futures 2040". Ms. Albert will e-mail out the information. She further informed the Committee that as a Board Member of the League of American Bicyclists, where she attended a strategic planning meeting in Park City, Utah. She felt that it was embarrassing for her to be a Board Member when New Mexico is ranked 48th in Bicycling Friendly States. In other cities, the Staff doesn't ask a board; they have standards and they just do it.

Mr. Hale shared that there was a NACTO “Designing Cities” Conference last week. He asked if anyone from the City had attended. He believes it’s important that the City attend to share notes with other cities. He also wanted to share that his wife was recently hurt while riding on the Bosque Trail. He would like everyone to pay attention to the safety needs. He added that he is disappointed with what we’re doing with the community because innocent people are being maimed.

Mr. Stiebler wanted to point out that NMDOT is doing a good job in our District.

- **Public Comment**

Mr. Malagodi with the City of Albuquerque stated that he is planning to do a crash study with his Bike Safety Education Program if he gets approval from the State. UNM has agreed to do the study to understand the various reasons why crashes occur. Mr. Mathias asked who requested the study. Mr. Malagodi stated that he had enhancement funding available for use so he requested to see if he could use it for this study. Mr. Mathias stated that the University of New Mexico already gathers this information and handles the information for the State. Mr. Malagodi acknowledged that they did but he wanted someone to actually sit down and categorize the data.

Secondly, Mr. Malagodi wanted to inform the Committee that there has been a UNM Graduate class for Alternative Studies that has actually taken on Bike Share for the last 2 semesters. He would like for them to do a presentation to GABAC and possibly the Mayor to share the information they have learned and the possibility of using Bike Share in Albuquerque. Mr. Mathias said he was aware of an on-campus Bike Share study and he asked Mr. Malagodi if it was the same thing. Mr. Malagodi stated that there was an agreement on campus when South Campus was built as part of an Alternative Energy Plan but he has not been able to get a clear answer from anyone on campus.

- **Staff Reports**

Ms. Lozoya shared that there is a West Central Public Meeting tomorrow from 6:30 to 8. It will be a discussion and presentation on information regarding West Central between Rio Grande and San Pasqual.

- **Discussion/Action Items**

Paseo/I-25.....Steve Mathias, GABAC Chair

Mr. Mathias presented a letter that he prepared regarding the Paseo/I-25 pedestrian/bicycle facilities. He stated that the Committee has discussed the Paseo/I-25 project at prior meetings and he feels that the Committee is being ignored. Mr. Mathias thought it would be beneficial to write a letter to Senator Tom Udall, who sits on the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Nelson stated that he did not attend last month’s meeting but has read the meeting minutes. Prior to last month’s meeting he had received an e-mail from Mr. Hale and Ms. Albert that she and Mr. Hale had met with the consultant involved. He gathered from the e-mail that there were some positive things that had come out of that meeting. Alternatives had apparently been presented and he just wants to get up to speed with where the project is now. Mr. Mathias said he could not comment on the meeting that occurred between Ms. Albert, Mr. Hale and the consultant but he stated that he could only comment on what was said at GABAC and at the public meeting. He continued to say that there were no options or alternatives. Mr. Mathias stated that at the previous

meeting Mr. Smelker (NMDOT Paseo/I-25 Project Manager) stated that anyone could provide comment but that the location of the bridge was set.

Ms. Albert said that she has e-mails dating back to 2008 and she indicated that the project has changed numerous times. She stated that she and Mr. Hale had a nice meeting with Burt Thomas (Bohannon-Huston, Inc. Project Manager) but despite that she was not happy with the plan as it was presented. Mr. Hale explained that he believes the problem is that streets are crossed several times in combined crosswalk/bike facility. He was told that all three bidders bid the project with the bridge in the same location. Mr. Hale stated that Mr. Thomas indicated that the team could try and reduce the number of crossings. Mr. Mathias added that Mr. Thomas has promised detailed pictures and plans two meetings ago and the Committee has yet to see them. To date, the committee has received very vague, 10,000-ft level high picture. It is unacceptable.

Ms. Gonzalez wanted to add that one cannot actually ride through the project when it is complete because you have to dismount and walk in order to cross through crosswalks legally. Mr. Hale was told plans will change but Mr. Smelker told him that the bridge was ordered in October. The key point in the letter he noticed was the reference to the I-40/Coors bridge or the Big I and he does not want another bridge like that. Mr. Hale extended his support of the letter because it could open the discussion on how projects are being moved forward. He feels that contacting someone on the Transportation Committee or affiliated with MAP 21 would help get a voice heard. Mr. Hale feels like the Committee, again, is not getting heard or included in the process.

Ms. Albert extended her support of the letter and motioned that the letter be sent. Mr. Hale seconded the motion. Mr. Mathias stated that he plans to copy Mr. Ken McCloud, the legal specialist. Ms. Albert recommended that it be done by e-mail. Mr. Hale suggested copying Senator Martin Heinrich's office. Mr. Hale recommended that the Mayor's office be copied as well. Mr. Mathias closed by saying that he will copy the entire New Mexico congressional delegation, the Mayor's Office, NMDOT, the President of City Council and the appropriate Councilors. Mr. Mathias motioned for the vote and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mathias presented a second letter to the Department of Transportation administration regarding Partial Paving. Mr. Mathias went on to discuss the letter which essentially asks the DOT to institute a Statewide policy that prohibits Partial Paving. Mr. Mathias stated that the Committee had more time to evaluate this letter because timing is not as critical. Mr. Hale requested that he be allowed to comment next month. Mr. Mathias asked that comments be sent to him and he would have a revision for the December meeting.

Ms. Albert would like to commend Tony Abbo for all his help. He has been great with his communication and education. Mr. Abbo provided Ms. Albert with contacts for District 6. There was a discussion regarding partial pavement in District 3 between Ms. Albert and Mr. Mathias. Ms. Albert asked Mr. Abbo if there was a way to eliminate the practice of partial paving. Mr. Stiebler asked if there was a policy in District 3 to eliminate partial paving. Mr. Abbo stated that there are two factions: Maintenance and Construction. The Construction side in District 3 will do edge to edge repaving but he noted that some things do fall through the cracks in some areas. He said that this sort of action will require a culture change, a policy change. He introduced Ms. Jessica Griffin from the General Office in Santa Fe.

Ms. Griffin indicated that all District Offices are getting comments from cyclists regarding the Partial Paving. The General Office (GO) is getting asked by the Districts how to improve their

bicycle friendliness so they are making efforts. The GO is in the process of reassembling the Bicycle Pedestrian Equestrian (BPE) Committee again and have that be an avenue to guide policies and procedures. There will be opportunities for the public to be involved. Mr. Mathias is grateful for any help they can receive. He reiterated that the GO please consider having a statewide policy for prohibiting Partial Pavement. Ms. Griffin said that there is a cost impact to adding the shoulder pavement. Mr. Mathias asked about the argument that those roads were built with those shoulders. He said if it can't be maintained then why are they being built that way. There was discussion regarding what the perceived expectation was of the DOT (i.e, that EVERY road has a 5' shoulder for cyclist) and what the real expectation is. The Committee commented that they have NEVER asked that every road have that shoulder. Ms. Griffin stated that the GO is trying to make positive changes and trying to make the best use of the BPE. Things are slowly changing and evolving. Mr. Hale said the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) should take note. He said that we should be off the list. He does not feel that it should take large amounts of money to improve our status but he does feel that people on the BPE are paid by the "organization" so how can it provide impartial feedback. He felt that it needed to have private citizens on it to provide honest feedback. Ms. Griffin stated that the BPE operated as Mr. Hale suggested but they struggled getting things done because that avenue wasn't working. She stated that the Transportation Commission wishes to proceed down this path.

Ms. Albert wanted to share two comments. The first is that the Chair of the Transportation Commission is Pete Ron who as Secretary of Transportation instituted Partial Paving in both NM and Missouri. She is not hopeful about the direction. The second is that instituting best practices from other states is not likely to happen. Mr. Abbo wanted to share that he does not want credit for the Tramway partial paving being done. He stated that Ms. Albert is the true reason it was done. He suggested that the Committee continue to work with DOT staff to make positive changes.

Ms. Griffin expressed an understanding of the frustrations. She said that it will take a major culture change for things to happen, however, change is happening. She said she would appreciate comments and input Jessica.Griffin@State.nm.us. Mr. Mathias invited Ms. Griffin back and Mr. Hale requested that she attend every meeting. Ms. Griffin said that she would send someone if needed but probably not every meeting.

Gorilla Boards/Bus Boards.....Chuck Malagodi (COA)

Mr. Malagodi started by saying he felt that the comments provided had gone a long way and that these boards were much better than the original.

A member of the Public pointed out that Spanish Speakers are generally reading at a 4th grade level and that the board should be simple enough to address them.

Mr. Malagodi stated that, yes, he had spoken to a Spanish speaker/teacher and they had changed it. He said that he also verified with a native speaker. Mr. Gonzalez said that the Spanish was too complex and that, also, the use of "van" might be a better word.

Ms. Albert asked if there was a way to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign. Mr. Malagodi talked to the UNM Civil Engineering Department about evaluating the effectiveness. It could be a project at UNM but that would be expensive. Mr. Hale said that he liked the boards and asked that

we increase frequency and broaden. Mr. Malagodi stated that 10 bus shelters are free and will proceed with the boards as presented with minor changes.

Bollards.....GABAC/Mr. Hale

Mr. Mathias mentioned that Mr. Hale wanted to have Bollards on the agenda but Mr. Mathias stated that he did not agree. He stated that the discussion was initiated by a GARTC member and that GARTC should deal with it.

Mr. Hale explained that he had attended a GARTC meeting where Mr. John Thomas explained how the discussion originated from his complaint to the Mayor's Office. Mr. Hale's impression is that it is a GARTC issue and he would like to see GABAC spend their time elsewhere. Mr. Mathias stated that he will not add it on the agenda.

- **Adjourn (6:24)**