



City of Prescott

Pedestrian, Bicycle & Traffic Advisory Committee

July 10, 2023 | 9:30 AM
Public Works Conference Room
433 N. Virginia Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bill Fanelli called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Bill Fanelli, Chairman
Michelle Schaefer, Vice Chair
Troy Cook, Member
David Fero, Member
Kent Hart, Member
Jim Knaup, Member
Joe Scott, Member

3. OPEN CALL TO PUBLIC

The Pedestrian, Bicycle & Traffic Advisory Committee welcomes public engagement and residents may comment and address the Committee on matters NOT included on the agenda during the Open Call to the Public.

No public engagement.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of June 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIRWOMAN SCHAEFER TO APPROVE THE JUNE 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES; MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER COOK: PASSED (7-0)

B. Presentation and Discussion Regarding Pedestrian Safety on Ruth Street & Gail Gardner

Councilmember Moore opened discussion regarding pedestrians traveling to and from the shopping centers on Gail Gardner Way, from the area of Ruth Street and Whetstine. He was contacted by a constituent from Samaritan Village, who voiced concerns about no traffic controls, no marked crosswalks, and no sidewalks on either side of Whetstine for pedestrians. Black Drive and Gail Gardner Way also do not have sidewalks present.

Public Works Transportation Manager, Ian Mattingly, discussed the area of concern. In the opposite direction, towards Willow Creek Road, Whetstine continues to Gail Gardner and into the entrance of the Walmart shopping center. He stated that the City's sidewalk program is focused on trip hazard elimination and repairs, and there is not enough funding within the program for major sidewalk installation projects. He continued by explaining that sometimes there are special projects that fund sidewalks, but they are rare.

Chairman Fanelli inquired about the approximate cost to fund a project like this. Deputy Public Works Director, Gwen Rowitsch replied that staff could look into a cost estimate. She commented that the American Legion & Prescott Library Sidewalk project, for example, totaled about \$800,000. Deputy Director Rowitsch explained that staff comprehensively looks at projects to determine whether or not potential future projects could result in having to tear up the recent work, and how soon that may occur.

Councilmember Moore commented that if a sidewalk project moves forward, the north side is preferred, since the foliage on the south side causes ice from shadows in the winter.

Per Mr. Mattingly, Gail Gardner Way at Black Drive has volumes and speeds low enough to consider the installation of a marked crosswalk at that intersection. He stated, however, that a marked crossing at Willow Creek Road and Whetstine is not recommended, based on volume and speeds combined with multiple lanes of traffic to cross in each direction. An enhanced pedestrian signal is also not recommended for Whetstine and Willow Creek Road as the number of pedestrians crossing the roadway will not meet the warrant conditions; there is also a signal in close proximity at Black Drive. Councilmember Moore inquired about having a sidewalk added on Black Drive between Willow Creek Road and Gail Gardner Way, knowing a potential sidewalk on Whetstine would take time. Member Jim Knaup cautioned about the difficulty crossing Gail Gardner Way, east to west, with nonstop traffic. Mr. Mattingly agreed, and added that the shopping center has difficulties in general, related to traffic, including that intersection.

It was agreed that staff will bring a marked crosswalk layout concept for Gail Gardner Way and Black Drive to share at next month's meeting. If approved during the August meeting, the crosswalk would likely be installed in the fall.

Chairman Fanelli concluded by adding that the Safe Routes to School program may be helpful with this situation as well.

This item was for discussion only; no formal action was taken.

C. Presentation and Update From Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO).

- Active Transportation Plan Status Update

Ms. Stotler was not available in person to provide an update; however, Mr. Mattingly relayed the following from her:

CYMPO is hoping to confirm a new date for the Active Transportation Plan kick off meeting, to fall within the last week of July. CYMPO plans to communicate with the whole stakeholder network this week on the confirmed date.

This item was for discussion only; no formal action was taken.

D. Presentation and Discussion Regarding Federal Grant Opportunities for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements.

- Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Application Status

The SS4A grant application request was submitted, per Chairman Fanelli for a combination supplemental safety action plan. The first part of the plan includes a study analyzing vulnerable road users (pedestrians and bicyclists). The second part is an MUTCD study, analyzing permissive or permitted left turns. Mr. Mattingly displayed a map of area discussed in last month's meeting.

Member Knaup requested additional information about the grant. Chairman Fanelli explained that last year's opportunity included planning only. This year includes both planning & demonstration grants, which are typically lower amounts, and implementation, which is typically more expensive but more competitive. Mr. Mattingly added that an approved action plan is part of the implementation grant requirements, therefore the City does qualify at this time to pursue an implementation grant.

The grant application request submitted by Chairman Fanelli includes a sub-study, which would capture part of the area being covered in the Active Community Transportation - Unified Plan (ACT-UP) CYMPO Study, per Mr. Mattingly. That data could then be used next year as part of an SS4A implementation grant application to help fund the project cost for sidewalks in that area. Chairman Fanelli will continue to monitor the application status, and keep the committee apprised.

- USDOT Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

Recently, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides states, local governments, and tribal governments with grants to support project development, leading to future applications for USDOT credit or grant programs.

Per Mr. Mattingly, CYMPO staff reviewed the grant requirements and determined that only rural or tribal applicants situated outside of an Urbanized Area (UZA) with a population of 150,000 or greater are eligible to apply. The City's region does not meet rural population requirements in the urbanized Census tract. The CYMPO region population (within the City's planning boundary) does not meet the requirements for an MPO either.

It also appears that the majority of the tribal nations in greater Arizona are not qualified, as most of the larger tribes are not situated close to a UZA of 150,000 or greater (likely limits this to Maricopa and Pima counties).

This item was for discussion only; no formal action was taken.

E. Presentation and Discussion Regarding the General Plan Circulation Element

Mr. Mattingly explained the background for today's agenda item. The City's Planning staff and the General Plan Committee (GPC) have begun a process to update the City's 2015 General Plan by 2025. As part of this effort, each section of the Plan, including the Circulation Element, will be reviewed and modified. As the City's standing committee on pedestrian, bicycle and traffic issues, the PBTAC's input is important in forming the draft circulation element for the GPC to consider. The goal of the GPC and planning staff is to have Public Works staff present a workshop to the committee in October, with the proposed draft Circulation Element. Based on this schedule, the PBTAC has until their September meeting to refine and provide a recommended version. Deputy Director Rowitsch added that recommendations would then be on a ballot for any changes to implement.

Chairman Fanelli requested clarification regarding the road classifications, for example, major and minor collectors in relation to the General Plan Circulation Element. Mr. Mattingly explained the slight changes, and how those relate to the General Engineering Standards (GES). He explained to the committee that the General Plan has good information, and inquired of the members if any major or minor changes should be recommended.

Member Knaup commented that he likes the format, as it is conversational and easy to read and understand. He added that it is interesting to see a ten-year old version with goals and strategies that have not yet been met, so those need to be updated. The document also has some opportunities for this group to consider.

Mr. Mattingly agreed that the document needs to be brought up to date. Some of the maps would change, depending on the input and recommendations received. The list of projects within the General Plan cover a lot of turn pocket layouts and other changes based on studies.

Councilmember Rusing referenced areas on the displayed map, and commented on benefits and concerns with changes that have occurred over the past 10 years, and how that may affect the General Plan update.

Chairman Fanelli inquired of Mr. Mattingly and Deputy Director Rowitsch what the best method would be for gathering feedback for possible recommendations.

Per Deputy Director Rowitsch, a good method would be to analyze the Circulation Element of the General Plan in sections and gather comments prior to the next PBTAC meeting. During the next meeting, staff can then engage with the members of the committee and have a dialogue.

Members inquired about trails, greenways, open space, environmental and ecological elements. Although those are not part of the Circulation Element, those may be reviewed at a later date per Deputy Director Rowitsch.

This item was for discussion only; no formal action was taken.

F. Presentation and Discussion Regarding Ongoing Project Updates

- Cortez & Union Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

Installation is scheduled for July through mid-August, for the Cortez & Union Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB). Crews are finishing up the pole installation.

- Sheldon & Cortez Turn Pocket

The conflicting two-way left turn lane striping has been removed, and a dedicated left-turn layout is in place for the Sheldon & Cortez turn pocket. Striping is to occur in late July.

- SR89 Roundabout Yield Flasher

New flashers are installed and working for northbound and southbound SR89 at Willow Lake Road (SR89 Roundabout). A 24-hour operation is being used. Signage for roundabouts has changed, and sizes increased to 48" (from 36").

This item was for discussion only; no formal action was taken.

5. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Knaup inquired about signage for the bike corral, located next to Colt Grill in downtown Prescott. He commented that he has noticed motorcycles parking within the spaces for bicycles. Per Mr. Mattingly, bike parking signs have not yet been installed so that may improve the situation. Staff is looking at late August for installation. Staff liaison Marikay Whisenand commented that green paint, the type used for bicycle lanes, may aid in recognizing bicycle parking areas.

The City's Effluent Tank and Pipeline and SR89 Widening Project has a virtual meeting room with opportunities to watch informational videos and provide feedback through a survey. The survey link will be emailed to members post-meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2023.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 am.



BILL FANELLI, Chairman

ATTEST:



MARIKAY WHISENAND, Administrative Specialist

8-14-2023

Date