



SIERRA VISTA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY, MARCH 2, 2021



MEETING LOCATION:

Sierra Vista Public Works Bld.
Training Room
401 Giulio Cesare Ave.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

MEETING DATE AND TIME:

March 2, 2021
10:00 AM



Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cochise County Bicycle Advocates: Kathy Buonocre
Regional Bicycle and Running Club: Steve Scheumann
Whetstone/Huachuca City Rep: Kara Harris (*Telephonically*)
ADOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordination: Donna Lewandowski (*Telephonically*)

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Buena HS Mountain Bike Club: John Healy
Cochise County Health and Social Services: Carl Hooper
Hereford/Palominos Rep: Byron Baker

STAFF:

SVMPO Administrator: Karen L. Lamberton, AICP

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Pregler, Senior Planner, Sierra Vista Community Development

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The BPAC meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

This was an informational item.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES of November 11, 2020.

BPAC attendees reviewed and accepted the November 11, 2020 BPAC Regular Meeting Summary. *As per the consensus of the BPAC members acceptance of meeting summaries is desired rather than formal action to approve meeting minutes. Revisions will be made by SVMPO staff as directed by the BPAC attendees.*

This was a discussion/consensus item.

NEW BUSINESS: PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

3. MULTI-USE PATH AND TRAIL GUIDELINES

A topic raised at the last BPAC meeting was about existing statutes related to uses allowed on multi-use pathways. Information was transmitted to BPAC members regarding the current A.R.S. § 28-2516 statutes. Concern was expressed about all of the different definitions of “electrically” powered devices that are allowed or might be allowed. From golf carts to powered skateboards, there are simply a lot of competing types of uses possible. It was also noted that some of these options do provide a critical transportation link for those with disabilities. Speed limits on these paths were discussed and safety implications of a commuter bicycle rider that can reach speeds of over 20 mph easily vs those traveling much slower vs those that can travel much faster with electronic assist devices.

Finding a balance between recreational uses, commuter uses and alternative uses, attendees felt, would be challenging. Additional discussion on this item is desired. It was also noted that it easier to define uses before they become so entrenched that it is difficult to then restrict them.

This was an information item. No action was taken on this item.

4. SVMPO LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Public Input, Draft LRTP Sections and Maps

A key component of the regional long-range transportation plan update includes the multi-modal element of bicycle and pedestrian transportation options. BPAC members noted that alternative mode projects often are overlooked and dedicated projects, with costs estimates and dedicated funding are important elements to emphasize. It was suggested that smaller projects be looked at, “low hanging fruit” and do something, rather than nothing at all, when the larger shared-use paths or trailheads are too expensive to add to roadway projects or as stand-alone projects.

The need for set-aside funds for maintenance of these facilities was also noted. The BOAC members discussed how different types of bicycle uses might be needed in the future, or might be a part of different ways of traveling in the future.

BPAC members were encouraged to spread the word about the availability of the on-line interactive map and survey for public input. Preliminary project lists were provided for review and the Administrator requested that priorities be noted and sent back to the SVMPO for the development of the initial LRTP project list draft.

This was an information and discussion item.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & MEETING DATE/TIMES

The next BPAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 10 a.m.** The SVMPO Administrator, Karen Lamberton, noted that the focus of the May meeting would be the preliminary bicycle and pedestrian long-range transportation plan project list. Preliminary project costs are expected to be made available to BPAC members at that time, as well as some of the draft chapters for review and comment.

It was still unknown if any public meetings might be held due to the ongoing uncertainty of the impacts of the Pandemic response locally and state-wide. The Administrated also noted that reliance on virtual input has a few downsides in rural areas and outreach through personal connection important to obtain a cross-section of input from residents and users of the transportation system.

This was an information and discussion item. No action was taken on this item.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES AND GENERAL CALL TO THE PUBLIC

John Healy stated that this a pending March 20-23, 2022 large perimeter cycling event being planned in the Sierra Vista region. The ride route will go into Bisbee and back into Sierra Vista with a three-day event that is expected to bring in riders from all over southern Arizona and beyond.

The Buena Mountain Bike team was congratulated for their effects at an event held at Fort Huachuca that had 65 teams from many high schools competing.

Kathy Bunocore noted several known safety issues that the Cochise Bicycle Advocates would like the City to take a look at and consider improvements. A short discussion was then had which noted the potential need for better understand what available design standards were and the impact of ADA standards on potential projects.

Members of the Advisory Sub-Committee may not take formal action on matters not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01 (H) action taken as a result of public comment is limited to responding to any criticism, directing staff to review the matter, or scheduling the matter for discussion at a later date.

This was an information and discussion item.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned by general consent at approximately 11:43 p.m.