



SIERRA VISTA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 29, 2020



MEETING LOCATION:

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

MEETING DATE AND TIME:

September 29, 2020
10:00 AM



Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cochise County Bicycle Advocates: Kathy Buonocre
Cochise County Health and Social Services: Suzanne Hagel (*telephonically*)
Regional Bicycle and Running Club: Steve Scheumann
Hereford/Palominos Rep: Byron Baker
Whetstone/Huachuca City Rep: Kara Harris (*Telephonically*)
ADOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordination: Donna Lewandowski (*Telephonically*)

MEMBERS NOT ATTENDANCE

Buena HS Mountain Bike Club: John Healy

STAFF:

SVMPO Administrator: Karen L. Lamberton, AICP
SVMPO Civil Engineer: Dennis Donovan, P.E.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Pregler, Senior Planner, Sierra Vista Community Development
Brent Crowther, Kimley-Horn PM, Long-Range Transportation Plan Update (*Telephonically*)
Tristan Black, Michael-Baker Planner, Short-Range Transit Plan Update (*Telephonically*)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The BPAC meeting was called to order at 10:05. A quorum was present. Members and guest were introduced themselves/ their affiliations. One new BPAC member, Byron Baker, was appointed by the SVMPO Board at their Sept. 17th Board meeting, and he was welcomed to the BPAC group. Administrator Lamberton stated that she regretted inform the group that the representative for Sierra Vista, Mike Baltunis, had to resign his position with BPAC.

This was an informational item.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING SUMMARY of September 29, 2020.

Review and accepted the September 19,, 2020 BPAC Regular Meeting Minutes. *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 is a discussion/consensus item.

NEW BUSINESS: PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

3. SUN CORRIDOR TRAIL PROJECT

Administrator Lambertson advised the group that a new initiative was under development for a continuous walking/hiking pathway from Las Vegas to southwestern Arizona/Douglas, tentatively to be known as the Sun Corridor Trail. This project is modeled after the Arizona Trail and has identified champions for a state-level Board to advocate for the development of this route. It is understood that County Supervisor Peggy Judd just recently joined this Board. One of the advocates for this project apparently worked on the now completed Arizona Trail.

An introductory website has been created by the newly formed Sun Corridor Trail Alliance located at this link:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=eb88da8a7860413c8f0772146efd4851>

Attendees noted that this idea had come and gone over time. ADOT indicated that they have been looking at some Right-of-Way opportunities with Freeport McMoran to handle bicycle routes around the Lavender Pit in the Bisbee area. The sidewalk is need of repair in that areas as well. A Bisbee feasibility study is supposedly going to be released for additional study of this issue in the Fall of 2020.

This was an information and discussion item.

4. SVMPO LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE:

a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Existing and Future Conditions

The BPAC members and attendees were introduced to the just initiated Long-Range Transportation Plan Update. Kimley-Horn, with Rick Engineering and Gordley Group, have been selected as the consultant team to conduct this effort.

Brent Crowther, Project Manager for the regional Long-Range Transportation Plan led a discussion of the plan process, schedule and major tasks planned. Attendees were also provided with the most current status of known bicycle and pedestrian projects completed since the 2011 Bicycle and Safe Routes Study was approved by City of Sierra Vista Council. Information about recommendations from the 2040 Cochise County Long-Range Transportation Plan, adopted in 2017, and the Town of Huachuca City General Plan were shared.

Jeff Pregler, staff from the City's Community Development Dept. also participated to provide guidance of the City's understanding on what projects might be completed in the near-term.

Key concerns stated including obtaining details as to what exactly need to be done to complete previously identified projects, how much those projects might cost, how to identify dedicated funding, either locally or through regional or state sources, to continue improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian network. The lack of dedicated funding was of high concern among attendees, including the need to address the lack of transportation funding in general (e.g. the gas tax) would have to be resolved for any long-range transportation plan priorities to be implemented.

Several specific locations were identified for additional follow-up:

- Oakmont Connector
- Connection to Golf Links; need for bicycle signs and sight distance issues at this location
- Highway 82 width with increased freight movement on this highway and thus increased conflicts with other modes, especially with bicycle.
- Striping width on Highway 90 should be wider.

Prioritizing of projects should consider connections, closing gaps as high priorities. Safety, maintenance of existing and future routes funded, ensuring schools and high use areas are covered, shopping links, look closely at where bicyclists are traveling now. Jeff Pregler noted that in some cases some projects are part of developer agreements and would be built when the developers choose to move forward with construction at some future time.

Outreach options the group acknowledged were challenging under the COVID limitations and the likelihood of restrictions continuing into the next year. A bicycle drive-through event was suggested, possibly a connection with SunSpokes that has opened a second store in the Coronado mall area at Fry Blvd and Highway 90. No planned events are scheduled at this time. Smaller or individual rides do occur with occasional group starting up at coffee shops about the City. Possible postings of survey options at coffee shops might reach this group specifically.

This is an information and discussion item.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & MEETING DATE/TIMES

Members discussed several items they would like follow-up on or discussed in future meetings. These included:

- Who can use a multi-use path – electric bicycles on multi-use paths?
- Safety concerns with people not knowing who yields on shared/multi-use paths.
- Need for training for bicyclists and drivers: how could this be done?

The next BPAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 10 a.m.** The preliminary 2021 BPAC meeting schedule will be discussed.

This was an information and discussion item.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES AND GENERAL CALL TO THE PUBLIC

BPAC members did not have any known upcoming current events to report.

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 item.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned by general consent at approximately 11:35 p.m.