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CITY OF SANTA FÉ
BICYCLE & TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 17, 2016

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Next BTAC Meeting	September 21, 2016	

MINUTES OF THE
BICYCLE AND TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 17, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the City of Santa Fe Bicycle and Trail Advisory Committee was called to order by Member Gretchen Grogan, at approximately 5:30 p.m., on the above date, in the Roundhouse Conference Room, Market Station in the Railyard, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Joseph Abbatacola
Paul Cooley
Gretchen Grogan
James Ronald Pacheco
Shelley Robinson
Jennifer Wellington

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Joseph Maestas, Chair [excused]
Frank Herdman [excused]
Tomás Rivera [excused]

OTHERS PARTICIPATING:
Robert Siqueiros, Staff Liaison
John Romero, Traffic Division Director
Sarah Noss, SFCT
Carl Boaz, Stenographer

NOTE: All items in the Committee packets for all agenda items are incorporated herewith to these minutes by reference. The original Committee packet is on file in the Public Works Department.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Pacheco moved to approve the agenda as amended with item 7-b moved to number 4. Member Robinson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 20, 2016

Member Robinson moved to approve the minutes of July 20, 2016 as presented. Member Abbatacola seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

7. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION & ACTION

a. Re-Cap of Acequia & St Francis Drive Underpass Ground Breaking Ceremony (staff)

b. Recommendations for Sharrows at Siringo Road at St. Michael's High School (John Romero/ Rick Devine)

c. Update on Green Bike Lane pilot project (John Romero/Rick Devine)

Mr. Romero was not yet present and these were skipped over until later.

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Sarah Noss introduced herself as the new Executive Director of Santa Fe Conservation Trust.

There were no other communications from the Floor.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

a. Santa Fe Conservation Trust status report – ***packet material only*** (Tim Rogers)

Ms. Noss reported that they got funding for the GUTS work and money from the Larsen Fund for surveys and also money from the Lineberry Foundation to help with the GIS work of GUTS. So they are trying to organize that. Tomorrow, they will meet with the Trust for Public Lands for GIS data.

Mr. Rogers is also working on getting things arranged with Santa Fe Public Schools to take kids out on the trails and continuing his maintenance work.

7. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION & ACTION

a. Re-Cap of Acequia & St Francis Drive Underpass Ground Breaking Ceremony (staff)

Mr. Romero arrived. He said the contractor has been very responsive and the Consultant is on board. It is slated for June 2017 completion including drilling and caps and concrete work. Landscaping will be done in the spring. Most of this work is done at night. The underpass will be excavated after the infrastructure is in place.

Member Robinson asked if the art work would be later.

Mr. Romero agreed. He didn't know exactly what is involved in the art work. We separate out into bid alternates. He presented that to BTAC some time before.

Member Abbatacola asked if this is being done like the underpass at Zia.

Mr. Romero said Zia was done with half of the lanes closed at a time.

Member Wellington said this is the first time for this method in New Mexico. It is a model for other cities.

Mr. Romero clarified that this highway has to be open to traffic from 6 a.m. to 9 pm. The train will toot its horn when crossing this intersection. They will work at night for the superstructure. But they might have to close lanes for paving.

Member Robinson asked if bikers will be detoured on the trail.

Mr. Romero agreed and that is detailed in the plans.

Member Grogan said it was a great opening ceremony.

Mr. Romero said Mr. Pacheco gets the credit. He said School for the Deaf has been very cooperative.

b. Recommendations for Sharrows at Siringo Road at St. Michael's High School (John Romero/ Rick Devine)

Mr. Romero said he had a memo presented at the On Road Subcommittee and we determined where to put sharrows and where not to put them. We determined not to put sharrows where the parking is. If we have any kind of bike lane, a parked car would require moving into traffic. If not, they will have room to be off the road.

Member Abbatacola asked about having a striped shoulder.

Mr. Romero said it would not. Miguel Chávez Road has one. There will be signs.

Member Cooley was happy with the decision. The project is not specific to bicycles for phase 4. It is bicycle related.

Mr. Romero said the money would not be taken from bicycle funds. If it requires adding a bike lane, it will use those funds.

Member Abbatacola asked if when you go on Siringo, the bike lane just stops and after that?

Mr. Romero said it would just be a lane after that. He was hesitant to have a striped shoulder with all the parking there. It gets us to Botulph Road but getting across St. Francis in the underpass and over to Zia has pretty good connectivity there. Only the upper part is out of bicycle funds; the rest is traffic funds. It is just a stripe to get across St. Francis so it was basically from Botulph on.

They are waiting for the overlay project before doing that part. It is coordinated in the Master Plan. Repaving is already done on Carlos Rey and they will finish the gap between Yucca and Carlos Rey and hoping to do that this summer but they have to make sure Cerrillos Road is finished first. It should be done close to October so it might give them some time.

In response to Member Grogan, Mr. Romero said the $225,000 was from CIP funds and they might have some left over.

Member Cooley agreed with Mr. Romero on this one about striped shoulders.

Mr. Romero said they will have an ENN for this one and have Council involvement.

c. Update on Green Bike Lane pilot project (Mr. Romero Romero/Rick Devine)

Mr. Romero said the only data he has is that Staff got them installed. They will set up cameras to see if it works as it should and look at the wearability. They did not use thermoplastic because oil sticks to it and it just gets black. NMDOT likes thermoplastic because it is thinner.

Member Grogan asked if there are only two options.

Mr. Romero agreed, although there are several grades of them. Carlos Rey is holding up.

Member Abbatacola said on Richards Avenue, the green really shows up. We'll see how they will work. People are still on the sidewalk. Even a couple of motorcyclists got on the sidewalk when they saw the green.

Member Cooley wondered if there was any reaction from the public.
Member Grogan said some are stripes and some are more solid.

Mr. Romero said they did them differently for different scenarios. They did a portion of Carlos Rey and

the other portion of Rodeo showing bikes going through a turn. The other one was at Siringo to get into the bike lane.

At Richards, some people may have turned before the taper. It directs all cars to turn at that point. We will have to see how it works. It is at least a comfort zone for bicyclists.

Member Abbatacola observed on Camino Carlos Rey as he was going up to the fork that many times, cyclists were going the wrong way towards him.

Member Cooley noticed a few but most of those are going to the skate park. Northbound, they go straight through the light. He was a little skeptical about the cost/benefit of green lanes. The Mayor is the one who decided.

Mr. Romero said he got a lot of it for free. He wasn't sure but thought there are more effective ways.

Member Grogan wondered if the markings are contributing to the behavior we want. If not, we can do something else.

Member Wellington asked if there has been any PSA or news articles on it. It needs some public awareness. Perhaps a water bill stuffer would help.

Mr. Romero agreed. Education is hugely important. We need to teach people how to interact and understand the basic rules of the road for bicycle safety. They need to get a helmet.

Member Robinson said BTAC tried to do it through driving schools and the driver's manual. She didn't think green lanes would be in the test for a license.

Mr. Romero said green lanes only supplements what is already there; it doesn't change any regulation.

Member Pacheco recalled that 20 years ago, the City undertook a health fair and bought bikes and helmets. At that time, the City had more money and could fund those programs. It is just a funding issue. That position doesn't exist now.

Member Grogan related the driver's test work that included two questions in every test about bicycle safety. She assumed they could go back to the DMV for that.

Member Robinson thought the education work was overwhelming and that is why it went by the wayside. Getting that into the driver's school curriculum seems like an easy way to educate them.

Member Grogan added that the City PIO could help for PSAs. There is someone in Albuquerque who used Keith Wilson in a video and we talked to the guy who put it together. He would be happy to share it.

Member Cooley thought it could be shown at the film festival.

Member Robinson said DOT was a sponsor of the video. It is a professional job. It is an hour-long show and has a story line to it.

Member Robinson asked about the failed green striping.

Mr. Romero explained that it was flaking off and we put a street sweeper over it and cleaned it up and then replaced it with a different product.

Member Abbatacola said green lanes are extensive in Chicago. Where there is a conflict, it makes sense.

Member Grogan asked if they are working on the assessment.

Mr. Romero agreed. They got cameras from the MPO. It is labor intensive. He agreed to report back on what they find but explained that they don't have manpower or resources for a really good evaluation of them.

8. BTAC Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Siqueiros reported on the LAB membership for certification. It is appropriate to be members since we are designated with Silver designation.

Member Robinson agreed and hoped it is a long-term commitment.

Member Wellington said it is beneficial, with course fees at a reduced rate and insurance for LAB instructors.

Mr. Siqueiros said he could report more at the next meeting. He did the last four applications. When he gets into the application, it helps him realize just how much BTAC has accomplished in the last ten years.

He showed the application to the Committee.

He is now working on the new application, getting crash information, census data, etc. and what we've done in the last four years. The Silver expires in 2017 and now we have two opportunities for gold.

He will be working with the Committee on the application for a February submittal and used August as a fall back. He logs in every day and keeps track of everything.

Member Grogan added that as a subcommittee, we will meet monthly and work on various parts of it. It will start next month with a report starting in October.

Mr. Siqueiros said each time, the application gets more user friendly. It is now a lot easier to get all of the information.

Member Abbatacola thanked him for all of his work on this. He asked if BTAC could attach pictures like from the ground breaking.

Mr. Siqueiros agreed. And it should include how the underpass is funded, etc. Even the thought of a project helps in the application.

Member Abbatacola asked what the biggest weakness is for getting gold.

Mr. Siqueiros said the education part is the biggest lack. Having BTAC meet every month helps and he could attach each agenda. But education and ridership are the weakest areas.

Member Wellington asked if it matters who does the education. SFCT, MPO, Bicycle Santa Fe and others are doing education. Member Cooley has been an instructor in the past.

Mr. Siqueiros said he needs to know who is licensed.

Member Wellington said that through SOB and Bike Santa Fe a class will be offered at REI on September 24th. It will either be a long weekend or three consecutive Thursdays. That should count.

Member Grogan asked about volunteers working on the trails.

Mr. Siqueiros agreed. The County's work also as well as bike organizations and bike-friendly businesses in Santa Fe.

9. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

a. La Tierra Funds, Bridge Repair update, etc.

Mr. Siqueiros reported that the Parks Department is looking for funds for bridge repairs.

Member Abbatacola said he took pictures of the bridge on the Rail Trail in need of repair. It has a big yellow patch on the hole right now.

Member Cooley said he rode over it and didn't fall in.

Mr. Siqueiros received a memo from Rob Thompson who assumed him that they have the funds for the repairs. He also sent a memo to the Finance Director about the remaining balance in La Tierra Fund.

Member Grogan said Member Herdman has been asking if there are any remaining funds. And if BTAC could be involved with how to spend that. The Finance Director said there is still money left.

Member Pacheco left the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Member Grogan said she would add that to the agenda for next month.

10 COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Member Abbatacola said he is staying vigilant with Santa Fé Beautiful to get rid of graffiti on the Rail Trail. The Task Force gets on it right away.

Member Grogan reported that on Old Santa Fé Trail where there are dirt roads, the monsoons have left lots of mud washing into the shoulder and bike lanes. The City needs to make sure the bike lanes are clear.

Member Cooley said southbound has a nasty bump on Old Santa Fé Trail soon after the right hand turn. It's a jolt when you go over it.

Member Wellington said she wants to be on the On-road or education committee. Right now she is on the Off-road committee but she is not an off road biker.

Member Robinson said Capital Bikes is awesome. The equity issue is a tough one.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved by:

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Joseph M. Maestas, Chair

Submitted by:

Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.