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CITY OF SANTA FÉ
BICYCLE & TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 20, 2016

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MINUTES OF THE
BICYCLE AND TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 20, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the City of Santa Fe Bicycle and Trail Advisory Committee was called to order by Councilor Joseph Maestas, Chair, at approximately 5:30 p.m., on the above date, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Joseph Maestas, Chair
Joseph Abbatacola
Gretchen Grogan
Frank Herdman [arriving later]
James Ronald Pacheco

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Paul Cooley [excused]
Tomás Rivera
Shelley Robinson [excused]
Jennifer Wellington [excused]

OTHERS PARTICIPATING:
Melissa McDonald, Staff Liaison
Leroy Pacheco, City Engineer
Erick Aune, Santa Fé MPO
Tim Rogers, Santa Fe Conservation Trust
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.

Because a quorum was not yet established, BTAC went first to Public Comment and Communications from Other Agencies. When the quorum was established, they returned to action items at the beginning of the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Pacheco moved to approve the agenda as published. Member Abbatacola seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 20, 2016

Member Grogan moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2016 meeting as presented. Member Pacheco seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no citizen communications.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

a. Santa Fe Conservation Trust Report (Tim Rogers)

Mr. Rogers reported to the BTAC and provided a written report. [attached as Exhibit 1.]

Member Herdman arrived at 5:34, making a quorum.

Mr. Rogers gave a six-month wrap-up. The agreement with SFCT is now under Parks and Rec. So his report summarized the work done under Public Works. The first and second items were a wrap-up by the different tasks identified under the PSA. Trail maintenance also included worker recruitment. 2,300 volunteer hours were logged. The Google Tracker took it up to 2,500 hours. He listed the different organizations crucial to it. He has been working with various schools as well. He said the breakout on types of trail construction will continue with Parks.

He did research on funding and he listed the funds that were brought in including $240,000 in RTP for motocross and a spectator walking path. The list of community events showed field trips he led and summer camps over the past three years. There were 40 field trips with 700 kids, mostly from south side schools. Community cruises and celebrations were also included.

Under City contacts and coordination, he described the ways they have engaged with the City in development of the trail system. Mostly they are natural surface trails but also on urban bikeways. It has been fruitful yet frustrating. He said it would be more fruitful with creative dialog on planning the projects. We need a way to facilitate that dialog if the City wants good bike facilities and gave a few examples.

Mr. Rogers said he would be happy to come in whenever BTAC would like.

Member Abbatacola thanked him for all of his amazing work. He asked when the contract with Parks started.

Mr. Rogers said it began on July 1 with the same agreement and tasks, just a different department. He appreciated the BTAC support.

Member Grogan thanked him for helping so many school kids. She asked how long the contract is now.

Mr. Rogers said it is a one-year contract and it is in their operating budget now. It was good to get it moved out of the CIP bond funding because this is not capital

Member Pacheco said as we move forward it would be great to have Mr. Rogers' input.

Mr. Rogers said he was happy to help with that. It fits in with the PSA. He is a professional planner and wrote the Bike MP.

Chair Maestas added that it is a sole source contract. It represents the unique and special service Mr. Rogers provides that no one else can. It is justified as sole-source. SFCT is solid. He had no doubt it will continue and fit with our procurement code. It has improved the quality of life and obviously, he has been busy.

There was a gap in the Camino Cruz Blanca Trail and that was his first contact with Mr. Rogers and it turned out to have a change in ownership and broke that gap. It is those tiny little things that make a big difference. SFCT has incredible response. It only took a couple of months to get the gap eliminated.

Chair Maestas reported that all terms have expired except for Jennifer Wellington's and he is getting the lay of the land right now with what is in the Master Plan; what is still unfunded; to get us short and medium term goals and find the funding for those that are unfunded still. We will share a vision for where we want this program to go.

Mr. Rogers said the Bike Master Plan is always in the back of his mind and he would be happy to work on it. He added that Sarah Noss, our new Executive Director, was invited but couldn't come tonight.

The Committee went back to the agenda, having a quorum now.

7. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION & ACTION

a. Status Update of MPO 2012 Santa Fe Bikeway Master Plan, and 2016 CIP Trail Projects (Leroy Pacheco)

Mr. Pacheco reported, using a large sheet handout for the current year capital improvement plan. He went down the list in the handout and made comments.

The first was the contract for the La Cieneguita to Harrison Road connection which is going through bureaucratic reviews now as part of the contract with the design and is anticipated to be done by end of August. Part of it is the connection with Harrison and that is being built in the coming month. The

other was wayfinding plan from San Jose/Otowi east to Maez Road. The intention is to implement that along Otowi.

The third was a connection through Larragoite Park and was tabled at BTAC. The 30% design never moved forward.

The last are the two bridge connections behind the New Mexico School for the Deaf. The design is complete and going out for bid shortly. There is not enough money in this year's budget to complete it. The estimate is $225,000 for the two bridges and would like to see them built this year. Staff is looking for "sweep funds."

The Acequia Trail, connection from Otowi to Maclovia is focused on the north connection into Pueblo Alegre and Camino DeChelle. The contract is underway and we are now defining the easement, appraising and will make an offer.

Next is Rufina to South Meadows - An ENN is anticipated in September at 30% of conceptual design and will present at then.

Arroyo Chamiso Trail at Santa Fe Place Mall is showing at 62% complete and he anticipated it will be complete next week. Council approved the $300,000 budget in April.

Acequia Crossing underpass was approved by Council in May with a $5 million budget. Pre-construction meeting was in May. We are proposing a groundbreaking ceremony maybe Wednesday, August 17 at 4:00 before the BTAC meeting. Maybe we would give Chair Maestas a gold shovel

Member Pacheco said on the trail off of Osage he is having trouble connecting on Harrison before Rufina. He asked if that will be a connection. It is cool all the way to Maez Road.

Mr. Pacheco said it is on priority list but not yet funded. The wayfinding will help with that. In the interim, cyclists should take a left on Maez Road and go along the sidewalk.

Chair Maestas said there are nastygrams in the paper on why the City is doing the underpass and not working on St. Michael's. We need to hit home on the fact that 85% of the cost is from federal funds. He didn't want people thinking it is 100% city funds. It is a remarkable grant to get for a city our size.

Mr. Pacheco said his quote in the Reporter was that it puts Santa Fé on the map for connectivity taken seriously. Finding those funds is a testament to how seriously we take the bike mode.

The next project is Railrunner Trail extension/South Capital is getting back on track with 95% design plan. There was a design team glitch and lost an engineer. Now there is a new design team completing the design. They hope to complete before year end. The $400,000 construction budget is still unused. So we need to get it bid out.

City Wayfinding had $22,000 appropriated sometime last fall to connect the Arroyo Chamiso Trail, the Acequia Trail and the River Trail from Carlos Rey up to Cieneguita. That is complete and with some contingencies from the Harrison connection, it will get that implemented so we may have wayfinding

completed.

Chair Maestas asked if there is any way to pursue federal funds for wayfinding in the downtown. We did the walkability assessment. The feds gave Albuquerque about a million dollars to way find in downtown. They color-coded the signs for each section. Maybe Mr. Aune could get that in the Transportation Alternatives, at least the downtown area and include Market Station.

Mr. Pacheco agreed. This is a humble budget but the firm did a good job. Wayfinding seems simpler than it is. It is a complicated task and a specialized task and expensive to do it well.

Member Abbatacola asked if this is street signs.

Mr. Pacheco said it is signage to get riders to the trails.

Member Abbatacola commented that the trail mile markers are now obliterated because of all the graffiti. Those signs are worthless.

Mr. Pacheco agreed. Signage is budgeted into trail design. The intent is that all consultants and engineers would have a document on signage to maintain consistency for standard trail signage.

Chair Maestas suggested calling in the painted over signs with the 311 system. Take a picture and send it in.

Member Abbatacola said graffiti on the Rail Trail was horrendous and Parks took pictures and he has been working with them to clean it all up. He emails them about once each week.

Mr. Pacheco said it becomes part of Parks O&M and if it gets bigger than an O&M problem, it would come here to BTAC.

Member Herdman said the solution is to paint over everything but there must be a better answer. It is becoming unsightly with those patches of paint everywhere.

Mr. Pacheco said the graffiti hotline is in Parks.

Member Herdman suggested it might be a topic for the future.

Chair Maestas thought they should invite Gilda Montaño to a future meeting - August or September.

Ms. McDonald said they could invite all of them.

Mr. Pacheco said the new handrails are naturally oxidizing and not so much a target for graffiti. On concrete, the City uses a seal and sandblast it off without harming the concrete.

Chair Maestas suggested talking about the metal design for use on trails. NPS doesn't allow

galvanized anymore but a natural metal that blends in with natural earth tone.

Mr. Pacheco continued with projects. Buffalo to South Meadows is about ??% complete. There are 4-5 private property owners and Right-of-Way easement acquisition is the next step in completing the work. Hopefully it would be complete by year end. It will need more money.

The Cañada Rincon Trail had challenges that got us to design completion. It is done after back and forth and quasi-public meetings, including the meeting with Reserve. We were instructed to proceed on the City right-of-way and finish a contract. The next phase will bring it to 30% conceptual design with public buy in as best we can. We have surveys to show proximity to residences that were not 4' from windows, etc. The ENN likely will be conducted before fall.

The MRC Trail is matching County match and moving forward. The feds are building it and he didn't have the status.

Mr. Pacheco said that is what they are working on and trying to get them all out of the way.

Chair Maestas asked what happened with the design firm. They were doing a lot for the city but pulled out of the Railrunner trail.

Mr. Pacheco said Radian has the Acequia Trail and Cañada Rincon and those are going fine. The issue was that the Rail Trail design is HDR, a national firm with an Albuquerque office based in the northeast.

Mr. Pacheco said the bridges he estimated at $250,000. The Otowi/Maclovia will be very tight. He hoped that once they get the ROW, there would be no other entities involved. It will be a culvert through the acequia to carry water under and put a sidewalk through.

Chair Maestas wanted to use these funding gaps for policy and advocacy. So he wanted to focus on what funding is needed and maybe a resolution or a motion to be specific - to fund the projects that are already underway.

Mr. Pacheco agreed. As we take them forward after bidding, they start at BTAC and Council understands when it has been reviewed here. He said he would have real numbers after the bids for bridges and trails.

Mr. Aune said there are a couple from the County and Santa Fé Trails for bus stops.

Chair Maestas asked if the MPO ranks them and makes final recommendations to the feds.

Mr. Aune said that was correct. These are project feasibility applications and they do a tech review with District 5. There were seven submittals and each of them seem to be viable. Both city and county have done lots of pre-design work so they are shovel ready which is a huge benefit. The County has two stretches of Arroyo Hondo and the Rail Trail segment 5 from Eldorado towards Lamy. So there are seven good projects with $2 million on the City side and half million for the bus stops and $2.5 million on county

projects. The applications are not due until October 28 to go to DOT.

Mr. Pacheco said Rufina to South Meadows will likely have an ENN in September. So that can all go in the application.

8. BTAC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. On-Road – Sharrow at Siringo Road at St. Michael's High School (Joe Abbatacola)

Member Abbatacola said the last two pages of the packet have the information on this. Mr. Rogers is also a member of the committee. He alluded to some of it already. Member Cooley met with John Romero and Rick Devine on June 27 regarding Siringo Road sharrows. City staff is looking at sharrows from St. Francis to Botulph. They did a field trip at the location. The next page shows the stretch on the map. The issues that came up include that there are events at St. Mike's High School with parking on both sides and with bike lanes, they would all be covered up but sharrows would have to be put way over in the lanes to avoid being covered. So instead of sharrows, they could put up bicycle signs that would be more efficient and durable.

Mr. Rogers said the design that Rick Devine submitted did have bike lanes up to top of hill at Miguel Chávez. That should continue to Brothers Road. It is simplistic to say do sharrows or signs instead of bike lanes. So leave it as is. It could have a striped shoulder. That is why he would like a creative dialog on it. There is no place for sharrows on Siringo Road.

Member Abbatacola said the On-Road Committee feels that wherever possible, they should have bike lanes instead of sharrows.

Chair Maestas asked Ms. McDonald to put this on next month for John Romero to report.

Ms. McDonald agreed but he might be under the impression that the decision has already been made.

Chair Maestas wanted a recommendation from him.

Member Pacheco recalled that when they did the bike lanes on Galisteo, it eliminated parking. That was the decision there but it is not the case here. If we had a bike lane all the way to Brothers Road and had a stripe, then it does create a bike lane. That makes complete sense. People do ride it. Then when you ride, you know you have that designation. We should not eliminate bike lanes anywhere. People could still park there but realize when not parked there that it is a bike lane.

Chair Maestas asked if the code makes it a violation to park on a bike lane.
Member Grogan thought so.

Chair Maestas said he would go out and look at it before next meeting.

Ms. McDonald said John Romero is aware of the wear and is assessing the cost. She could ask him to address that next month also.

Member Abbatacola said the Rail Trail bridge between Zia and Siringo has a gaping hole. He used the on-line system for reporting to the City but nothing has happened. The planks are worn through.

Chair Maestas asked him to take pictures of it.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Approved by:

Joseph M. Maestas, Chair

Submitted by:

Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.