

BICYCLE AND TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, July 16, 2014 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. City Council Chambers Ground Floor, City Hall

AMENDED

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from June 18, 2014
- E. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR
- F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES.

NMDOT Rail Runner Staff

- G. DISCUSSION & ACTION
 - Discussion and Action Regarding the Bicycle and Trails Advisory Committee Recommending which Trails Projects
 to Implement per Resolution Amending the 2012 General Obligation Bond Parks and Trails Implementation plan
 to Reallocate 2 Million Dollars Currently Designated for the River Trail Underpass at St. Francis/West Alameda to
 Bike Pedestrian Trails and Related Infrastructure Projects.
 - 2. Review and Discussion of the Santa Fe MPO Bikeways Master Plan and New Mexico Department of Transportation & Possible Funding Sources for the Rail Runner Crossings (Keith Wilson).
 - 3. Status of the International Mountain Biking Association Ride Center Designation in Santa Fe and the New La Tierra Trail (Bob Siqueiros).
 - 4. BTAC Subcommittee Updates:
 - On-Road
 - Mountain Bike
 - Bike Education and Outreach
 - La Tierra Master Plan
- H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS
- I. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS
- J. ADJOURNMENT

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATIONS, CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 955-6520, FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO MEETING DATE.



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- G. DISCUSSION & ACTION
 - Continued Discussion and Action Regarding Bicycle and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting with Eric Garcia, Santa Fe Chief of Police and the Police Bike Patrol (Bob Siqueiros).
 - 2. Review and Discussion of the Santa Fe MPO Bikeways Master Plan and New Mexico Department of Transportation Funding Sources for the Rail Runner Crossings (Keith Wilson).
 - 3. Status of the International Mountain Biking Association Ride Center Designation in Santa Fe and the New La Tierra Trail (Bob Siqueiros).
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MINUTES OF THE

CITY OF SANTA FÉ

BICYCLE AND TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 16, 2014 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fé Bicycle and Trail Advisory Committee was called to order by Vice-Chair Frank Herdman in the absence of Chair Patti Bushee on this date at approximately 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the lack of a quorum (later established) as follows:

Members Present:

Frank Herdman, Vice-chair Gretchen Grogan James Ronald Pacheco Shelley Robinson

Members Absent:

John Longworth [Excused] Joseph Abbatacola Tomás Rivera Patti Bushee [arriving later]

Staff Present:

Bob Siqueiros, Staff Liaison Eric Martínez, Director of Roadways and Trails Engineering Division

Because a quorum had not been established, all action items were deferred until a quorum was achieved. Vice Chair Herdman went next to Communications from the Floor.

E. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Vice Chair Herdman noted there were no citizens' communications from the floor.

F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

Vice Chair Herdman recognized Officer Philip Fernandez of the Santa Fé Police Department Bicycle Unit. He said he was pulled off regular patrol to be part of the bike unit and loved it. He had been a Police Officer for 8 years and before that was employed by the Santa Fé County Sheriff. He had been in Public Safety for 10 years before that.

Mr. Pacheco said he had known Officer Fernandez for a long time. He commended the Police Department for having someone here at the meeting.

Vice Chair Herdman asked Officer Fernandez if he knew about BTAC.

Officer Fernandez said he was just finding out now.

Vice Chair Herdman gave an overview of the Committee which had been in existence for 10 years. He welcomed the opportunity to have an officer here and appreciated his presence this evening.

Ms. Robinson and Ms. Grogan added comments about BTAC.

Officer Fernandez said he had knowledge of traffic laws that applied to bikes because he had to take a test to become a bike officer

Ms. Grogan said generally BTAC's position was that bikes were moving vehicles on the road.

Officer Fernandez said he saw everything from a broader perspective now and looked forward to being a liaison with the Committee.

Vice Chair Herdman asked Mr. Siqueiros to get Officer Fernandez schedule of meetings

NMDOT Rail Runner Staff

Mr. Bill Craven, Rail Bureau Manager, Transit and Rail Division, NMDOT, said there was a second bike fatality and he met with the City on June 22nd to discuss responses of what could be done. The City sent NMDOT a request to use section 130 funds to make improvements at two rail trail crossings in Santa Fé. DOT would begin diagnostics on those and would assist the City as well. They would look at what improvements made sense at each of the crossings and treat each one separately. He estimated that would take about a year.

In addition, they discussed an engineering solution, public education and awareness to bicycle and pedestrian community about rail crossings. They were working with Rio Metro to come up with a public campaign. Enforcement was the third item and there might be some federal monies available for police. At the meeting they discussed making improvements on sidewalks as well. The consensus was that it did not make sense to put lights at crossings at this time. They would look at enforcement and education first.

Vice Chair Herdman asked if they could keep in contact with Mr. Siqueiros as they hit milestones in the process and report progress back to BTAC. Mr. Craven agreed.

Vice Chair Herdman said it was an issue of great importance to BTAC.

- Mr. Pacheco thanked him for being here. If there was any way to expedite the process it would be appreciated. There was a lot of community concern.
 - Ms. Grogan asked if the situation at St. Mikes couldn't be addressed because a sidewalk there.
- Mr. Craven said no. They discussed whether it made sense to look at sidewalks. There were concerns if they took steps to put lights and gates there.
- Ms. Grogan said this committee and the City were investing the infrastructure and the whole idea was to enlarge the segment of the population who were bicyclists. They were trying to get more people to commute on bikes, take their families out and ride bicycles more. The result would be more and more inexperienced people riding their bicycles. She thought maybe they were in situation of emerging problems and suggested that DOT look at Santa Fé as a special case.
 - Mr. Craven said that was the educational component. Doing education first could turn it around fastest.
- Ms. Grogan wondered how effective PSAs were as an education tool. This had to be a strong and multi-pronged approach.

Vice Chair Herdman asked if there was a standard protocol for signage where Railrunner tracks intersected with sidewalks.

- Mr. Craven said there was no protocol for sidewalks themselves. The ADA requires yellow mats and we have those. The FRA was beginning to look at this, especially within quiet zones. They just started analysis on these two accidents. It might be a year or two before they have reports. There was no guidance at the federal level.
- Mr. Pacheco reasoned that because there was no protocol, Santa Fé was in a unique place because they were promoting cycling. Maybe it was an opportunity to develop protocols and that could get to gates and lights.
- Mr. Craven clarified that there were some places where gates did cross sidewalks but there were just no rulings about that yet.
 - Ms. Grogan asked where that was the case.
 - Mr. Craven said one was San Mateo Road at Second Street.
 - Mr. Pacheco thought it might be an opportunity since the issue was hot right now.

Vice Chair Herdman thanked Mr. Craven for presenting at the BTAC.

Ms. Betty Booth Chair of POSAC, announced that an RFP had been approved by the Audit Committee on the 2008 Parks Bond.

Vice Chair Herdman suggested that they go back since Chair Bushee had arrived and there was now a quorum.

Chair Bushee began chairing the meeting at this time.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Pacheco moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Mr. Siqueiros said the Keith Wilson was not here to address item #2 and asked that the Committee eliminate that item from the agenda. Mr. Pacheco agreed to amend the agenda, removing item #2.

Ms. Robinson seconded the motion as amended and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 18, 2014

Mr. Pacheco moved to approve the minutes of June 18, 2014 as presented. Mr. Herdman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

E. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Stefan Lark said regarding Mr. Craven's remarks and in a year or more there would be two more crossings. He was concerned about that time frame and thought that seemed crazy.

Chair Bushee said they just needed to make people slow down. It was too easy to zoom along.

Mr. Lark said he did not realize there was a crossing guard and that cost added more expense to the project.

Mr. Siqueiros said the issue was the placement of the crossing.

Mr. Pacheco said the current arm extended so far, etc. He agreed that a year or two was too long. BTAC needed to keep up the pressure.

Mr. Siqueiros explained that bollards were not required.

Mr. Lark said cyclists had no guard. He announced they were having a gathering on August 16th in honor of the slain cyclists and to raise awareness and share with community members about what was being done.

Chair Bushee asked him to stay in touch with her and she could let others know what was happening.

Mr. Lark said Farmers Market would be going on but they would still meet on the side. They were expecting 40 or 50 people to discuss what was going on.

Chair Bushee thanked Mr. Lark for organizing that.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Discussion and Action Regarding the Bicycle and Trails Advisory Committee
Recommending which Trails Projects to Implement per Resolution Amending the 2012
General Obligation Bond - Parks and Trails Implementation plan to Reallocate 2 Million
Dollars Currently Designated for the River Trail Underpass at St. Francis/West Alameda to
Bike Pedestrian Trails and Related Infrastructure Projects.

Chair Bushee asked Mr. Eric Martínez to address this matter.

Mr. Martínez asked if she wanted a summary.

Chair Bushee said she just wanted a status update.

Mr. Martínez went through project list item by item in the draft report to summarize the existing conditions and public input to date.

Chair Bushee asked when the final report would be available

Mr. Martínez said they were trying to finalize it now. The consultants made presentations. They were expected to be at next Public Works meeting. The report was close to be done and they were waiting for final determination from Council.

Chair Bushee asked why BTAC had not had what was presented to Finance.

Mr. Martínez said it was not completed.

Chair Bushee asked if he could give to this committee what he gave to Finance.

Mr. Martínez said that was a brief overview of findings and he could get it to the Committee electronically.

Mr. Martínez continued with his item by item review.

BTAC Proposed Project List for Reallocation of Funds from the River Trail Underpass - Recommended July 16, 2014

Description	Terimini	Amount	Comment
S.F. Rail Trail Crossing	St. Francis Dr./W. Alameda St.	\$300,000.00	BTAC recommended at- grade improvements
RR Xing Improvements	Rodeo/Zia/Siringo/St. Mikes/Railyard	\$10,000.00	Rec: signs/pavement marking/rumble strips
Arroyo Mascaras Trail	Mascaras/W San Francisco Street	\$150,000.00	2012 GO Bond plus funds to complete
City Wayfinding	City-wide	\$30,000.00	2012 GO Bond plus funds to complete
Acequia Trail	Otowi Rd to Maclovia Park	\$80,000.00	MPO Bike MP Table 8 - Phase A Project #15
Tierra Contenta Trail	Buffalo Grass Rd to S. Meadows Rd	\$300,000.00	MPO Bike MP Table 8 - Phase A Project #17
Acequia Trail	Rufina Rd to San Felipe Rd	\$660,000.00	MPO Bike MP Table 8 - Phase A Project #18
Cañada Rincon Trail	Calle Mejía to Cam Francisca/Rincon	\$200,000.00	MPO Bike MP Table 8 - Phase A Project #31
Arroyo En Medio Trail	Zia Rd to Sawmill Rd.	\$200,000.00	MPO Bike MP Table 8 - Phase A Project #34
TOTAL		\$1,930,000.00	

Mr. Pacheco said he was at that meeting and the majority of the people there were not in favor of the underpass. But even though there was that consensus, it was disregarded. The compromise was that they were willing to talk about on-street improvements. That was curious that Mr. Martínez had comments from that meeting. He said they were marginalized. The handful there supporting it were given time to speak. It is important for BTAC to come up with a list it could support. At that meeting there was no platform for anyone to speak against that. It was at Gonzales Community School in January.

Ms. Grogan asked if there was only one meeting. Mr. Martínez agreed.

Chair Bushee said they would get a report by Friday

Mr. Martinez said he wanted to include in the Public Works packet for July 28th.

Chair Bushee asked if there was a number for on-street improvements.

Mr. Martínez said in the consultant's report and with other considerations, it was \$400,000 for that and he thought that was high. He thought \$200,000 to \$300,000 was a better estimate.

Ms. Robinson asked if he could tell BTAC specifically what those on-street improvements were.

Mr. Martínez said they would include signs, making curved ramps ADA compliant, pedestrian buttons for cross walking more visible, possibly looking at restrictions on right turns on red and looking hard at capacity on St. Francis Drive. Their focus would be on signal timing.

Chair Bushee asked if his report included the fact that Mr. Martínez came seeking another \$2 million for this project.

Mr. Martínez said no. They did not see any relevance. He added that it took place prior to any cost estimates being in front of us. ...

Chair Bushee asked if he now had cost estimates from the consultant for the underpass.

Mr. Martinez said the north underpass estimate was \$2.5 million.

Ms. Grogan said that was for construction only.

Chair Bushee said she was concerned that staff sought an additional \$2 million and was trying to understand.

Mr. Martínez said they had \$1.6 million from GO Bonds. They requested and additional \$2 million from the CIP Bond for construction. That basis he would take the blame for and it was based on the Acequia Trail without having enough information on their project.

Chair Bushee noted that \$300,000 had been expended on design.

Mr. Martinez said they had a contract for \$393,000 to design that underpass.

Chair Bushee asked then if he didn't expect to expend more than \$2.5 million.

Mr. Martinez that was the construction estimate for one of the underpass alternatives.

Chair Bushee what the other alternatives were.

Mr. Martinez said the other was to build a bridge.

Chair Bushee asked how high that bridge would be.

Mr. Martinez said he didn't have that information.

Chair Bushee asked what that cost estimate was.

Mr. Martínez was it was made in 2006 or 2007 for maybe over \$1million and would be only a 2 lane bridge.

Chair Bushee asked if there was a recommended option.

Mr. Martinez said the recommended option was the north underpass option.

Ms. Grogan asked why the underpass was the recommended option.

Mr. Martínez said the scope of work for the project was identified by Council in the approval of the bond issue.

Mr. Herdman reminded the Committee that staff was operating under direction by Council.

Chair Bushee said she was still confused.

Mr. Martínez reminded them that this was from a study done in 2004 to look at all alternatives including the underpass options. It seemed that underpasses were more viable. The report concluded there were two feasible options: underpass and bridge. And staff was given direction to look at underpasses.

Chair Bushee asked if the environmental impact was included.

Mr. Martinez agreed and added that those studies were part of this initial study.

The Committee briefly discussed the hazards at St. Francis and the remaining possible options.

Mr. Martinez said at the conclusion of the report staff recommended interim at-grade improvements.

Ms. Robinson asked why when this money when approved, called for an underpass.

Mr. Martinez explained that they were now without direction from Council.

After much discussion, Ms. Robinson asked if BTAC could recommend a preference to Council.

Mr. Martínez said the Council already approved the implementation plan from the list. So staff was directed to look at the MPO list of priorities and provided \$2 million to go toward an underpass. Those two concepts got placed into the implementation plan that this committee approved and the Governing Body approved. Any changes would require the approval of the Governing Body.

Chair Bushee noted that Mr. Herdman was going to leave soon and she needed solid numbers on some things. She would like to see connections and safety improvements in a wish list.

Ms. Robinson said the Councilors would like to see how BTAC would spend the money.

Chair Bushee asked if it was safe to say \$2.5 million.

Mr. Martínez said that was for construction costs. With design it was \$2.9 million.

Chair Bushee understood and asked if there was no suggestion from staff as to where money would come from.

Mr. Martínez said they would look at impact fees and reallocation of money.

Chair Bushee asked if he had a list of any other projects that need a bit to finish.

- Mr. Martínez said they did have projects on the list that they were seeing shortfalls for, particularly the wayfinding and the arroyo. He gave the list of items to the Committee.
 - Mr. Martinez continued with list of items

Chair Bushee asked Mr. Martínez if by Monday he could have a list of all rail crossings.

Mr. Martinez said the problem there was that the City didn't do gate arms. The DOT was committed to doing some improvements at those crossings. And the City went by the sense that they were going to look hard at gate arms. There already was signage. What was left hanging was improvements on sidewalks.

Chair Bushee asked about bollards.

- Mr. Martínez said they could do some. The problem was in trying to use that for reallocation He didn't know if "trail" would fit "sidewalk." The language to the voters said park and trail improvements...
 - Ms. Robinson said the bond language was broader.
 - Mr. Martínez said it was public parks, bike, pedestrian trails and related infrastructure.

The Committee made brief comments on some of the projects on the list.

- Mr. Herdman asked if there were unfunded projects on the A list.
- Mr. Martinez said when they went through the implementation plan process they used the MPO plan and highlighted all the projects that were funded. All projects not highlighted were unfunded.
 - Mr. Pacheco said they all agreed that they needed to go down that list.
 - Mr. Martinez said nothing was shovel ready

Chair Bushee asked if Alameda was shovel ready.

Mr. Martínez said no.

Chair Bushee asked Mr. Rogers how he felt about bollards as a quick way to slow down traffic.

Mr. Rogers said he didn't feel good about that at all for slowing down traffic. The purpose of bollards was to keep cars from using the crossing. He would not try to push a technical solution with a conversation like this. Their only use was to keep motor vehicles off a trail.

Mr. Martínez said they discussed all these things with DOT. Our initial suggestion was pavement markings on trail or sidewalk. It was cheap and easy. Rumble strips came up but they had to comply with ADA

The Committee briefly discussed how to come up with a good recommendation for Council.

Chair Bushee said she would like a list of this less scattered with options.

Mr. Herdman suggested the final list be delegated to Mr. Rogers but Chair Bushee said she wanted this committee to do it.

The Committee went back and forth in considering their choices in the ensuing discussion.

- Mr. Pacheco moved that BTAC approve taking reallocation bond money as listed by Chair Bushee and direct staff to send the list to Public Works Committee as our recommendation.
- Mr. Herdman asked for a friendly amendment that use of funding for the underpass not exceed what had been spent. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.
 - Mr. Pacheco thanked Mr. Martínez for his report and participation.

Chair Bushee asked him to come back before the 28th for rail crossings

2. Review and Discussion of the Santa Fe MPO Bikeways Master Plan and New Mexico Department of Transportation & Possible Funding Sources for the Rail Runner Crossings (Keith Wilson).

Mr. Wilson was not present to give the presentation and this item was removed from the agenda under Approval of the Agenda.

3. Status of the International Mountain Biking Association - Ride Center Designation in Santa Fe and the New La Tierra Trail (Bob Siqueiros).

Mr. Pat Brown, president of Fat Tire Society said they had been waiting for a response from Leroy Pacheco and now had his response and a map from Mr. Brown was shared along with the memo. He explained that where they were proposing a trail head was on public school property. So the map had the revised trail head. He described the trail as starting at point 7 on the map and ending below point 5 on map. They were ready to go and would have a conference call tomorrow.

- Mr. Herdman asked if any obstacles were raised.
- Mr. Brown said there were none at all. They didn't cross any major arroyos.
- Mr. Herdman asked about an amendment to the master plan.
- Mr. Brown said they were waiting on that from the City.

- Ms. Grogan thought it sounded like the archeologist surveyed that area and found no impact. Mr. Brown agreed.
 - Mr. Herdman asked if there was going to be signage.
 - Mr. Brown agreed. It was imperative to have that and to let the public know it was bike only.
 - Mr. Herdman commented about a high rate of speed with some bikers.
- Mr. Brown said the grade out there was 3 to 4 % so it was an appropriate speed. The idea was to give as much visibility to the trail as possible.

The Committee briefly discussed location and access points.

- Mr. Brown added that the existing trails were there due to agreements with public schools.
- Ms. Robinson noted that in working with Leroy Pacheco, those signs ought to be the same as the design group signs.

Vice Chair Herdman thought they should be different.

- Ms. Robinson said maybe different but some coordination was important.
- Mr. Tim Rogers, Santa Fé Conservation Trust, said they were waiting for more guidance from Leroy. There would be an archeological review. It would be a quick process because the area had previously been surveyed. Technically it was not junction 7 but part of La Tierra Trails just west of 7 to start. It was wonderful terrain and he didn't see any major obstacles to this happening.
- Mr. Brown said this went back to the original proposal. They were working with IMBA to get the designation and move up. They were a shoe-in for bronze but would like silver. It was a good start and it would be great to take back a "thumbs up" in August at the summit.
 - Mr. Herdman said BTAC appreciated their efforts and their ongoing reports.

4. BTAC Subcommittee Updates:

a. On-Road

This item was not considered.

b. Mountain Bike

This item was not considered.

c. Bike Education and Outreach

This item was not considered.

d. La Tierra Master Plan

This item was not considered.

H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

There were no staff communications.

I. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Robinson made a comment about the train fatalities and reactions from Councilor Maestas.

Ms. Grogan said it came up because the reallocation resolution said something about safety. Also in those minutes there was some notion that what BTAC was doing was taking money from the River Trail crossing to the Acequia Trail crossing but BTAC was not trying to do that

Mr. Pacheco asked if we could make that clear at the meeting

Chair Bushee agreed they needed to be clear about it.

Ms. Grogan asked if she got word from legal.

Chair Bushee said not to put out to the public. She had been trying to suggest to people that the committee never thought this project was a priority.

Mr. Siqueiros said the next meeting would be on the 20th of August.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pacheco moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Approved by:

Patti Bushee, Cha

Submitted by:

Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz Inc.