



Agenda

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BICYCLE AND TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers

Ground Floor, City Hall

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from *October 16, 2013*

E. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. Discussion and Action Regarding the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Pedestrian and Bicycle Traffic Counts along the Rail Trail etc. (Keith Wilson).
2. CIP 420 C – Conceptual Design Presentation Arroyo Chamisos Trail Extension at Santa Fe Place (Leroy Pacheco and Santa Fe Engineering, Inc.)
3. Discussion and Action Regarding Coordinating a Joint Meeting with BTAC, POSAC and COLTPAC to Discuss Current Projects and Future Planning Projects.
4. BTAC Subcommittee Updates:
 - On-Road
 - Mountain Bike
 - Bike Education and Outreach
 - La Tierra Master Plan

H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

- 1). BTAC Request for Information Log

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.

SUMMARY INDEX
CITY OF SANTA FE
BICYCLE & TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 20, 2013

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>	<u>PAGE(S)</u>
B. ROLL CALL	Quorum present	1
C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Approved as amended	1
D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 16, 2013	Approved as presented	2
E. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR	Discussion	2-3
F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM AGENCIES	Discussion	3
G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION		
1. MPO Pedestrian & Bicycle Traffic Counts	Discussion	9-10
2. Arroyo Chamisos Trail Extension	Approved Option A	3-9
3. Joint Meeting with POSAC & COLTPAC	Postponed	10
4. BTAC Subcommittee Updates		
a On-Road	Postponed	10
b Mountain Bike	Postponed	10
c Bike Education and Outreach	Postponed	10
d La Tierra Master Plan	Postponed	10
H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS	Postponed	11
1. BTAC Request for Information Log		
I. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS	Postponed	11
J. ADJOURNMENT	Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.	11

MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FÉ
BICYCLE AND TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 20, 2013
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 member Ron Pacheco on this date at approximately 5:35 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

James Ronald Pacheco, Chair Pro Tem
Joseph Abbatacola
Gretchen Grogan
John Longworth
Tomás Rivera
Shelley Robinson

Members Absent:

Patti Bushee, Chair
Frank Herdman
One Vacancy

Staff Present:

Bob Siqueiros
Eric Martínez
Keith Wilson

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Robinson moved to amend the agenda by moving item 2 before item 1 and postponing 3 under Discussion and Action. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Abbatacola moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 16, 2013

Mr. Abbatacola moved to approve the minutes of October 16, 2013 as presented. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

E. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Kat Downing alerted the BTAC of a project in her neighborhood where there was no enforcement of city regulations. Her neighbor just fenced off her property and they worked to get that opened. She suggested maybe an intern or city employee could do an audit or something.

Chair Pacheco asked Mr. Siqueiros to follow up on it.

F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

Mr. Keith Wilson described the process and dates of the public meetings for the Pedestrian Plan. The Open House would display maps showing sidewalks, transit stops and other facilities. They would ask people to fill out surveys, as well. The surveys could also be done on the website. He encouraged them to fill out the survey themselves and encourage others to do so also. There was a Spanish version as well.

Ms. Robinson said she came to one of the meetings. It had mediocre attendance so far. They had 300 surveys completed so far.

Ms. Robinson thought the south side library meeting should be well attended. She asked if he would consider another time since the City was supposed to get a snow storm.

Mr. Wilson said they were putting up flyers and advertising. If they couldn't have it due to snow, they would schedule another one.

Chair Pacheco asked how long they would be taking comments.

Mr. Wilson said through the end of the year in order to get as much input as possible. They were looking for issues rising to the top.

Mr. Abbatacola asked if there would be any notice in the Santa Fé New Mexican.

Mr. Wilson said there was something a couple of days ago. They had advertised in the Santa Fé New Mexican and the Albuquerque Journal and some radio. They were trying to cover all the bases. He asked members to pass this along to any avenue they might have.

Chair Pacheco did the survey and found it interesting.

Mr. Rivera asked what would happen after the comment period.

Mr. Wilson said the next phase was to engage someone to develop the actual master plan document. At the latest they were looking at completing it at the end of next year if not sooner. They had other plans to get working on as well and wanted to fold them in together. They were also working with Transit and Mr. Tibbetts was going to their next meeting.

Mr. Rivera asked if the City had jurisdiction over the sidewalks on Cerrillos Road.

Mr. Wilson said the MPO didn't because it was a state highway. Hopefully through this process they could highlight issues like this one.

Chair Pacheco thanked Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Leroy Pacheco gave a brief update on the PSA for the trails coordinator position. The Trust Director, Charlie O'Leary, said they were planning to post the position on Monday.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

2. CIP 420 C - Conceptual Design Presentation - Arroyo Chamisos Trail Extension at Santa Fé Place (Leroy Pacheco and Santa Fé Engineering, Inc.)

Mr. Leroy Pacheco introduced members of the Design Team, Santa Fé Engineering, Mr. Eric Cornelius and Ms. Chrissy Scarpitti.

He said this project had a small budget number but went through bond funding. This was a critical trail connection.

Chair Pacheco asked if it was funded.

Mr. Pacheco agreed. They had GO Bond funds and a contract for conceptual design that was now completed. Their hope was that they would get direction and recommendations from BTAC so they could move forward on one of the two options.

Chair Pacheco understood he would like BTAC to weigh in on option A or B.

Mr. Pacheco agreed.

Chair Pacheco noted there was a difference in price between the two options.

Mr. Eric Cornelius, gave an overview of what they were doing. The primary goal was to extend the trail and connect it to the bus stop transit center at Santa Fé Place Mall. Budget was a big concern and the placement of the trail.

Ms. Scarpitti referenced her report in the packet. A bus hub was located at the Mall there now but they were going to relocate the transit center to the west side of Cerrillos.

Chair Pacheco asked if the plan for crossing Cerrillos was a surface crossing.

Mr. Cornelius agreed.

Mr. Pacheco said that was a discovery during their work on this. They didn't really know where it would be located but looked like it was moving to the Camino Entrada intersection.

Mr. Cornelius provided more description of the plan and the design options. They would want to eventually cross Cerrillos Road to the proposed transit center. They realized the budget constraints and that they could not build the entire length with this budget. They did have an option where they could complete it by using a loop road. The ten-foot wide trail would go around the mall and then to the originally planned termination. However, it did require concurrence with the Santa Fé Mall administration.

Ms. Scarpitti said they were looking for input from BTAC to decide which option to use.

Chair Pacheco asked what the cost differences were.

Mr. Cornelius said phase one had a \$145,000 estimate. If they went to the second option it would be \$110,000.

Ms. Robinson noted on Option B that one would travel a lot further.

Mr. Cornelius agreed. And both options would have to work on a connection to Wagon Road.

Ms. Grogan asked what people would do to get across Cerrillos Road.

Mr. Pacheco said it would be a paved surface. Option B was status quo for bicyclists but not on a separated path. The design would involve improving the intersections and consciousness of needs of bicyclists. With Option A they would use the existing trail through the soccer field. They thought they had enough money but needed more money in design. If they did Option A they should design the entire trail and do as much as they could.

Chair Pacheco said if they did Option A he might not even go down there and hang out at Sears.

Mr. Pacheco that was what was happening now in an undesignated way. Option A would make it a designated trail. You could use both but using A in a laissez faire way.

Mr. Wilson referenced the map and explained what was being funded in the GO bond. They thought the transit center would be developed there. They were now going back and forth in negotiations on the transit hub. This was one piece in the larger picture in the entire area. Conceptual alignment was along the arroyo. When thinking about this one piece it integrated into the longer range plan.

Chair Pacheco clarified that if they went with B there were two trails there.

Mr. Pacheco said if they went with A they were bringing that dead end further west.

Chair Pacheco said then the trail would be in the arroyo.

Mr. Wilson said it was not build yet but was part of the bicycle master plan in the future. He wanted to give BTAC some context. The budget was never conceived to get you all the way across.

Mr. Pacheco said in their discussions with users they discovered that this trail segment was critical across existing roadways. People saw this east-west linkage important with either option. They wanted to put in context what the best use of this money was as best they could in light of the big picture.

Ms. Robinson used it now in a real world way. She asked if BTI's role as stakeholder was answering from a bicyclist's view.

Mr. Cornelius agreed. He had a lot of users and saw this as a critical connection. He liked the B option.

Mr. Rivera thought this was an important connection and he did use it. He liked what folks were saying about the longer term connection. The transit hub seemed unlikely there. There could be a connection to transit. He liked Option B better. The assumption was that was the end. He would cut through the parking lot.

Ms. Scarpitti asked which one would be better if you were trying to get to the transit on Cerrillos Road.

Mr. Pacheco explained that Option A was extending the dead end and Option B was re-purposing the mall road.

Mr. Rivera favored use of the lower one in Option A.

Mr. Pacheco said they really didn't know where the Transit center would be. Understanding that this would be very important, he was looking at option B, upper. He felt as project manager this was the best way to use the funds they had. They didn't own the property so there was some work to be done. The complications with the mall was a change in ownership. If they did the lower trail, it was much more clear cut and it was city property. The loop 20 feet below the mall road would fit within the big picture but just extend the dead end.

Ms. Robinson asked what he meant by the loop.

Mr. Pacheco explained if now ended at the end of the soccer field and they would get the rider up by a T.

Chair Pacheco said that was a good point.

Ms. Grogan asked what the curb separation on the upper trail would be like.

Mr. Cornelius said it would be a small barrier, 6 to 12 inch wide stand up concrete curb.

Mr. Pacheco added that this was very conceptual. These designs would be coming back through to be discussed but the design would be a raised curb.

Ms. Grogan asked about the 10 ft. wide sidewalk.

Mr. Pacheco said they wanted it to look good.

Ms. Grogan asked if it would be a typical curb to separate this trail from the traffic.

Mr. Cornelius agreed. They could not build a sidewalk all the way across. The intent was a barrier that was not continuous but would allow for drainage. The surface would be the existing roadway.

Ms. Grogan wondered if that would feel like a safe area to be using.

Mr. Cornelius felt this would give more of an urban sidewalk feel and would be safer since you were not below the barrier.

Mr. Pacheco pointed out that the design had not been done. There were a lot of different ways that treatment could be done with future designs.

Ms. Grogan said in terms of long term planning where the trail ended now was supposed to go further south. She asked if that trail would eventually extend.

Mr. Pacheco agreed.

Ms. Grogan noted that if they went with the upper trail they would have two trails: one across Cerrillos Road and then a trail going south to access south neighborhoods. She asked when that extension would happen.

Mr. Eric Martínez said it was part of the master plan but there was no funding for that yet. Two trail systems met here. The original intent of this project was to address a connection to the transit center at the mall. Due to what was happening with that and its location across Cerrillos, the design team worked on what could be done to address this. That would be option B. There were issues with that option.

Ms. Grogan thought it would be more of a challenge for pedestrians.

Mr. Cornelius said Option A would be more workable if the transit center stayed at the mall. Even if it didn't, there would still be a bus stop there. Nothing had changed. Option B would give another picture. If this BTAC wanted to stick to the original intent they would go forward with original idea until they could get the rest funded some other way - given that the master plan was for a small connection.

Ms. Grogan asked if this was coming out of GO bond, phase A.

Mr. Cornelius agreed.

Ms. Grogan asked if it was at \$110,000.

Mr. Martínez agreed. At the beginning it was a minor connection to the mall.

Ms. Grogan pointed out that in option A staff had it at \$140,000 and asked where the other \$30,000 would come from.

Mr. Cornelius said they would have to look at what their options were, costs etc. and put numbers to it. He asked BTAC to not get fixated on the rough numbers right now.

Mr. Pacheco said the numbers they had now were plus or minus 30%.

Mr. Abbatacola said, personally he would like to look at what would get the most usage. Not many pedestrians would be going along the loop. Some people were not comfortable on streets. He was leaning toward option A because he thought the lower design would have more usage.

Mr. Cornelius pointed out that option A didn't preclude anything else from happening with off road etc.

Mr. Longworth noted that if the transit center was moved from there they would be building a trail to nowhere.

Ms. Scarpitti said it would still be to the mall at the bus stop.

Mr. Wilson thought the transit center would be developed by now. The buses would continue to stop at the mall at the spot they made now. What was there now was a hub. In the future the center would be across the street.

Mr. Longworth said they were just building a pathway instead of building a trail across Cerrillos.

Mr. Pacheco explained that the transit center was what made this a priority. They discovered that this east-west connection was critical and that would not go away with the lower. He had a sense that within budget they could design to Wagon Road. They would build it as far as the construction money would allow. The transit center might move to the other side of Cerrillos Road but connection being critical wouldn't go away. Either option had pros and cons.

Mr. Longworth asked if he was saying they would design to Wagon Road.

Mr. Pacheco thought they could. If you went out there it was very flat. Drainage might come up. It was simple. It was the weighing of now or later. If they did options A and B would not go away.

Mr. Rivera asked if there was any possible of getting the mall to give some relief.

Mr. Pacheco could not speak to that. It would seem to be to their benefit.

Mr. Martínez said the short answer was they didn't know yet. The design was not typical. Things come up. It was difficult to have third parties involved. Right now it was a concept. He was here to get input on the direction where they needed to go.

Chair Pacheco said BTAC could make a recommendation.

Mr. Rivera thought the upper option was just an improvement on the parking lot and that did not feel good to him. He thought the lower one would be more beneficial. He was inclined to go with Option A and was willing to make a motion.

Ms. Robinson said she wanted them to do as much as possible. She was in favor of the lower one as well - as long as they say it would continue.

Chair Pacheco pointed out that they didn't know when a lot of trails would be done. He thought Mr. Rivera's point was good. In his mind he thought option A was best. What he liked about B was the section going to the road. Mr. Abbatacola and Mr. Rivera made a good point. If you look at the big connection Ms. Robinson's point was exact.

Mr. Rivera moved to recommend option A. Mr. Abbatacola seconded the motion.

Mr. Longworth made a point that what they would have was a design that gets you to Wagon Road and potentially on the road. Sometime in the future you wouldn't be on the road but now you would be on the road. And there was improvement to the road. The big caveat was that they had not heard from the mall. You were going to be on the road anyway and that shouldn't be forgotten

Chair Pacheco you were on it now anyway.

Mr. Wilson said the lower was not a roadway but compacted enough to ride.

Mr. Pacheco agreed one certainly could walk it.

Mr. Pacheco thought probably the hardcore cyclists would stay on the road. It was walkable to Wagon Road.

Ms. Grogan said if they chose the lower trail, they would tell people that they were committed to extending the trail south. He thought it sort of reinforced in people's minds that the Arroyo Chamisos Trail would be extended.

Mr. Cornelius wholeheartedly agreed. It was in the master plan. They saw this as a very beneficial connection. Both Mr. Wilson and he were involved in the development review. They would recommend that they include trail connections.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

1. Discussion and Action regarding the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Pedestrian and Bicycle Traffic Counts along the Rail Trail, etc. (Keith Wilson)

Mr. Wilson gave an overview of the Bicycle Traffic Counts on multiple trails. The summary was in the packet and he went over it.

Chair Pacheco asked what he meant by saying north of St Francis Drive.

Mr. Wilson briefly described the area referred to.

Chair Pacheco said it was a great idea.

Mr. Abbatacola asked about the beacon and Mr. Wilson described it.

Mr. Wilson explained that the thresholds being shown were daily volumes.

Mr. Wilson summarized that essentially they would be setting out other monitors to pick up bicycles or pedestrians. They might have funding to get more of the monitors and were trying to expand this program. Before this project, no one had a clue of how many people were using the trails. Most of the usage was occurring from 6am to 7 or 8 pm. and was otherwise very minimal. He agreed to come every quarter to update BTAC.

Mr. Abbatacola thought it was a great job and asked Mr. Wilson if anything popped out for him after doing this analysis.

Mr. Wilson said not really. They had higher volumes than he expected and the trends some. It was hard in Santa Fé to see a strong commuter volume since schedules for a lot of people were not 8 to 5. Maybe they would do some sampling survey to find out why people were using the trail.

Mr. Abbatacola asked if the monitors were mounted year round.

Mr. Wilson agreed; they were out there now.

Chair Pacheco agreed that BTAC would like to continue to get updates.

Mr. Wilson announced they were hiring a new planner. Hopefully that would free up some of his workload to focus more on this project.

Ms. Robinson suggested this data could be useful for getting traffic lights. They would be able to see numbers go up with new trails.

Mr. Wilson agreed. They were trying to get this data collection so they could show when the city invests in improvements was needed.

Mr. Abbatacola said when he was crossing St. Mikes, he was amazed at how many cars stopped to let him go.

Chair Pacheco said BTAC endorsed what he was doing and thanked him.

Mr. Wilson asked for appropriate locations from the BTAC.

Chair Pacheco you had a lot of options where you could use them. He thought it would be cool to know how many people were going out to La Tierra.

Mr. Wilson agreed.

Ms. Grogan wondered if it would be worth it to put the camera more to the east on the River Trail.

Mr. Wilson said it was a double edged sword.

3. Discussion and Action Regarding Coordinating a Joint Meeting with BTAC, POSAC and COLTPAC to Discuss Current Projects and future Planning Projects.

This item was postponed under Approval of the Agenda.

4. BTAC Subcommittee Updates:

a. On-Road

There was no report.

b. Mountain Bike

There was no report.

c. Bike Education and Outreach

There was no report.

d. La Tierra Master Plan

There was no report.

H. STAFF COMMUNICATION

1. BTAC Request for Information Log

This item was not considered.

I. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS


There were no Committee Communications.

J. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Approved by:



Patti Bushee, Chair

Submitted by:



Carl Boaz, Stenographer