

Approved Urban Core Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2019

The Urban Core Subcommittee met for a breakout session during the regularly scheduled, Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Ward 6 Offices, located at 3202 E 1st, Tucson, AZ 85716.

Members in attendance: David Bachman-Williams, Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Andy Bemis, Brian Eller, Ryan Fagan, Joey Iuleano, Sharayah Jimenez, Les Pierce, Stacy Rodenberg, Kate Van Roekel, Kylie Walzak

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Approval of Minutes/Call to the Public.

The meeting was called to order by Ryan at 6:30 pm, with the attending members signing in. Ryan then asked for a motion to approve the December 12, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Kate, seconded by Kylie, and passed unanimously by voice vote. Ryan made a call to the public for comment and David related that a gate located on the property of Maynard's Market & Kitchen, located at 400 N Toole Ave, has been closed recently, barring access to the Jim Glock bypass. (The bypass allows bicyclists to navigate around the El Centro parking garage and avoid the Congress/Toole/Fourth Ave intersection.) Andy offered to reach out to the management of Maynard's for clarification on the status of the gate, as its closure may be a simple oversight or it could be serving some other unknown purpose. He also noted that because the gate is located on private property, Maynard's may be within their rights to leave the gate in place. David asked that if the gate were to continue blocking access to the bypass, that the City provide an alternative access point.

2. Staff Reports

Andy shared that he would have to leave the Urban Core Subcommittee meeting at 7 pm to attend a concurrent Neighborhood Association meeting, which was also taking place at the Ward 6 offices.

Andy thanked the Subcommittee and TPCBAC for the letter it is submitting to the Mayor and City Council in support of the Shared Mobility Pilot Program. The revised version of the Pilot will be an agenda item at the Study Session scheduled on March 5, 2019. He then noted that following the passing of the Complete Streets Policy by the City Council at the February 5 meeting, the City has ninety days to develop a coordinating committee or citizen advisory board for oversight. He stated that there are plans for updating the City's Roadway Design Manual by September of this year. Andy reminded the Subcommittee members that Diana Alarcon, the new Director of the Tucson Department of Transportation would be attending the March TPCBAC meeting. He shared that the Arizona Institute of Transportation Engineers and Arizona Chapter of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals will be co-hosting a 3-hour overview of the extensive updates planned for the fifth edition of the "AASHTO Bike Guide", at the Maricopa Association of Governments offices in Phoenix on February 26, 2019. (The AASHTO Bike Guide is one of the primary references used by transportation engineers and planners.) Lastly, he noted that the City would be hiring a Project Manager to oversee the implementation

of the Proposition 407 projects, and that the person selected would be housed at the TDOT offices downtown.

3. Tucson Mobility Master Plan

Ryan asked Andy to provide the Subcommittee with a brief overview of plans for the Tucson Mobility Master Plan. Andy related that Diana envisions a long-term, multi-mobility plan that combines the varying transportation modalities into a concise over-arching guide. He suggested that Subcommittee members look at Austin's Strategic Mobility Plan. TDOT sees the Austin plan as a possible model for what they are considering here in Tucson.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/asmp>

4. Granada/Main Ave Road Diet

At this point Andy had to leave for his other meeting, but before doing so he provided the Urban Core Subcommittee with a selection of plans describing low, medium and higher cost variants for the proposed road diet along Granada and Main from Speedway to St. Mary's.

The project along Granada and Main combines lane width reductions with the incorporation of designated bike lanes adjacent to both directions of traffic. The low-cost version appears to utilize flexible plastic delineators* between the lanes of car and bicycle traffic. The mid-cost rendering upgrades these delineators to planters* spaced out along the length of the bike lanes and incorporates some vehicle parking as an additional buffer. The high-cost design would install a running barrier of cement* along the lane for extended sections. Bike lane widths were shown to vary between 5 and 6 feet, and car lanes between 10 and 11 in all three of the provided versions. Subcommittee members commented on the apparent absence of crosswalks along many of the residential intersections in the plans. They expressed curiosity about the types of signage that will be included at key points, as well as the positioning of crossing routes along the train tracks at Main, just south of 4th. There was additional discussion about freestanding planters, as opposed to planted water catchment basins. Subcommittee members determined that they would write a letter with recommendations based on their observations of the provided plans to be presented at the March meeting of the TPCBAC.

**It must be noted that Subcommittee members were interpreting the plans without the benefit of Andy's knowledge and expertise, and further clarification of the plans will be requested.*

5. Reprioritizing Proposition 407 Projects

The Subcommittee revisited the discussion from agenda item 4 of its December meeting regarding the composition of a letter identifying certain projects it believes could be reprioritized in the scheduling of Proposition 407. The primary criteria for a project being included in such a letter would be its frequency of use, therefore establishing that it provides a greater public benefit, and ultimately should justify its rescheduling to an earlier phase. The Subcommittee will prepare a list of possible projects and confer with Andy and Diana at the March TPCBAC meeting.

6. Review of the Project Status Report

The Urban Core Subcommittee discussed the process for ensuring that its project status report remains current. Kylie offered to update the document during future meetings, and to ensure that actionable items have been addressed in a timely way; Stacy will identify items from past meetings that need to be returned to the Subcommittee as agenda items.

7. Role of Urban Core This Year and Beyond

It was noted that time restrictions often make it difficult to fully address all of the items on Urban Core Subcommittee agendas. The question was then posed as to whether we should perhaps be focusing on a Tucson Bicycle Advisory Committee, rather than a combined Tucson Pima County Advisory. It was suggested that the next three months might be an appropriate time to look into this possibility.

Of note, on rejoining the TPCBAC meeting, the Facilities Subcommittee expressed a similar sense of time restriction for the completion of their own work, which they will try to address though the addition of meeting times prior to the regularly scheduled TPCBAC meetings.

8. Announcements

There were no announcements presented.

9. Future Agenda Items

Several items suitable for future discussion and/or agenda items were touched on throughout the Subcommittee meeting, and no other specific agenda issues were proposed for addition.

10. Adjournment

Ryan adjourned the February meeting, and the Subcommittee reconvened with the TPCBAC.