

Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee

Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, April 9, 2008 Regular Meeting

Himmel Park Library, 1035 N Treat Avenue

Tucson, AZ

Prepared and Submitted by
Secretary Richard E. Corbett

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of March Meeting Minutes

A quorum being present, Chair Diana Tolton called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Members and guests present then introduced themselves (see the attendance at the end of this document).

Minor corrections to the March meeting minutes were brought up, and noted by Secretary Richard Corbett. Included were two name corrections, and two spelling corrections.

Parliamentarian Steve Bresler then moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting, as corrected, Member Wayne Cullopp seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

2. Call to the Public

Citizen Vern Roberts stated that he rides with the Shootout group, and was riding on Park Avenue with other cyclists, when motorcycle officers pulled alongside, and told them that they needed to ride single file.

Roberts stated he was shocked, as he reads that ARS 28-815 makes it clear that there are several exceptions to the requirement to ride ‘as far to the right as practicable’, including when the lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to travel safely side-by-side within the lane.

Secretary Richard Corbett (who has 21 years experience as an expert witness) stated that the law is clear on this issue, that Roberts had read the statute correctly, and that it seemed the officers were in error.

Pima County Bicycle Program Manager Matt Zoll referred to the Share the Road Guide, where this is affirmed.

3. Law Enforcement Report from Tucson Police Department, and updates on Enforcement Activities

Sheriff’s Sergeant Jeffrey Copfer (Supervisor of the Traffic Unit) reported that there had been seven bicycle-motor vehicle crashes in March. Five of these were non-injury crashes.

Vice-Chair Brian Beck asked if there is an internal investigation regarding the March Shootout incident? Sgt Copfer stated he is not in the loop, but that he does know internal affairs investigation is not finished yet.

Member Norm Land asked if Sgt Copfer knew anything about a SR 77 crash, that was possibly fatal? Sgt Copfer stated he knows nothing about such an incident.

4. Nomination Subcommittee Report

Nomination Subcommittee Chair Martha Lemen reported that the following have agreed to run for the four offices:

Chair:	Brian Beck, Richard Corbett
Vice-Chair:	Steve Bresler, Martha Lemen
Secretary:	Karen Berchtold
Parliamentarian:	Brian Beck, Steve Bresler, and Richard Corbett

Chair Diana Tolton noted that voting for these Offices would take place at the May 14th regular meeting. According to City and County Attorneys who reviewed the BAC revised bylaws, voting must be public – no written ballots.

5. BAC Consent Agenda

Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams moved to approve the two consent agenda items, Secretary Richard Corbett seconded the motion.

Facility Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson asked that a proviso be added regarding both letters – that the wording might have to change slightly, Parliamentarian Steve Bresler said that would be okay, but the intent could not change.

- A. Letter of support for Alvernon and Hughes Access RTA bike lane project
- B. Letter of support for the Velodrome Youth Training Center

The vote on the motion was taken, and passed unanimously.

6. Marana Meeting

Chair Diana Tolton noted that she had spoken with Marana Council member Russ Clanagan, and that he feels September is the best month for the BAC to meet in Marana. She suggested that when we have this meeting, that we strive to carpool.

7. Establish new geographic boundaries for subcommittees

Facility Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson stated that he feels that both sub-committees need to meet together to work out the best solution to boundaries for the Facilities Subcommittee and the Downtown Subcommittee. He seeks flexibility, and feels that it will be best if both sub-committees agree. The Facilities Subcommittee has suggested that the Downtown Subcommittee expand to encompass the area from Tucson Mountains, to Alvernon, and River Road to Valencia Road.

Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams stated that the motion that the Downtown Subcommittee passed at their last meeting called for the boundaries being the same as those suggested by the Facilities Subcommittee, except the east boundary would move to Camino Seco.

Member Wayne Cullop agreed that the sub-committees should work the boundaries out. He then offered a motion to let the two Sub-committees work out the boundaries them selves. Vice-Chair Brian Beck seconded the motion.

Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams stated that he feels that projects are the most important balance element. Parliamentarian Steve Bresler said that densities change over time.

The vote on the motion was taken, and passed unanimously.

8. Sub-committee Reports

Enforcement: BAC Enforcement Chair Eric Post reported that the special meeting held with Shootout riders and the Enforcement Sub-committee was ‘pretty good ‘ meeting.

Shootout Riders Want

- No Permit Requirements
- S.O. to have safe procedure for pull overs
- To be able to use entire lane
- For S.O. to track complaints seriously
- Possible S.O. motorcycle escort

Sheriff’s Office Wants

- Self-policing by Riders
- Eject misbehaving riders
- Total acceptance of ‘car back, stop signs, & traffic signals

Sgt Jeff Copfer agrees with the motorcycle idea, and noted that there were no complaints in the last couple of weeks.

Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams said he thinks the golf tournament gets free motorcycle escort services. Sgt Copfer responded that all officers who do that are off-duty, and are paid.

Chair Diana Tolton stated that she wants to be sure that complaints are specific. Sgt Copfer stated that he only gets the word on complaints thru BAC e-mails. So then how can complaints be tracked, asked Tolton? Sgt Copfer says it is possible, but not easy, due to different SO districts.

Member Norm Land asked about the possibility of Arizona Rangers as motorcycle escorts? Secretary Richard Corbett mentioned that Arizona rangers have helped with the El Tour start line-ups for several years. Land went on to suggest posting the “10 rules of the Shootout Ride” on a web site.

Enforcement Chair Eric Post added that a pre-ride review of these rules would be good idea too. He then went on to ask TDOT Coordinator Tom Thivener and County Bike Program Manager Matt Zoll if there might be funding capabilities to help support motorcycle escorts.

Zoll responded that County Special Events covers ‘things’ like this. Member Wayne Cullopp asked if maybe there could be an alliance with local Harley-Davidson dealer?

Sgt Copfer said traffic control has to be legitimate laws enforcement officers or certified and trained auxiliary volunteers.

Secretary Richard Corbett mentioned that Arizona rangers could be contacted through PBAA.

Enforcement Chair Eric Post added that due to the shootout issue, the ‘assaults on cyclists’ issue has not yet been dealt with. In closing he mentioned that the May issue of American Bicyclist, the publication of the League of American Bicyclists, mentioned Tucson as a ‘most significant improvement’.

Downtown: Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams stated that the issue of the trolley tracks is still not resolved. They are ‘still working on it’.

Chair Diana Tolton said that the trolley track extension was ‘sold to us’ as ‘bicycle friendly’; and she wonders what happened to this commitment?

Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams said that the 4th Avenue Underpass design was revised without public input. He went on to say that the City has done additional signing and striping in the last two weeks. He added that the ‘best’ solution for bicycles is still being discussed.

Secretary Richard Corbett mentioned the elastomer filler that he is familiar with, that is supposed to be a lot more bicycle friendly than the traditional flange slot. Enforcement Sub-committee Chair Eric Post said he believes that crossing the tracks is still ‘problematic’. Chair Diana Tolton, and Tucson Bicycle-Pedestrian Program Manager Tom Thivener responded that the elastomer filler used in Portland has been removed due to weather issues, etc.

Facility: Sub-committee Chair Bill Adamson announced that the Pima County Bond Committee will meet at the Manning House to review the Parks and Recreation elements from 9:00 to 11:00 am, on April 25th. He went on to state that there are ‘lots’ of shared-use paths in the proposed bond package.

Education: Sub-committee Chair Brian Beck reported that that they are working on the annual Ride of Silence. The ride will be shorter this year than last, and will be Wednesday May 21st. It will start and end at Sears Park, to the south of Park Mall. He went on to say that Friday (April 11th) is Bike to Work Day, and there will be two locations – the traditional downtown location (Jacome Plaza), and a new eastside location, at the Bristol Coffee Bus, organized and run by the Governor’s

Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee – April 9, 2008 meeting
Office of Highway Safety, Sean Hammond. Then Saturday, April 12th, Mayor
Walkup will lead a ride

Executive: Chair Diana Tolton stated that she is nearing the end of two years as Chair, and will be developing a report. She believes the most significant accomplishment in the two years has been the development and functioning of the BAC Sub-Committees.

She believes the BAC has become even more effective in the last few years. The two retreats that have been held have also been very beneficial to the BAC's direction and goals. The Minutes have grown and gotten a lot better. Each Member is on at least one Sub-committee, and when issues arose, such as the motorized bikes issue, the dedication of the members has made a real positive difference. The PAG Platinum Task Force has been effective in preparing this year's application, with Rich Corbett as Chair.

Finally, and not least, Tolton expressed her thanks to the staff – Tom Thivener, Gabe Thum, and Matt Zoll.

Platinum Task Force

PAG Platinum Task Force Chair Richard Corbett reported quickly that the final application was submitted in March, and the League will announce results in late April. Corbett went on to recognize and thank again his committee chairs: Donna Lewandowski, Kathryn Skinner, Tom Thivener, Gabe Thum, and Sgt Paul Tosca. The application is SO greatly improved over last time.

9. Action Item Review

No report was given.

10. Staff Reports

Oro Valley Bike-Ped Coordinator Nancy Ellis that the traffic signal at Magee and Northern is being redone to make it bicycle responsive.

Marana staff member Steve Cheslak announced that the new extension of Tangerine Road to Gladden Farms is ready to open soon, and has bicycle accommodation. He went on to mention that a dualathlon will take place in Marana April 20th, and the Tour of the Tucson Mountains will be held (start and Finish at the Marana Town Hall) Sunday, April 27th.

PAG Staff member Gabe Thum mentioned that the Platinum application was submitted March 21st. and the results are due to be announced April 24th. The RTA is accepting letter of intent for projects included in the successful 2006 RTA Vote.

TDOT Bike-Ped Coordinator Tom Thivener said he attended the Bike facility Design Workshop in Phoenix today. He has prepared and submitted a transportation enhancement grant application for bicycle boulevards. He has worked a lot on the annual Bike to Work Day (downtown April 11, 7:00 to 9:00 am, and eastside at Bristol Coffee Bus, same time and date). He asked for help with setting up food for

Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee – April 9, 2008 meeting
the Mayors’ ride, and mentioned the kickoff for Bike Fest – the Bike Fest Movie event at the Fox Theater, with free Bike Valet Parking.

Downtown Sub-committee Chair David Bachman-Williams complimented the Bike Valet Parking – it is really popular and a service to cyclists.

PCDOT Bike Program Manager Matt Zoll reported that the bike diversion program is still pending. Enforcement Chair Eric Post pointed out that the diversion program was on the original Enforcement Sub-committee goals list.

Zoll went on to say that Walk n Roll to School day had a record turnout. The bike lanes on Continental Road will go to construction next week, as will Orange Groove, Sunrise to 1st Avenue. Paved shoulders have been added on Mission, from Drexel to San Xavier Road.

Bike Ed classes are going well, and have been well attended. He said the program is just about out of money, but he may be able to use another source. The Radio PSAs are coming our next week, and there is a school siting seminar at Randolph Recreation Center Friday.

Finally, the Bike Ambassadors Program is getting organized, with six to eight teams, and will be ‘launched’ after Bike Fest, by next fall.

Member Norm Land added that the reconstruction of Oracle Road from Calle Concordia to Tangerine is important to bicyclists. He also noted that growth in the Vail area is ahead of bicycle accommodations in that growth area.

11. Announcements

Member Norm Land mentioned that the driver who hit and killed the 14 year old cyclist on Broadway about two months has a pre-trial conference coming up soon. The time to attend, and be able to speak is at the sentencing, if the driver is found guilty.

Member Jean Gorman says the father is responding with positive steps to memorialize his son.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm

~~~ ATTENDANCE ~~~

**Members**

Bill Adamson, Pima County  
David Bachman-Williams, Pima County  
Brian Beck, Ward 2 (Vice-Chair)  
Karen Berchtold, Pima County  
Steve Bresler, Ward 1 (Parliamentarian)  
Richard Corbett, Ward 5 (Secretary)  
Tony Crosby, Pima County  
Wayne Cullop, Ward 4  
Jean Gorman, Tucson Mayor's Office  
Norm Land, Pima County  
Martha Lemen, Pima County  
Zach MacDonald, Pima County  
Eric Post, Pima County  
Diana Tolton, Pima County (Chair)

**Staff**

Steve Cheslak, Marana  
Sgt Jeff Copfer, Sheriff's Office  
Nancy Ellis, Oro Valley  
Tom Thivener, TDOT  
Matt Zoll, PCDOT

**Members of the Public**

Helen Battiste, citizen  
Collin Forbes, citizen  
Eric Gonnason, citizen  
Bruce Hermes, citizen  
Ben Matiella, citizen  
Vern Roberts, citizen  
Lisa Westerbeck, citizen