

**Tucson-Pima County  
Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, September 10, 2008  
Marana Municipal Complex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
6:00 p.m.**

**Submitted by Karen Berchtold**

**1. Call to Order, introductions and approval of August minutes.**

At 6:10 p.m., a quorum being present, Chairperson Brian Beck called the meeting to order. Chairperson Beck introduced new BAC member Bruce Hermes, representing Ward 4, City of Tucson. Bruce and his son have been involved in BICAS.

Chairperson Beck asked if any changes were requested to the minutes. Several changes were suggested. A motion to approve the minutes with the changes was made by Steve Bresler and seconded by Rich Corbett. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**2. Call to Public.**

Roy Schoonover commented that overpasses should get colored bike lanes to increase bike safety. He also noted safety concerns regarding the tunnel at Barraza Aviation Parkway, under 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

**3. Law Enforcement and Enforcement Committee Reports**

No report. Marana Police Department spoke under item 4.

**4. Marana Staff presentations and discussion**

Bob Clements, Planner, Town of Marana, was introduced as the Town's staff liaison to the BAC. He noted the Town wants to help E. Pima County's efforts to obtain Platinum status.

Council Member Russ Clanagan noted the Town is still looking for a citizen representative to the BAC, and asked for help recruiting someone. The Town is on schedule to open Silverbell Road in time for El Tour training.

Paul Popelka, Planner III, Town of Marana, introduced himself and presented the Town's long range planning goals for developing Marana as a bicycle friendly community. The Town's road plans will emphasize multimodal opportunities and integrated transportation-land use, with areas that offer opportunities to live, work, play, and shop. The Town is working on a transportation strategic plan. Marana currently has a population of about 35,000 and is projected to possibly grow to 100,000 in 25 years.

Tom Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director, was introduced. The Town's recreation goals promote health, wellness and quality of life. The Town is developing separated, multiple use pathways along its roads. Seven miles have been completed along the Santa Cruz River, an urban pathway is being developed along Silverbell from Ina to Cortaro, and a pathway is being provided along CDO wash. As part of the current update to the Parks and Recreation Plan, staff is looking for ways to link neighborhood paths to river corridors. The Town also

helps manage the Tortolita Preserve, with great mountain biking opportunities. Tom is also part of the “Riverfront Task Force” in which various jurisdictions come together to plan.

Lieutenant Paul Ashcraft, Marana Police Department, gave the Bicycle Accident Report:

- 23 accidents in the last 36 months
- 5 of those accidents were bike to bike
- Of the 18 bike to car accidents, one fatality and two serious injuries
- Motorists were cited in 10 incidents, motorists and cyclists cited in 2 incidents, both cited in one incident, and 7 not determined.

The Town hosted nine bicycle events in the last year, gave away 1,000 helmets, and conducted a Safe Routes to School Program at Rattlesnake Ridge Elementary School. The Town has 9 officers that ride bicycles. He has observed that younger officers tend to be more forthcoming about issuing citations to cyclists.

Scott Leska, Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Manager, was introduced. Scott provided a map of future CIP projects that shows upcoming bicycle and multiuse paths planned in the Town, a substantial number of projects. Every new road in the Town will have a multiuse lane. The extension of Tangerine Road is the #1 RTA project. David Bachman-Williams commended the Town for the project. BAC members addressed gutter pans, noting they tend to promote road failure leading to uneven surfaces that can cause serious bicycle accidents.

Rich Corbett asked why the frontage road near Tangerine was closed. Scott indicated that a developer is improving the interchange, and it is the first stage of conversion to a one-way road.

For West Tangerine Road, the vision is for a 14’ multiuse path, as well as bicycle lanes. The Town’s goal is to generally have both facilities for new roads.

Council member Clanagan reiterated Town staff’s willingness to update the BAC as needed.

## **5. RTA – off list project criteria**

BAC and Facilities subcommittee member Norm Land presented a draft list of criteria for on- and off-road projects that the RTA Bike-Pedestrian working group can use to evaluate projects that are not were not on the RTA list approved by voters.

Members’ opinions over this issue included:

- Continued disappointment over the process.
- Belief that there needs to be some flexibility to evaluate new projects.
- A need for guidelines to evaluate new projects.
- Concern as to how projects from the RTA endorsed list are compared to new ones.
- Concern that RTA projects were selected to close gaps in the regional system, and now those gaps will not be addressed.

At issue is that communities are submitting many new projects that were not included on the voter endorsed list. There seems to be a trend in which, if a serious bicycle accident occurs in a community, leaders feel compelled to quickly seek funds to address the facility where the

accident occurred. This is diverting funding away from projects that were intended to improve the regional bicycle system. In addition, costs project costs have increased substantially, so a project list estimated to cost sixty million dollars is now estimated at two hundred million dollars.

Norm presented the criteria worksheet, made up of a list of criteria with numbers for value and score, which are multiplied to come up with ratings that are totaled. One of the criteria is that the project was on the original, RTA voter approved list. Norm asked the group for feedback. Gabe Thum noted that the RTA bike-ped working group needs the feedback as soon as possible; the comments need to go the working group by September 24. Norm indicated that the working group ranks projects and then reports to the RTA Board.

A motion to hold an emergency BAC meeting to review the criteria was made by Rich Corbett, and seconded by Diana Tolton. The group concluded that the meeting should be held on Tuesday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m., location to be determined (Himmel Library, if possible.) The motion was approved by a 5-4 vote.

BAC members were asked to forward any comments on the criteria worksheet to Norm in advance of the September 16 meeting.

Rich Corbett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Brian Beck seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Attendance:

Richard Corbett	Paul Ashcraft
Bruce Hermes	Evan Unger
Steve Bresler	Brian Beck
Kevin McDonald	David Bachman Williams
Larry Robinson	Dave Boston
Diana Tolton	Josefina Ahumada
Norm Land	Karen Berchtold
Nancy Ellis	Scott Leska
Jean Gorman	Tom Ellis
Tom Thivener	Matt Zoll
Roy Schoonover	Bob Clements
Gabe Thum	Paul Popelka
Walt Rogers	Russel Clannagan
Jorge Riveras	Paul Ashcroft
Scott Leska	