

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP AND THE
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.
MAG Office Building, Saguaro Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Tami Ryall, Gilbert, Chair, Regional Bicycle Task Force and Acting Chair of the Pedestrian Working Group	Steve Hancock, Glendale
Michael Sanders, ADOT	Farhad Tavassoli, Goodyear
* Brian Fellows, ADOT	* Michael Cartsonis, Litchfield Park
* Michael Eagan, ASLA, Arizona Chapter	* Denise Lacey, Maricopa County
Margaret Boone-Pixley, Avondale	Jim Hash, Mesa
Robert Wisener, Buckeye	^ Brandon Forrey, Peoria
* Brian Craig, Carefree	Katherine Coles, Phoenix
Anna Marie Riley for Michael Normand, Chandler	* Briiana Leon, Phoenix
Rich Rumer Coalition for Arizona Bicyclists	Mike Roche, Queen Creek
Doug Strong, El Mirage	Peggy Rubach, RPTA
	Susan Conklu for Reed Kempton, Scottsdale
	Eric Iwersen, Tempe
	Janice See, Surprise

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

^Attended via audio-conference

OTHERS PRESENT

1. Call to Order

Eric Iwersen called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the December 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes of the Pedestrian Working Group and the Regional Bicycle Task Force

Jim Hash moved to approve and Robert Wisener seconded the move to approve the meeting minutes of the Bicycle Task Force and Pedestrian Working Group for December 16, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the Bicycle Task Force and the Pedestrian Working Group on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Members of the public were requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes was provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Bicycle Task Force and the Pedestrian Working Group

requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on action agenda items were given an opportunity at the time the item was heard. No one wished to address the committee.

4. MAG Design Assistance Program Process

On May 28, 2008, the MAG Regional Council approved funding for the FY 2009 Design Assistance Program, \$150,000 is available to fund pedestrian facility designs and \$250,000 is available for bicycle/shared-use facilities design.

BICYCLE PROJECTS:

Buckeye - BID Canal Multi-Use Path. Robert Wisener explained that currently many people use the canal even though there are No Trespassing signs posted. There are a lot of services in the downtown including a post office, churches, a community action program that provides services to low income and a grocery store. Most are considered historic neighborhoods in this area. There is a real need for this project. The project has been listed in the MAG Regional Off Street System Plan (ROSS) and in the Town of Buckeye Trails Masterplan.

Jim Hash asked if there was going to be a link to the Heritage Park. Robert Wisener responded that there is a development planned and the city will be working with the developer. Margaret Boone Pixley asked if there has been a determination of the cost of the whole project. Robert Wisener responded that the estimate for this section only came from the Buckeye public works department.

Gilbert - Gilbert: Galveston Off-Road System. Tami Ryall requested that this project be removed from the competition.

Glendale - Neighborhood Access Improvements for Multi-Use Pathways. Steve Hancock reported that this project would design four neighborhood access points to the Thunderbird Paseo and Skunk Creek pathways. There are four different locations where neighborhood streets come up to the pathway but don't connect directly nor do they advertise the connection. Neighborhood accessibility is necessary component. Total construction is \$320,000 divided by four locations. Design fee is \$50,000 for all four locations. Peggy Rubach asked if this project was in existing plans. Steve Hancock said that this project is not on plans but on an existing path. Tami Ryall asked if the city of Glendale could prioritize their two project submittals. Steve Hancock noted that this bike project is the first priority and the pedestrian project is the second priority. Margaret Boone-Pixley asked if this project was requested by community. Steve Hancock responded that it was requested by community members.

Tempe/Mesa Rio Salado Bicycle and Shared-Use Path. Eric Iwerson noted that this is a co-presentation with the City of Mesa. This is a joint project – a two mile pathway connecting Tempe to Mesa. The pathway when complete will also connect Mesa to Scottsdale Indian Bend Wash pathway system and to Phoenix on the west. This project addresses the issue of networking and regional connection. The Army Corp of Engineers indicated it will help fund this project. Jim Hash explained how this pathway will link to Va Shly'ay environmental restoration project. Rich Rumer asked how this connects to Va Shly'ay wetlands project. Jim Hash responded that this path will allow citizens to directly view wildlife. It will be located on the north side of the retention ponds and allows bicyclists to avoid freeways.

Peggy Rubach suggested that the numbers of those with disabilities, seniors and low income being combined. Peggy Rubach noted that in the MAG/MCDOT bicycle survey, barriers to freeway crossings were one of the barriers mentioned the most.

Surprise - Bell Road Multi-Use Trail from Grand Avenue to 115th Avenue. Janice See presented the information on the proposed pathway along Bell Road. Bell Road in Surprise is the primary way into Surprise from the east. Sun City and Sun City West is nearby. The area is eligible for Community Development Block Grants and is therefore low income. Peggy Rubach asked if the path connected to any other jurisdiction such as Maricopa County and that Surprise should work with the County for this project. Brandon Forrey said that there have been some discussions about cooperating on this project with Peoria and Surprise. Steve Hancock noted that this was a multi use trail on Bell Road on the south side and that this type of facility typically this does not meet AASHTO standards because of the many intersecting driveways and streets. This project may not pass ADOT standards either.

Janice See responded that the north side of Bell has a canal and there are no connections that can be made. The south side has the only option. Mike Sanders suggested that there might be safety issues as a trail project but this would present an excellent sidewalk project. If the outside lane is wide enough, this would meet the standard to paint a bike lane on the roadway.

Peggy Rubach asked if the city identified the right of way that will have to be bought. Peggy Rubach noted that this is a needed project for budding communities. The need is there. Janice See responded that Surprise has \$1.2 million for implementation and she thinks that this includes the funding needed to procure the right of way.

Doug Strong noted that El Mirage Road in the future will be a six-lane road with bike lanes that will connect to Bell Road.

PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS:

Fountain Hills - Saguaro Ranch Park. Randy Harrell reported that the sidewalk project is approximately 1,700 linear feet along Saguaro Blvd from Colony Drive to El Lago Blvd. Colony Wash travels north to south. There are no sidewalks that intersect the wash. Saguaro Blvd carries 21,000 cars a day and needs a sidewalk to connect residential and commercial on the south side to those on the north side. This is a difficult design because of steep grades and it will have to be determined if retaining walls or switch backs or narrowing the roadway would work best. Prior to incorporation as Fountain Hills, the developer was not required to put in sidewalks.

Glendale - Sahuaro Ranch Regional Park Pedestrian Walkway Improvement. Steve Hancock said this project is in an 83 acre park, with an historic ranch, soccer fields, and play grounds. The design would develop an inventory to determine the accessibility of the sidewalks. There is a transportation element when considering that nearby is Copper Elementary School, Glendale Community College, a library and stores. Many people walk through the park to get to the varying destinations.

Phoenix - 11th Street Streetscape in Historic Garfield District. Katherine Coles reported that the request for \$80,000 included design, scoping documents, and 30% construction documents. The corridor runs I10 at Moreland Street through to Washington Street. In the Garfield historic neighborhood, many of the roads were built at the turn of the century. 11th Street is a feeder route for all the teens attending the

highschool There is good amount of right of way on the street. The project would improve the sidewalks, create artistic bus shelters (with funding through the Arts Program) and identify a theme in relationship to the greater neighborhood. There is a connection to light rail and a major medical complex and many community facilities. This project will help with neighborhood renewal with 30% of the people in the neighborhood living below the poverty level and 25% of the population with disabilities. Peggy Rubach noted that the Washington light rail stop is actually at 12th Street and the traffic signal is on 11th street. This could be a design solution for other cities.

All members were asked to submit their scoring sheets to MAG staff who entered the scores into an excel spreadsheet. MAG staff read the rank order of the projects with the following funding levels:

Bicycle Projects:

1. Tempe \$142,000
2. Buckeye \$58,000
3. Glendale Neighborhood Access \$50,000

Pedestrian Projects:

1. Phoenix \$80,000
2. Fountain Hills \$70,000

It was noted that the city of Surprise should consider Bell Road as a sidewalk project. There was not enough funding in the budget to include the Glendale Sahuaro Park project.

Eric Iwersen made a motion to recommend for approval the projects as ranked by the committee. Peggy Rubach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rank	Bicycle Project	Description	Cost
2	Buckeye: BID Canal	1 mile multi-use path on the north side of BID canal. First segment of a 30 mile system.	\$ 58,000
taken out of consid.	Gilbert: Galveston Off-Road System	The Galveston off-road system is located a half mile south of Lindsay and Ray Roads between two public schools and would link to Library, Riparian Preserve and parks.	
3	Glendale: Neighborhood Access Improve	Four neighborhood access points would be designed into the Thunderbird Paseo and Skunk Creek pathways.	\$ 50,000
1	Tempe/Mesa: Rio Salado Shared-Use Path	This regional project would connect Tempe to Mesa via Rio Salado. A two mile path will link Town Lake to Mesa and Riverview/Wave Yard. Construction and funding will be in conjunction with existing contract with Army Corp of Engineers and Flood Control District.	\$ 142,000
4 not funded	Surprise: Bell Road Multi-Use Trail	2.4 multi-use path on the southern side of Bell Road from Grand Ave to 115th Ave.	
	Total		\$250,000

Rank	Pedestrian Project	Description	Cost
2	Fountain Hills: Saguaro Blvd Sidewalk Gap	1,700 linear feet of sidewalk along Saguaro Blvd. It will link 8 existing sidewalks together and a multi-family/commercial area to downtown.	\$70,000
not funded	Glendale: Sahuaro Ranch Regional Park	The project would provide a detailed assessment of ped traffic patterns, identify existing gaps and give suggestions to remove barriers.	
1	Phoenix: Historical Garfield District	Project would provide 4,730 ft. of linear sidewalk and artistic bus shelters on 11th St. from Washington St. to Moreland St..	\$ 80,000
Total			\$ 150,000

5. Bicycle Education Campaign 2009

Peggy Rubach, Valley Metro - RPTA's Bicycle/Pedestrian Outreach & Education Supervisor, gave an update on the status of the MAG FY09 & FY10 Bike Safety grant. Between the MAG grant and Enhancement grant for Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Education programs, Valley Metro will be able to cover the cost for 2009 and 2010 T-Shirts with a bicycle safety message on them, and during the April 2009 Valley Bike Month will help jurisdictions conduct 4 Bike Rodeos along with their other bike month activities. Radio Disney *Team Green* will also be at the 4 locations and will do additional publicity prior to the four Bike Rodeos.

Locations and times listed below:

Peoria - Saturday, April 4, 2009

Bike Rodeo in conjunction with Peoria Pioneer Days Family Bike Ride

Tempe - Sunday, April 5, 2009

Bike Rodeo in conjunction with the Tempe Bike-A-Palooza events & CAzB Bike Swap meet

Avondale - Saturday, April 11, 2009

Bike Rodeo in conjunction with a smaller version of Avondale Spring Fling - new name TBD

Phoenix - Sunday, April 26, 2009

Bike Rodeo in conjunction with Great Bike Chase or whatever event gets called at Hance Park

A subcommittee was created to work with Valley Metro on the safety message for the 2009 T-Shirts and the Posters they are creating for the 2009 Valley Bike Month. Members include:

Michael Sanders - ADOT

Tami Ryall - Gilbert

Katherine Coles - Phoenix

Brandon Forrey - Peoria

Peggy Rubach also gave an update on the upcoming Helmet Your Head and Bike Rodeo training sessions in February and March 2009. The information on dates, times & locations will be sent via

e-mail before the end of the week, along with a request for volunteers to help put together the Bike Rodeo kits over at the MCDOT warehouse in early February.

Peggy Rubach also made Zipcode maps of the County available - Valley Metro uses them in Customer Service to answer transit calls but they had a few extra to share.

6. Next Meetings

All meetings will be on Tuesday in the Cholla Room at 1:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted:

February 17, 2009 - Saguaro Room

March 17, 2009

April 21, 2009

January 20, 2009

February 17, 2009

March 17, 2009

April 21, 2009

May 19, 2009

June 30, 2009 (note 4th Tuesday)

July 21, 2009

August 18, 2009

September 15, 2009

October 20, 2009

November 17, 2009

December 15, 2009 (noon)