

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.
RPTA Office Building, Lake Mead Room
101 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Reed Kempton, Scottsdale, Chair of Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee	Steve Hancock, Glendale
Margaret Boone-Pixley, Avondale, Vice-Chair of Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee	Joe Schmitz, Goodyear
Michael Sanders, ADOT	Paul Ward for Michael Cartsonis, Litchfield Park
* Tiffany Halperin, ASLA, Arizona Chapter	Denise Lacey, Maricopa County
Robert Wisener, Buckeye	Jim Hash, Mesa
* D.J. Stapley, Carefree	Brandon Forrey, Peoria,
Bob Beane, Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists	Aaron Jensen for Katherine Coles, Phoenix
Jason Crampton, Chandler	Dawn Coomer, RPTA
Douglas Strong, El Mirage	Karen Savage, Surprise
Ken Maruyama for Tami Ryall, Gilbert	Eric Iwersen, Tempe

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

^Attended via audio-conference

OTHERS PRESENT

Vincent Lopez, Maricopa County Public Health	Richard Weeks, AECOM
Brian Sager, Kimley Horn	Michael Buschbacher, Coffman Studios
Peter Schelstraete, Tempe Transportation Commission	Jim Coffman, Coffman Studios
Reggie Purugganan, EPG, Inc.	Mike Marx, MTBikeAZ.com, Founder

1. Call to Order

Reed Kempton called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Reed Kempton welcomed Margaret Boone-Pixley as Vice Chair and acknowledged all the wonderful efforts of Brandon Forrey as Chair for the past two years with a Certificate of Appreciation. He also informed the committee that Lisa Padilla was laid off from the Town of Queen Creek and will no longer be on the committee.

2. Approval of the May 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Margaret Boone-Pixley moved to approve the meeting minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee for May 19, 2011. Jim Hash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the MAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee 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 and the Pedestrian Committee 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 addressed the committee.

4. Staff and Member Agency Reports

Maureen DeCindis reported it was decided that during FY2012 (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012) that MAG will not be producing a new TIP nor updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and MAG will NOT be programming CMAQ funds for 2015. This is mainly related to the uncertainty of future federal funds and MAG's continued commitment in addressing the PM-10 concerns. No applications/competitive process will happen this fall and winter.

Brandon Forrey reported that Peoria is making wheelchair modifications under the new ADA regulations. Peoria is addressing stopping distances and the limitations of the right of way.

Reed Kempton reported that the Scottsdale Indian Bend Wash pathway received an award from APWA for all the construction of pathways, public art and the developed riparian area.

5. Design Assistance Program

Maureen DeCindis reported that there were two jurisdictions who submitted project applications for the Design Assistance 2012 program. Each jurisdiction will give a three minute summary of their project and then the committee will vote. The amount available is \$146,549. The remaining amount of \$318,450 is allocated to the Design Assistance 2012 - Phase 2 program. Project applications are due to MAG by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday July 28, 2011. These applications will be reviewed and ranked at the August 16, 2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting.

- Gilbert: Multi-use Pathway Development (\$66,549)

Ken Maruyama reported that this feasibility study on the Gilbert Multi-use Pathway will look at ways to improve bike and pedestrian activity in the downtown area. It analyze how to develop a quarter mile multi-use pathway connecting Water Tower Plaza and Western Powerline Trail and Park. The project will help those with disabilities. Currently the downtown alley serves as a shortcut for automobiles driving to parking lots. This study will help determine how to make this area pedestrian and bicycle friendly. This pathway is behind buildings on a major arterial road. There are no bike lanes on this stretch of Gilbert Road.

- Phoenix: Grand Canal Multi-use Pathway at 23rd Avenue (\$80,000)

Aaron Jensen presented the Phoenix Grand Canal Multi-use Pathway at 23rd Avenue project. The city of Phoenix studied the whole Grand Canal corridor from Glendale to Tempe for arterial

crossings. In areas where there is a traffic signal close to the canal, the city would like to utilize the traffic signal. This study would look at the more economical way to provide a safe crossing using the current traffic signal at 23rd Avenue. This feasibility study would determine the safest crossing to develop. There is a bike lane that runs north and south on 23rd Avenue but there is a 300 foot segment of missing bike lane. The population demographic shows that 10,000 workers live in the area and 20% use public transit, 3% bike and 2% walk. This study would also tie the connection to the bus stop. The road has 40,000 vehicles per day and has had one fatality.

Reed Kempton asked each committee member to rank the projects. The Phoenix: Grand Canal Multi-use Pathway at 23rd Avenue ranked number one and the Gilbert: Multi-use Pathway Development project ranked number two. Reed Kempton asked for a vote to approve the projects. Paul Ward moved that both projects be funded and Jim Hash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Bicycle Count Project

Maureen DeCindis presented the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to develop a bicycle count methodology and bicycle count. The amount for the project was raised from \$50,000 to \$96,000 to include the first actual count of bicyclists in the region as well as the methodology. The committee agreed to the increase in the amount of the RFP in order to conduct the count.

Maureen DeCindis requested comments on the draft from committee members.

Steve Hancock asked if this is going to count pedestrians. Maureen DeCindis responded that this study will only be focused on counting bicyclists. Ken Maruyama asked if this count is going to be conducted every year. Maureen DeCindis responded that it might be done every two years. MAG will make that decision later. Brandon Forrey suggested that this methodology should be able to be done by local jurisdictions as well to supplement the MAG count.

Reed Kempton explained that in Scottsdale they turned the traffic monitor from the street onto the Indian Bend path and then used an intern to count the users from the tape. MAG is looking for less labor and time intensive method. Reed Kempton suggested looking at specific times of the year such as during spring baseball training.

The following committee members volunteered to be on the consultant selection working group: Reed Kempton, Michael Sanders, Jim Hash, Eric Iwersen and Brandon Forrey.

Michael Sanders said to be sure to include information on how consultants will get rated in the RFP.

Eric Iwersen asked if this project could also include volunteers to count. Baseline numbers are very hard to accurately count because cyclists ride the wrong way.

Michael Sanders noted that ADOT has a permanent counter in Sedona and will put temporary strip on sidewalk to count those cyclists. ADOT is also installing a similar counter on the Beeline Highway on both shoulders.

Paul Ward noted that MAG has a series of Performance Measures and needs data for pedestrians and bicyclists. This count is needed to justify spending federal funds on bicycle facilities. In the

methodology, there should be a way to infer numbers across the valley from big cities to small towns. Reed Kempton agreed that the methodology does need to make sense region-wide.

Karen Savage asked if this methodology will be used to generalize bike counts across the valley. Reed Kempton responded that this count will verify where cities have built facilities and to count the cyclists on the facilities. Brandon Forrey noted that Peoria is very interested in counting before and after the number of cyclists on a path before and after the installation of facilities.

Paul Ward said there is a desire to translate the methodology to all cities and towns. MAG does extrapolations and characteristic modeling. Denise Lacey worried about using this as a scoring mechanism for funding projects. The County will never demonstrate enough riders.

7. Bicycle Map Update

Maureen DeCindis distributed a schedule for the update of the 2012 MAG Regional Bikeway System map. Matt Nielsen presented the interactive bike map that is currently on the MAG website.

Matt Nielsen explained that the process was straightforward to bring over all aspects of the printed MAG Bike map including the rules, safety information, and the Bikeway Master plan information onto the on-line version. The MAG Information Services department uses GIS inventory in KML or KMZ which is common file for this format and is the same format that Google uses. Google maps has extensive user interface. The inventory is identified such as bike lanes, routes, paths (unpaved and paved), shoulders and the light rail locations. Each one of these layers can be isolated.

Google maps allows customizable web browser windows that give specific information about the location. In this format, mountain bike trails can be added. Mountain Bike AZ recorded in GIS every trail in the valley. The owner has been gracious enough to allow MAG to use their KML files. So this new on-line map can show trails such as the Desert Classic Trail.

The windows can add hyper links with very detailed information. This electronic version will be updated with the new facilities when the official 2012 map is updated. MAG is looking for input from the committee as to what else can be added. Event calendars can be added. Individual cities can add individual pages to highlight local information.

Joe Schmitz asked if this is linked to Valley Metro website which also has bike information on it. Reed Kempton asked if this version has the same Google feature of mapping how to get from start point A to destination B. Matt Nielson responded that this map does not have that capability.

Matt Nielson also said that this version when completed and updated will be put on the Economic Development website to attract people to the valley.

Reed Kempton asked if this was compatible with a MAC. Matt Nielson responded that yes it is.

Dawn Coomer said that this is a great evolution for the MAG bike map.

Robert Wisener asked if there is a way to promote this to other organizations who would want to add content. Matt Nielsen said that he would add comment page to collect ideas. Dawn Coomer has business services updates which could promote the site.

Brandon Forrey asked about updates. It was suggested that once a year, MAG requests updates. Reed Kempton suggested submitting new shape file in January of every year. That way, the map will illustrate new developments every year. Any file type from ARC GIS can be added within a couple of days.

Margaret Boone-Pixley said that Avondale is very challenged to do inventory of new facilities. Is there a possibility for funding for consultants to do inventory for jurisdictions that have too small of a staff to do it for themselves. Bob Beane said that Az Bicycle Coalition members are going to provide updates to MAG based on information from their riders. Matt Nielsen noted that there are websites for people to put in their personal information.

Joe Schmitz asked if it was okay to put an addition to the map if the street only has a bike lane on one side of the street. Reed Kempton said that was okay. Joe Schmitz asked if there are standard descriptions for the specific designations of bike facilities on the map such as bike lane and bike route. Maureen DeCindis said that she would send out the descriptions of the bike lane and bike route, etc.

8. Bike Education Program

Bob Beane explained two education projects: “Bicycle Education for Law Enforcement Agencies” and “Ready to Ride”. He requested assistance from the jurisdictions in the form of introductions to their police departments and locations to hold the classes.

“Bicycle Education for Law Enforcement Agencies”

Some police agencies do training on line and some in meetings. There will be four modules:

- Az Bicycle Law
- Safety Tips
- Crashes and Causes
- Bike Specific Crash Investigation Data

Bob Beane requested contact names in each jurisdiction’s police department and is seeking information on how training is conducted within each local police department.

“Ready to Ride” is a 3-4 hour training over 16-18 month period. The Coalition is seeking help securing venues to hold this training. This training could also be held at an event. Bike shops or parks with large ramadas are ideal locations.

Brandon Forrey asked if the Coalition would see this as a joint project with jurisdictions. Bob Beane responded in the affirmative.

Joe Schmitz suggested that this could be part of the Parks Department classes and the Helmet Your Head program. Maureen DeCindis noted that MAG doesn’t have funds for free helmets. Karen Savage asked if this was going to be free. Bob Beane responded in the affirmative.

Maureen DeCindis showed two versions of posters for the Bike To Bus project in order to receive input from committee members.

“Get Connected” poster:

- change the font to Trebuchet
- increase the size of the font on Get Connected and decrease the size on Bike to Transit
- graphic should appeal to college age students
- people should dress chic
- show wi-fi on the bus
- show connection with families (grandparents/parents/kids)
- show a photo of a person putting the bike on the rack
- show a bicyclist at a bus stop

“Go Farther” poster:

- use a black trail (like tarmac) with white centerline and not blue
- use Complete Streets photo
- show bicyclists on paths (canal or Indian Bend Wash)
- show bicyclists downtown and then local
- show a map with distances that can be reached
- show the door of a bus at a bus stop open with bike on the rack
- use a photo of a Scottsdale nice bus stop

Maureen DeCindis was asked to send out a date by email to members requesting photos and ideas.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

Members have the opportunity to suggest future agenda topics.

Brandon Forrey suggested each jurisdiction share tricks of the trade to promote bicycling without budget. Reed Kempton noted that Scottsdale has not programmed funds for their fifth year because sales tax revenues are down. Reed Kempton suggested that jurisdictions should work more on the connections between them in order to submit one project between two jurisdictions so each one would only have to pay half the costs for a full project.

Maureen DeCindis announced that Enhancements will start early this year. The first workshop will be in November instead of January.

10. Next Meetings

All meetings will be on the third Tuesday of the month in the Cholla Room at 1:30 p.m., except where otherwise noted.

August 16, 2011 (will be held at RPTA)

September 20, 2011 (maybe held at RPTA)

October 18, 2011

November 15, 2011

December 13, 2011 (noon) (note change)