



APPROVED

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
PATHS & TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**ONE CIVIC CENTER
AGAVE CONFERENCE ROOM
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251**

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Paths & Trails Subcommittee was called to order at 8:33 a.m. A formal roll call confirmed the presence of Subcommittee members as noted below.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Donald Anderson, Chair – Transportation Commission
Kyle Davis, Subcommittee Member
Kent Lall, Commissioner – Transportation Commission

ABSENT: Maryann McAllen, Commissioner – Parks and Recreation Commission
William Levie, Subcommittee Member

STAFF: Nathan Domme, Transportation Planning Manager
Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner
Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner
Kyle Lofgren, Staff Coordinator
Mark Melnychenko, Transportation & Streets Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chair Anderson called for modifications and approval of the minutes. Minor corrections were made.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2023 MEETING AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER LALL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 3-0 WITH CHAIR ANDERSON, SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER DAVIS AND COMMISSIONER LALL VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES APPLICATION UPDATE

Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Manager, provided the update. The League of American Bicyclists (LAB) organization's Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) program recognizes municipalities that actively support cycling and encourage residents to use bicycles for transportation and recreation.

Cities are evaluated on the program five, "E's," which include:

- Engineering
- Education
- Encouragement/events
- Equity
- Evaluation and planning

The program and assessment provides:

- Measurable goals for continuous improvement
- Provides best practices and resources
- Clear comparisons to peer cities
- Assists the City in competing for grants
- May function as a tool for economic development

LAB provides awards in the following categories: Gold, Silver, Bronze and honorable mentions. Status is designated every four years. Scottsdale was awarded silver level in 2005 and was the first community without a university or college to reach this level. Scottsdale achieved silver again in 2007. Scottsdale reached gold level in 2011, 2015 and 2019. A review of Scottsdale's 2019 report card from LAB was provided. A new question under community profile has been added, which addresses community socioeconomic and demographic information.

A review of the specific application areas and City responses was provided:

Engineering

- Polices and design standards for the built environment

- End of trip facilities
- Bicycle network
- Network maintenance
- Bicycle access to public transportation
- Bike sharing
- Other bicycle-related amenities
- Regional coordination
- Engineering bonus points

Education

- Youth bicycle education
- Adult bicycle education
- Motorist education
- Bicycle safety education resources
- Inclusive education
- Education bonus points

Encouragement

- Encouragement policies, programs and partnerships
- Route-finding support
- Bicycle culture and promotion
- Access to bicycle equipment and repair services
- Reducing work-related/fleet VMT
- Encouragement bonus points

In response to a question from Commissioner Lall, Ms. Conklu stated that Google does offer bike navigation guidance, however, it is difficult to tell whether the paths shown are paved or unpaved. It may be a helpful tool to determine the riding time from point A to B. Other helpful apps include Map My Ride. Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner, commented that he uses Google maps for bike directions and has found it to be fairly efficient.

Evaluation and planning

- Staffing and committees
- Public engagement for bicycle planning
- Planning, funding and implementation
 - Evaluating the bicycle network
 - Evaluating ridership
- Evaluating and improving safety outcomes
- Evaluation and planning bonus points

Equity and Accessibility (new section)

- Equity and accessibility staffing, committees and partnerships
- Equity data collection and goals
- Equity and accessibility policies and plans
- Equity and accessibility bonus points

The application includes several questions that allow for detailed answers. Up to ten supplementary material attachments may be included as well as five weblinks/URLs not already included with a specific question.

Next steps include:

- Scottsdale's next Bicycle Friendly Community Application will be due by August 30, 2023
- Preparation will include input from the public, Paths and Trails Subcommittee, and Transportation Commission
- Awards will be announced in December 2023
- Moving forward, there will be one application cycle per year instead of two

In response to a question from Chair Anderson regarding the number of staff hours required to complete the application, Ms. Conklu stated that she has not tracked the specific hours. In the past, answers to questions required only minor changes from previous years. The new questions have required additional response time. She compared the process to that of writing and applying for a grant. Staff typically dedicates a couple of weeks for each application cycle.

3. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNT DATA

Nathan Domme, Transportation Planning Manager, listed the permanent counter locations in the City and reviewed the counts:

- Greenbelt
 1. Vista del Camino Park
 2. Indian School Park
 3. Chaparral Park
 4. McCormick Parkway
- Non-greenbelt
 5. Crosscut Canal Bridge
 6. Arizona Canal/84th Street alignment
 7. Pima Path south of Indian Bend Road
 8. Upper Camelback Wash/Cholla Street
 9. Sweetwater Avenue east of Loop 101

There were 1.3 million total counts from May 2022 to May 2023 (96,000 less than the previous period). Of these, bikes totaled 770,682 and pedestrian totaled 556,276. There has been an uptick in pedestrian travel, particularly in non-greenbelt sites. An overview was provided on average daily activity by month, weekday daily total averages and weekend daily total averages. Counter data is used in grant applications and in the Bicycle Friendly Community application. Census data shows lower bike commuter volumes for Scottsdale. Path counters reflect a stronger use from recreational riders. The data validates resident usage of the path system and path improvements. It has been noted that path users are crossing just west of the signal at Hayden and McCormick Parkway. With this in mind, staff will add a new crossing at that location and will relocate the count to the west. Upon completion of the changes, there will be monitoring of changes in volume at the counter.

Subcommittee Member Davis asked about the methods for distributing the bike use survey. Mr. Domme clarified that the responses are based on the U.S. Census survey sample, which is conducted yearly.

Continuing steps include:

- Continue to collect and study counts for 2023
- Data to be used in 2023/2027 Bicycle Friendly Community application and to help prioritize future path renovations
- Look for opportunities to place additional permanent Eco-counters along path system
- Move McCormick counter and evaluate the change in the data

Subcommittee Member Davis expressed surprise that the Cross Cut Canal numbers are so low. Mr. Domme stated that while there is significant traffic, most travelers continue on, staying on the west side. The counter has also been problematic, requiring frequent maintenance. Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner, added that this is the City's first counter, having been installed in 2017. Since then, the City has gained significant knowledge on the counters. Traffic is mostly on the west side of the canal going north/south.

Chair Anderson asked whether the budget would fund additional counters. Mr. Domme stated that there are two options, including Y accounts for bike improvements or creating a CIP project. Commissioner Lall stated that the Traffic Management Center completes vehicular counts and they may have an option to complete bike counts as well.

4. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAM STATUS

An update on various projects and program status was provided:

- Valley Bike Month recap
- Osborn Road complete street from Hayden to Scottsdale Road
- Civic Center renovations
- 68th Street complete street
- Indian Bend Wash Path renovation: Phase 1: Remove one mile of 40 year-old concrete path and replace with current standards
 - Earll Drive to Osborn Road Bridge
 - Hayden Road underpass to Camelback Road
 - South of Via de Ventura (approximately 800 feet)
 - Via de Ventura to Hayden Road
- Indian Bend Wash Path renovation: Phase 2: Remove one mile of 40 year-old concrete path and replacement with current standards
 - Osborn Park to north of 3rd Street
 - Via Linda to Pima Path Junction
 - Hayden Road to Via Linda
- Indian Bend Wash Path extension: McDowell Mountain Ranch and Bell Road: Design and construct a new concrete path and unpaved trail from WestWorld to Bell Road
- Central Arizona Project Canal Path: Design and construct a 1.7 mile, 10-foot wide concrete path on the south side of the Central Arizona Project Canal and north side of Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard from Scottsdale Road to Northsight Boulevard
- Shared use path sign program: Fabricate and install signage and connect to major shared-use path corridors to assist emergency response and provide guidance to path users
- Trail improvement
 - Thunderbird Trail
 - Trail maintenance on Via Dona and 76th Street Trails

5. SUBCOMMITTEE IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following topics were identified for future agenda items:

- Overview of plan for CAP Canal Trail
- Final version of Bicycle Friendly Community application

- Projects and program status
- CIP update

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Subcommittee Member Davis and seconded by Commissioner Lall, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

AYES: Chair Anderson, Subcommittee Member Davis, Commissioner Lall

NAYS: None

SUBMITTED BY:

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