

MINUTES

On January 14, 2021, the Amarillo City Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee met at 11:00 a.m. by Video Conference for a Special Meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Joe Chris Rodriguez	Yes	33	21
Tim Ingalls	Yes	39	37
Ed Commons	No	34	33
Steve Rogers	Yes	29	23
Howard Smith	Yes	31	30
Angela Harney	Yes	18	17
Terri Guengerich	No	8	7
NON-VOTING MEMBER			
Michael Padilla	Yes	10	10

City of Amarillo staff members attending were:

Donny Hooper	Assistant Director of Public Works
Courtney White	Assistant City Attorney
Michelle Ramirez	Recording Secretary, Traffic Field Operations

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order.

Committee Chairman Harney called the scheduled regular meeting of the Amarillo City Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee to order at 11:02 a.m.

Item 1: Public Forum.

No Public Forum.

Item 2: Review of Minutes from Last Meeting.

Committee Chairman Harney asked if there were any changes to make for the approval of the December 28, 2020 minutes. Committee Member Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. Committee Member Ingalls seconded the motion, and motion carried 5:0.

ITEM 3: Staff Updates

A. Update on Hike & Bike Master Plan from Sub-Committee

Committee Chairman Harney presented a Hike and Bike Plan Recommendation from the Sub-Committee. This special meeting is to review the plan and make updates or changes to vote on it. The Parks & Recreation Board is in the process of an overall update on the Parks Master Plan. One of the main components is, Hiking & Biking and more specifically, trails. It was comprised of a list of general recommendations. (1) Upgrade the 2011 Hike and Bike Master Plan map to include more connectivity of the bike lanes and bike routes. The 2011 Hike & Bike Master Plan Map is primarily focused on connecting parks to schools. There are not a lot of dedicated bike lanes. There are 100 miles of bike lanes and bike routes that were established by the 2011 Hike & Bike Master Plan and only 23% are dedicated to bike lanes. The other 77% are just sharrows, not truly a bike lane.

(2) Policy decisions: Updating our City's design standards to include requirements for bike facilities in new neighborhoods and roads being constructed. We've missed the opportunity to create new parks and walking trails. Harney stated that we need to create a periodic review process of inclusion of new bike lanes where traffic counts and/or public input necessitates. Establish a formalized process for reviewing pedestrian and bike accidents on an annual basis for consideration to address systemic issues in problem areas of the City. Create a dedicated FTE to oversee the City's implementation of the Master Plan including the Traffic and Park's components. (3) Enhance and expand existing network and spine facilities such as Rails to Trails. Priority should be given to the following: Establishing two additional spine facility trails or bike lanes that would connect the corners of the City. A spine facility is a separated path that runs through the community and helps connect the community. Amarillo lacks spine facilities connecting residents from North to South. An example would be, Southwest to Southeast and North to South. These locations are already denoted as bike routes and simply need to be converted to dedicated bike lanes. Enhance the existing Rails to Trails spine facility. (4) Develop designated commuter pathways as far as riding your bike to work or walk to work. Develop dedicated commuter pathways in quadrants of the City for some of the biggest employers in the area such as Bell Helicopter, Rick Husband Airport, BSA, Texas Tech, NWTN Amarillo College and Amarillo National Bank. The City of Amarillo could consider fundraising with these local Employers. (5) Create more recreational cycling opportunities with more bike parks and trails with protected bike lanes to facilities. Amarillo has a strong and vibrant volunteer community willing to build trails. Consider acquisition of new real estate for the creation of an open space park for hiking and biking such as the property currently for sale on Girl Scout Rd. There are 50 City owned parks and over a dozen school parks that have to be maintained. We simply do not have the resources to maintain all of them. One solution to this issue would be to downgrade the amenities. One example would be the City owned Golf Courses. One of them could be converted to an open space trail park. We could officially designate the existing trail network on 9th Street as an open space park. (6) Education advocacy to create a safer environment for both cyclists and pedestrians. Amarillo is already in the spotlight on the national stage for its trails. The City should post online maps of the Hike & Bike Master Plan. It would help engage the community in a way that improves safety and health. The City should also have a comprehensive PR campaign, including social media, press releases and billboards. These efforts would reinforce the Amarillo brand as a city of wide open spaces and trails.

Committee member Smith asked committee member Tim Ingalls his thought about this Recommendation presentation. Ingalls stated that he has been on this committee for over three years and is so grateful for Chairman Harney and the work she has done. There is still a lot of discussion around how all of this will get made on the ground and at the Intersections and at different street corridors. He would like to see how this goes when presented to the Parks Board. It could also be presented to the elected officials and to the public as a visionary goal in a sense. The most impact thing to do would be to establish a salary for a FTE. They would be really focused on pedestrian and bike

issues throughout town and trail connectivity in general for recreation. He will talk with Angela later on this.

Committee member Rodriguez stated that he really like the whole presentation. He especially liked the spine facility that would connect to the neighborhoods.

Committee member Smith thinks it's a great overall plan. The Pedestrian & Bicycle Committee could help prioritize. There are so many things that can be recommended to the Parks Board. He would also like the endorsement of this committee that wouldn't cost anything. He would like to see the development of the crossbar.

Committee member Rogers reiterated Committee member Smith's point. There are so many action items in the presentation that any budgeting board would be an easy answer NO. He suggests a pecking order of ideas that are most important to the Committee. His recommendation is to add just one summary page that summarizes everything.

Committee Chairman Harney will make the changes to endorse a crossbar at Signalized Intersections and to include a one page summary that prioritizes the recommendations.

Pedestrian & Bicycle member Rogers made a motion to adopt those two additions; endorse a crossbar at Signalized Intersections and include a one page summary that prioritizes the recommendations. Committee member Ingalls seconded the motion and motion carried 5:0.

Ingalls had more questions:

He asked Donny and Howard since this a comprehensive presentation is a long term goal. What would it take for the elected officials and the staff to really get this vision put together as a high priority? He feels that often times this committee is only an advisory and is below all other decision making. He thinks if we had more drive from elected officials and heads of staff, it would get inputted more quickly. Donny did say that this presentation would eventually move onto Council at some point in time. There is a large process for everything. Even for budget. For example, last year, there were no additional positions approved.

Ingalls went on to ask about the FTE. What is the deadline by which we want to get something developed by staff and get submitted into Council for this? Donny said that would be more of an internal Management decision. Donny will take this into consideration and possibly get it presented to Council. The feasibility of this would be a challenge with so many additional positions requested that get denied.

Tim also added that this is beyond the scope. He suggested that if we had a comprehensive goal, we could fundraise this for a FTE for three years or certain items that would bring us closer to quality of life goals that a lot of people in Amarillo would want. Donny will take this into consideration as well.

Committee member Smith took the time to thank Sub-committee and Chairman Harney for a great presentation. Donny agreed.

ITEM 4: Future agenda items and next meeting date.

- Discussion on sidewalk development and connectivity
- Discuss Road Diets and Intersection Design
- Update on Hike and Bike Plan GIS Map
- Update/Discussion on all 2020 Accident Data

Members agreed to schedule the next meeting date on February 15, 2021.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Committee Harney Ingalls adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m. This meeting was recorded and all comments are on file with the City Traffic Engineering Department.

ATTEST: 
[Michelle Ramirez], Board Secretary

[Angela Harney], Chairman