



Complete Streets Coordinating Council (CSCC)

May 25, 2023 (5:30-7:30pm)

Zoom



Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Quorum was established and the meeting was called to order by co-chairs at 5:30pm

Members Present:

Rhonda Bodfield
Jill Brammer
Marshall Davis
Charly Earley
Jennifer Flores
Sophia Gonzalez
Craig McCaskill
Katharine Mitchell
Grecia Ramirez
Ruth Reiman
Miranda Schubert
Tarik Williams
Selina Barajas
Rossio Araujo
Jonathan Crowe
Riley Merline
Liz Soltero

Members Absent:

Paki Rico

Staff:

Patrick Harley
Collin Chesston
Kara Lehmann
Andy Bemis
Monica Landgrave-Serrano

Guests:

Fatima Luna
Manisha Bewtra

Observers:

Ben Buehler-Garcia
Evren Sonmez
Kristin McRay

Facilitation:

Colleen Whitaker

Summary of actions and decisions

- Approval of March and April Minutes: Motion - Miranda; Second – Rhonda
- Ontario-Mesadora Bike Boulevard 411 funding: Motion to approve funding – Rhonda; Second – Miranda

2. Housekeeping

- Approval of past minutes: March and April. No corrections were offered. Motion to approve both sets of meeting minutes: Miranda; Second – Rhonda

3. Climate Action Plan

Fatima Luna, Climate and Sustainability Policy Advisors, Mayors Office

Manisha Bewtra, Planning Mobility and Development Advisor

Fatima and Manisha shared an overview presentation. Highlights:

- Climate has always been a priority for Mayor Romero; within her first month in office she joined Climate Mayors.
- September of 2020 – she led the creation of a Declaration of Climate Emergency. This is the foundation for much of the City’s climate work now. This committed the city to creating a community-wide climate action plan.
- The consultant was not hired until early last year. Community engagement process began before this.
- Community engagement:
 - Online survey (statistically significant, although only 6 responses in Spanish, so more concerted outreach was done following this)
 - Worked with UA and Tucson Climate Change Coalition and Southwest Decision Resources to develop Climate Listening Sessions with front line communities.
 - Many community partners helped to implement the engagement strategy – community dialogues, pop-up events, large public workshops, open house, listening session with business leaders
- March 7th – plan was adopted by Mayor and Council. One month later the Implementation Plan was also adopted.
- Implementation of FY24 identified goals is estimated at ~\$80M – some has already been secured, some identified and in process of securing.

Land use and transportation strategies and actions, and alignment with CSCC

- CSCC work is very aligned with Tucson Resilient Together
- Move Tucson served as a model for community engagement that Tucson Resilient Together has built upon, particularly with regards to equity and inclusion being at the heart of the process.
- The City is looking at how to repurpose underutilized parking areas, with an emphasis on affordable housing. Complete Streets approach should be part of any redevelopment.
- There is recognition that vehicles will continue to be a big part of our reality; EV readiness is a key for moving forward in the right way.
- Policies around anti-displacement are also tangentially related to the work of the CSCC.
- Want to think holistically about how we repurpose areas.
- Fatima and Manisha work closely with DTM to think about implementation of this plan.

Discussion/questions

- Riley – in the last meeting something important that was raised is the commitment of the City, and possible disconnect with implementation on the ground (e.g. 5th/6th street project). How is the team working with DTM and other departments to ensure this is a priority in their work?
 - Part if the Implementation Plan has been to form a Climate Action Team (CAT), as well as authorizing two new positions to lead and support this work. There are also staff in each department that are helping to make direct connections. CAT has already begun meeting – initial priority is to commission a study for energy sources and the different way the City can achieve the climate energy goals, and also development of heat resilient goals.
 - We recognize that we’re trying to achieve a paradigm shift and everyone wants it to happen quickly. Many of our existing plans and policies have been many years in the making; for those that are in development we hope to find ways to integrate more of these aspects before they are finalized.
- Miranda – what is the update with Major Streets and Routes (MSR)? Regarding 5th/6th we discovered that the analysis was very car centric. There are other road diets coming up – what is the possibility to leverage Tucson Resilient Together to wield maximum influence?
 - Keep doing what you are doing – e.g. letter on 1st Avenue. Work with DTM to stay apprised of what is coming, and what topics should be in front of Mayor and Council. This does make a difference.

- MSR - We are focusing on a re-envisioning. This is somewhat outdated, and now we have new guiding documents (e.g. Move Tucson, Complete Streets Policy). PDS has a new director starting next week. Because this is a land use and transportation planning document want to ensure everyone is plugged in from the start.
- Ruth – Tucson is not an island; we are surrounded by other communities and air pollution is not stationary. How can you get other communities to behave better so all our hard work isn't lost?
 - Implementation will be all hands on deck, including governments across the region. Pima County has a plan as well, there may be interest from other surrounding cities and there is currently EPA funding available for this. Want to incentivize others regional partners to join in by taking the lead.
 - Federal incentives are important. At the state level there is also support. Regionally it is hopeful that Pima County applied for the Safe Streets grant, and are partnering with Tucson. All communities in Pima County also joined. This approach is well-aligned with the climate action approach.
- Ruth – we have an MPO that should be doing these types of things; this is their mission. Hope that you would look to the MPO for partnering. They also have funding, which should be spent on emissions reductions. We used to have a Clean Cities Program, which would be instrumental in developing EV infrastructure. These are two big missed opportunities to promote the type of priorities in the climate plan.
 - Call to the audience at RTA meetings can be a place to raise these things. Expanding participation in call to the audience would be useful. We are looking at how the MPO is spending funds and engaging in these things.
- Marshall – are underutilized lots being mapped to see which ones are along Complete Streets projects in the works this year as a way to change zoning to work more quickly along these routes?
 - This process just got started; this feedback would be useful for them. We are thinking that the high capacity transit corridor and Broadway were two corridors we are initially thinking of, and large shopping malls (e.g. Foothills Mall).
- Sophia – is it possible to add a stronger complete streets lens to transportation initiatives outlined in the Climate Action Plan? 5th/6th assessment didn't priorities pedestrian safety. Upcoming 22nd Street Bridge is an expensive project, and it looks like it will prioritize freight traffic over pedestrian infrastructure. Feels like our studies are missing the complete streets lens. Advocacy groups are brought in at the last minute; not sufficient time to organize more sensical collaboration.
 - Do think there is opportunity to do much of this. The transportation goals/strategies in the climate action plan are high level, which is intentional, understanding that things develop as you being to work on a projects. A preliminary action approved was to join the C40 Green and Healthy Streets Accelerator – this looks at many of the things within the complete streets framework. Much of this work will be led by the CAT working with City departments.
 - Plan Tucson is coming up and will align all the planning in the City. Stay involved in this process and make these suggestions. It is a voter approved plan.
- Patrick – we can bring the MSR back to CSCC in a future agenda

4. Prop 411 Funding Request: Ontario-Mesadora Bike Boulevard - Andy Bemis

Andy provided an overview of the project and funding request (presentation was shared with members ahead of the meeting). Highlights:

- Project overview:
 - West side neighborhood corridor.
 - Part of Move Tucson recommended project list, but not included in Bike Boulevard Master Plan. Residents raised that this was a missed opportunity to provide connection to Pima Community College West.

- Cost: \$1.28M
- Why build this now?
 - Improve connection to existing/developing Bike Boulevards
 - Cost efficiencies to merge with exiting project under construction.
 - Just secured funding to build HAWK crossing at St. Mary's as part of this.
 - Route goes through priority equity areas identified in Move Tucson
 - Safety – this area has a poor safety record, mostly vehicle collisions
- Impacts to draft 5-year plan
 - Funds shifted from the 36th St. roundabout came from Bikeway category, which freed up about \$1 million
 - Removal of Tucson Blvd project feed up additional funds.
 - This project will not require eliminating any other projects in the draft 5-year plan.
 - Have \$2M budget in Bikeway category, and this should leave \$700k in this category as a “rainy day fund”
- Timing – getting a decision sooner rather than later would be better. Outreach on the existing nearby project has already begun, so could add this project into the second round of outreach. Would need to know by July to do this. Action doesn't have to be taken today if members need more time to consider. If it is not approved now, it can stay in the list for possible future funding (might just cost a bit more on the design at that time).

Discussion/Questions

- Sophia – appreciate the outline of this presentation and that it was sent in advance. If HAWK is put here, can we still eventually put one at Tumamoc Hill?
 - In general the guidance is 600 feet, so if it is further than this it shouldn't be an issue.
- Liz – I am a Ward 1 resident. We are excited to get some Bike Boulevards. Residents recently did a big ride with FUGA. Very excited for this infrastructure and investment on the west side, it is very needed.
- Grecia – is roundabout project still moving forward? Can you clarify the funding around that.
 - It is still moving forward. Originally all the funding for the roundabout was coming out of the bikeway fund. Began to realize that this is really a multi-modal improvement. So this project has been funded from multiple Prop 411 categories. This freed up funds in bikeway category previously earmarked for this.
- Grecia – what is the “removal of Tucson Blvd project”?
 - This was part of initial draft collector program. The IOAC is reviewing this. Through iteration of collector street work, another project was removed and Tucson from Mabel south was added. But there aren't opportunities for enhanced bikeways on this tight corridor, so this funding can be redistributed elsewhere.
- Craig – this bike boulevard has a destination at the Loop. Is this a goal for future bike boulevards?
 - Definitely. The Master Plan highlights connections to all shared use paths. We work in close coordination with Pima County on this.
- Marshall – what is the informal dirt path you mentioned at the terminus of this path at Pima County? And is the price break down you shared fairly standard?
 - The dirt path and route from neighborhood is an informal path now. It is being used, but there are major safety obstacles.
 - Price: this is a planning level cost estimate based on most recent project
- Ruth – is Tucson Blvd going to be paved? Biked there the other day – it is horrible!
 - Mabel to 6th is moving forward in place of Grant to Mabel. Tentatively scheduled for 2024. But everything is on hold until approval from IOAC.
- Grecia – Tucson does feel very unsafe on bike. Need to consider where bikes will get dumped from 6th once road diet ends. Can we discuss Tucson Blvd project further? Need to consider other elements in addition to repaving – bike and pedestrian safety elements.
 - There is more space north of Mabel, it's just very tight south of there.
- Ruth – how long is the proposed bike boulevard?

- About 1.5 -2 miles
- Ruth – concerned with this process of how we are doling out money. Have no problem with the project, but how will this work moving forward? We have a plan, but feels like every meeting we have a special request.
 - Patrick – we do want to establish the 5-year program for this reason. Can't promise there won't be ad hoc requests. But as CSCC you can say you don't want to do it this way, or if you want to develop certain policies and procedures you can. That is within your authority.
- Charley – appreciate the presentation format and outline. This project is really needed. I teach at PCC. Anklam and St. Mary's is very dangerous. How does this project connect up with Aviation and the new extension, and how do we get across the highway?
 - Connectivity – there are several east-west projects on the radar right now: new bike/ped bridge just south of Grant over I-10 and Santa Cruz; series of underpass crossing improvements; Silverlake connection to El Paso Southwest Greenway; Cushing Street bridge; 18th St. underpass.
 - At a future meeting could share a presentation on downtown bike connectivity.
- Riley – want to share support for this bike boulevard. Use this pretty much every day with my kids and mom. It is in need of these safety features. Very excited for how these bike boulevards will connect so many things in this part of town.
- Rhonda – want to express support for this project; it meets many of our goals.
- Andy – this project was discussed in the Year 1 subcommittee as well. Discussed this and Elvira at length. At that time Elvira went forward in Year 1, but this one was essentially the next in line.
- Miranda – also feel supportive of this project, but also feeling sensitive to comments from other members about feeling rushed to make decisions. Should we include a built-in waiting period automatically to allow for additional deliberation? Want to implement changes we discussed at the retreat.
- Tarik – agree in general about this, but do feel comfortable moving forward tonight.
- Multiple other members shared they are also ready to vote tonight.
- Colleen – we will decide how to address this bigger question, but move forward with a vote tonight. How would the group like to proceed? à feels like a bigger conversation to agendize for future meeting, not for tonight.

Consensus approval process

- Any hesitations or concerns, or reasons anyone doesn't feel ready to move forward tonight? à no members.
- Any member feeling they cannot support this funding request fully? à no members
- Consensus approval. Motion to approve funding – Rhonda; Second – Miranda.

5. Retreat debrief and overview – Miranda/Rhonda

Miranda and Rhonda hared some key takeaways from the retreat. With less time available tonight, these are raised for possible future discussion.

- Retreat was a great opportunity to build relationships and celebrate work we've already done. It was a great event. Although we didn't necessarily come away with a lot of answers, we did identify a number of big questions to tackle – how do we elevate the work we do, how do we integrate with other work, etc.?
- The agenda was very ambitious in retrospect.

Major themes for future discussion:

- Project review and prioritization:
 - With 62 projects to review – how do we do this in a sustainable way and still try and touch as many projects as possible?
 - How do we engage on a project level and more systemically?

- Timing – how do we engage before decisions are made?
- Advocate for alternative studies on key projects (e.g. road diets)
- Opportunity for work within DTM to update policies to better align with our approach
- Advocacy, education and awareness raising – engage with general public at large, build support for projects, etc.
- Safety – reduce traffic violence
- CSCC meetings
 - Tasks to accomplish: mini-grants programs, 62 projects to review, partner with Chief Equity Officer, open each meeting with key stats of traffic violence, Plan Tucson
 - Approaches: check ins before meetings, in-person meet at some frequency (once per quarter?), allow time to process information, don't feel rushed, allow time for long-term visioning.

Discussion

- Sophia – it was great to get to know each other and our interests.
- Charley – re: project review - as a new person, do appreciate time built in to review materials or catch up on discussion.
- Tarik – can presentations be recorded with opportunity to watch later? Also, sharing input to projects before design is started might be helpful.
 - Patrick – CSCC meetings are recorded. The audio is posted on the clerks website with the Legal Action Report. Patrick has all the video files, but they are too big to post. Anyone wanting any of these can ask Patrick.
- Sophia – we have strong ideas for project review format when we request presentations. We can probably easily pass this in next month of two. The concept of a check list is exciting to chip away at.
- Colleen – two major things to address in future meetings seem like: Project review process and CSCC meetings. SDR will work with co-chairs and Patrick to integrate into agenda.

6. CSCC Hub

- Park Tucson (Jill) – no significant updates
- PAC (Tarik) – no updates
- TTF (Riley) – still working on Fare Free effort. Will meet next about the outreach and communication on this. Also looking at transit budget in RTA Next and integration of Fare Free transit with Climate Action Plan.
- IOAC (Liz) – 411 projects have started. Staff presented on Year 2 of Collector Streets Program. There is a section of Tucson Blvd included in this. Committee has asked staff to share how they are calculating these OCIs. Continuing to work on how to prioritize an implementation plan.
- BAC (Sophia) – drafted a letter to address 22nd St. Bridge to highlight concerns (can share via email). Considering a yearly “lessons learned” reflection.
- CODI – no representative

7. Wrap up

DTM Update – Patrick

- Grant Road widening Phases 3 and 4 - design is complete. Looking to go to construction by end of year
- 22nd St. Bridge – looking to begin construction this summer
- Just received \$15M for Drexel Bridge project.
- Started 411 – repaving on Blacklidge, 9th and 5th Bike Boulevards, and Oak Flower Neighborhood
- 36th St. Roundabout is starting design
- Prop 101 projects starting to move – Camino Seco, Bear Canyon, Pantano, Silverbell
- Bilby – anticipate 15% design in July

Future agenda items suggested:

- Collector Street Program
- Could LSA or a BAC member present on their evaluation of Downtown links and 22nd St bridge
- Major Streets and Routes
- Bike Boulevard connectivity

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 by the co-chairs.