



Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the **Tucson Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee (TPCBAC)** and to the general public, that the TPCBAC held the following meeting, which was open to the public:

The **TPCBAC**, conducted a public meeting **February 21, 2024**. A recording of the meeting may be accessed here: TBD.

## Approved Meeting Minutes

### 1. Roll Call, Call to Order, and Approval of January Minutes.

Voice roll call was taken, with 13 members of the committee in attendance. Joseph Mais (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

**MOTION: A motion to approve the January 17, 2024 minutes was made by Joseph Mais, seconded by Daphne Hope, and passed by voice vote, 10 yes, 0 no; three members were not present at prior meeting, thus abstaining.**

### 2. Call to the Public.

Attendee from the public, Damion Alexander, was appreciative to hear the Tanque Verde discussion later in the agenda and shared that they continue to encourage the community to ride.

### 3. Updates from Law Enforcement

Five representatives from the Pima County Sheriff's Department joined the meeting. Chief Gilbert Dominguez shared a summary of a meeting with the Sheriff and Daphne and Bob on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Moving forward, the Sheriff's Department intends to participate regularly at the bicycle advisory committee meetings. If cyclists encounter issues with roadways, please call the Sheriff's department to alert them of an unsafe area in the roadway.

Mt Lemmon roadway and perceptions of traffic on Mt Lemmon was discussed; tickets issued on Mt Lemmon are those that you see anywhere else in the county, such as speeding, etc. with the goal to change behavior. Also discussed were homeless encampments around The Loop.

Representatives from the Sheriff's Department included:

Patrol North Captain, Aimee Trueblood (Rincon, Foothills District, Mt Lemmon)

Tiffany Hogate, Commander for the Rincon Patrol District

David Conto, works on the Mountain, one of two resident deputies that works and lives on Mt Lemmon

Steven Permut: The Loop, recent bicycle patrols. 14 volunteer SAVs patrol on cycle (two at a time) on part of the loop (only the portion covered by the sheriff's department vs TPD). Patrollers go out on

voluntary basis. The winter is less active than the summertime. Only a few incidents with specific requests regarding homeless activity. If the problem gets large enough, the patrols will make a radio call for backup, which is uncommon. In general, the biggest problem reported are eBikes or other motorized vehicles going much too fast and in an unsafe manor. Tends to be ~ 14 scheduled patrols which increase with warmer weather (two to four hours) and this includes adjacent parks as well.

Insight into traffic: Bicycles and car interactions on the mountain. Haven't had a lot of accidents in recent.

Eric Post Comment / Question: Groups with SAG vehicles are supposed to have a permit from Pima County. Many from out town don't realize that requirement.

Daphne Hope Question: recent article in the paper on the north side Tucson mall (Santa Cruz) regarding homeless encampments, noted not a huge problem but from time-to-time significant congregations. Could the patrol provide an increased presence?

Nicole Sanderson: is there a separate public information office? Internally working on a project to make recommendations regarding follow up after cyclist involved crashes and would like to communicate via proper channels. David provided a response: There is a public information officer (out of community services division). If there is a way for the department to send out a message / communication, they are happy to, such as PSA communications and will share contact information.

Daphne inquired about a fatal collision yesterday on Old Spanish Trail. David Gilbert shared that the investigation is not yet completed; the collision occurred at 5:30pm on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> near Old Spanish Trail & Rocking K Ranch Loop, cyclist vs vehicle. The vehicle was East Bound on Old Spanish Trail, no passengers and bicycle was also East bound. The vehicle drifted to the right and struck the cyclist. No impairment was found on driver. Excessive speed was not deemed to be a factor but is still under investigation.

#### **4. ADOT Vulnerable Road Users Survey Assessment Presentation**

Kerry Wilcoxon, Arizona State Traffic Safety Engineer at ADOT, presented a recently published Arizona Vulnerable Road Users Survey Assessment, which is a federally mandated statewide evaluation of vulnerable road user safety and includes a safety improvement plan (link provided below). The report is publicly available on the ADOT website. The last complete year of data is from 2022, which includes all public roads and all road users. Arizona had a new record for fatalities in 2022; record highs of bicyclists / motorcyclists / pedestrians. 2023 is not final but appears to be another record year of total fatalities.

On average, Arizona has 123,000 crashes per year reported and have been trending upward, about a 12% increase over the past decade. Fatalities are trending higher, and at a faster rate since 2010, largely driven by VRUs (pedestrians & bicyclists). Pedestrians are by far the majority of fatalities.

To be determined if eBikes should be considered bicycles or motorcycles.

Kerry also covered the “Safe System Approach”, an evolution of the Zero Death Initiative. It is built around the fact that we know humans make mistakes, and when they make mistakes, we want to minimize impacts to avoid fatal or serious injuries.

Regarding crash Location & behavior, most pedestrian incidents are occurring midblock. Bicyclists most likely to be hit at intersections (perpendicular or turning traffic). Both VRUs are hit while crossing the road. Most of the bicycle crashes are occurring in the daylight and pedestrian at night.

Overview of countermeasures: assessing high / medium / low cost including separated space, separated time, increase attentiveness and awareness, reduce speeds, and reduce impact forces.

Kerry also shared that with his team now fully staffed and positions filled in various communities, he expects increased collaboration across communities.

Elaine Mariolle also provided insight that a series of public outreach initiatives are underway, including in Tucson.

[ADOT Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment \(azdot.gov\)](https://www.azdot.gov/ADOT-Vulnerable-Road-User-Safety-Assessment)

## **5. Annual Report**

Jospeh distributed a draft last month, and since that time has incorporated feedback and shared a draft live during the meeting.

**MOTION: A motion to approve the letter was made by Joseph Mais, seconded by Daphne Hope, and passed by a unanimous voice vote, 13 yes, 0 no.**

## **6. Overton Road Letter**

Joey Iuliano drafted a letter and it was shared to the committee in advance of the meeting.

Ingmar reviewed and suggested sharing more road specifics to the letter to achieve an even better outcome. Ingmar will send suggested edits and we will plan to incorporate into next month’s agenda for review. Krista Post also suggested we extend the area in the letter and will send suggested edits for incorporation (Thornsdale to Oracle for example).

## **7. Skyline – Sunrise Update**

Mike Hendrix shared an overview of the intersection with new traffic data (volume and speed information on Skyline approaching the intersection) and prepared recommendations. The ADOT database has 10 years’ worth of data at this intersection. On average motorists were moving approximately 31 mph.

Recommendations include updated signage in the area and relocation of speed limit signs which still need to be approved by the county engineer. Daphne Hope commented that the updated signage does clarify to drivers that they must yield and welcomes the change.

## **8. Valencia Road Project**

Jonathan Crowe shared an update on West Valencia Road, a \$20M grant was awarded for this project. This is between Mission Road on the East and just passed Camino de la Tierra on the West. This project will redesign and rebuild this area, including improved transit / bicycle and pedestrian sections. Options include a buffered bike lane (raised concrete curb, 0 to 6 inches high and wide). At a bus stop / shelter the bike lane would route behind the bus stop. There is also a segment of the roadway that allows for room for a multi-use path on the north side of Valencia Road. Photo examples of these types of designs in other cities were shown to the committee as well. The county is looking for feedback from the TPCBAC.

Krista Post asked about the barriers and their efficacy. It is a design that provides a disincentive to wander into the bike lane. The theory behind them is that they provide a visual and physical barrier for cars to not drift into the bike lane. Daphne Hope shared concern about the design feature in which the bicycle lane goes up onto a sidewalk due to perception / safety concerns from vehicles.

The committee will include on the agenda for March to discuss further.

## **9. Tanque Verde Loop Extension #4**

A member of the public, Damion Alexander, attended and shared feedback of this area and history. In regard to The Loop going from Craycroft to Tanque Verde, there is a neighborhood halfway through "Country Club Estates". The neighborhood HOA voted to not allow the Loop to go through the community due to a prior experience. He advocated community outreach to others in the community that may not be aware of this issue and safety concerns. This item will also be put on next month's agenda for follow up.

## **10. BAC Liaison to Complete Street Coordinating Council**

- Looking for a liaison for the BAC to the CSCC as Sophia is transitioning off of the TPCBAC
- The CSCC meets once a month and also includes review in advance of material

## **11. Announcements, Updates, and Questions for Related Entities**

- GABA: Daphne Hope, no new reports to update
- CSCC: Sophia Gonzalez, the CSCC is reviewing the long list of projects and how to be more strategic
- Plan Tucson: James Wood: Update to be provided at March meeting
- UofA: not able to attend

## **12. Announcements, Updates, and Questions for Staff**

- **City of Tucson**, Ben Elias
  - Two project updates provided
- **Pima County**, Mike Hendrix:
  - No additional updates separate from the agenda items discussed this evening.
  - Regarding road hazards on county streets, please do reach out to the county so they are aware and can address
- **Oro Valley**, none present

- **Marana**, none present
- **PAG**, David Mitchell: not able to attend

**13. Adjournment.**

The Chair adjourned the February 21, 2024 TPCBAC meeting at 7:56 pm.

**Attendance:**

Imelda Cortez, Mayor	(absent)
Sophia Gonzalez, Ward 1	
John Edgett, Ward 2	
Paul Tilley, Ward 3	
Joey Iuliano, Ward 4	(absent)
James Wood, Ward 5	
Kelly Melsted-Berger, Ward 6	(absent)
Courtnee DeBoer, Pima County	
Randy Ford, Pima County	(absent)
Daphne Hope, Pima County	
David Linn, Pima County	
Joseph Mais, Pima County	
Eric Post, Pima County	
Ingmar Riedel-Kruse, Pima County	
Nicole Sanderson, Pima County	
Kim Smith, Pima County	(absent)
Bob Smith, Sahuarita	
David Andrews, Marana	(absent)
Krista Post, Oro Valley	
TBD, University of Arizona	(absent)
Benjamin Elias, COT/TDOT	
Mike Hendrix, PCDOT	
TBD, Oro Valley	(absent)
TBD, Marana	(absent)
David Mitchell, PAG	(absent)
Sgt David Fritsch, TPD	(absent)
Pima County Sherrif's Office	Gilbert Dominquez

**Audience:**

Aimee Trueblood  
 Elaine Mariolle  
 David Conto  
 Gilbert Dominguez  
 Mike Hendrix  
 Steven Permut  
 Kerry Wilcoxon  
 Tiffany Hogate  
 Damion Alexander  
 Anona Leigh-Miller  
 Jonathan Crowe