

May 5<sup>th</sup> 2016



Flagstaff Biking Organization  
PO Box 23851  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002  
<http://www.flagstaffbiking.org>

Dan Gabiou, Planning Program Manager  
Multimodal Planning Division  
Arizona Department of Transportation  
206 South 17th Avenue  
MD 310B  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Mr. Gabiou-

We are writing in support of the PARA grant application from Coconino County for funding for a preliminary planning for addressing roadway safety concerns on US Highway 180 near Hidden Hollow in Flagstaff, Arizona.

**Background on Flagstaff Biking Organization**

Flagstaff Biking Organization (FBO) is a group of cyclists who came together to “promote bicycling as a safe and attractive means of transportation and recreation in Northern Arizona.” Our initial project was to put on a Bike to Work Week for our community in May 2002. Building on the success we started to expand our efforts to keep people informed of cycling related issues and galvanize support for better and safer facilities, trails, and trail access. Please see <http://flagstaffbiking.org/about-fbo/> for more information.

Please consider our comments as generally representative of our approximately 360 paid members’ concerns.

## **Concerns with Highway 180 in the Project Area**

This piece of Highway 180, and northward to Valle, AZ, is a very popular cycling route as it is the only access to Snow Bowl Road, a popular road ride in and of itself. Bicycling is extremely popular in Flagstaff, which supports a half dozen bike shops and a thriving bike culture. Our community is also a regional destination for cycling, especially in the summer when the surrounding deserts become too hot for riding. We are ranked by the League of American Cyclists as a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community.

We have strong concerns with the pavement condition and narrowness of the roadway on the segment of Highway 180 between N. Fremont Blvd. and the Fire Station just north of Forest Hills Drive. This section of road is extremely narrow, has virtually no shoulder and numerous intersections with side streets and a busy gas station. The bend in the road between Kelly McCoy Road and Hidden Hollow Road limits driver line-of sight substantially in both directions. In addition, the pavement throughout is in terrible condition. Flagstaff cyclists consider this piece of road to be one of the more treacherous in the area.

Please accept this letter as our full support of this grant for funds to begin the planning for a remedy for the issues for cyclists on this section of US Highway 180.

Thank you!

Sincerely-

*s/Anthony Quintile*

for the Board of Flagstaff Biking Organization

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