

November 19, 2012



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

ADOT c/o Mr. Justin Hoppmann
4561 E. McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85008
Jhoppmann@aztec.us
Sent via electronic mail.

Dear Mr. Hoppmann,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the pavement preservation project on United States (US) 180 between milepost (MP) 216.20 and MP 224.06 within the City of Flagstaff, Coconino County, 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.

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.

Please consider our comments as generally representative of our approximately 300 paid members' concerns.

Immediate Concerns with Highway 180 in the Project Area

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.

We are pleased that this project is under consideration. We would ask that every effort be made along this section to increase roadway width and to narrow vehicular lanes as much as reasonable to provide a shoulder for bicyclists through this section and improve safety. These measures can slow motor vehicle traffic somewhat and provide enough room for bicycles to help address rider concerns on this road.

In addition, please take every opportunity to consider bicyclists' place in the roadway along the length of this entire project as this road is used for accessing several schools, trailheads and as a bike commuting route for thousands of Flagstaff residents daily.

Long Term Goals for Highway 180

We attended meetings several years ago that were facilitated by an ADOT hired contractor seeking public involvement in the future of Highway 180 in its entirety between Flagstaff and Valle. We were greatly enthused about the idea of this road being improved to allow safer cycling between Flagstaff Valle and Grand Canyon, and we are dismayed that nothing substantial has come of those meetings to date.

Citing the nature of Flagstaff and Grand Canyon as tourism destinations, and the popularity of cycling in the Flagstaff area, we strongly encourage ADOT to again consider substantial improvements to this route, including widening the road substantially enough to provide ample room for bicyclists to safely navigate to and from Grand Canyon National Park.

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact us with any questions, and please keep us apprised of any updates on this project.

Sincerely-

s/Anthony Quintile

for the Board of Flagstaff Biking Organization

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