



Flagstaff Biking Organization  
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March 27, 2018

Dear Mayor and Council-

We are writing to support adequate funding for the future of bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure in Flagstaff through the Flagstaff Transportation Tax. It is imperative that we plan wisely to address coming transportation challenges to maintain the quality of life that makes Flagstaff a desirable place to live.

Flagstaff is at a turning point in its history. Significant population growth is projected for Northern Arizona University and the City. Much of this growth is being tentatively addressed by high-density housing projects.

As the City grows, it will become increasingly difficult to drive on existing and proposed corridors. Many of the extremely expensive infrastructure projects proposed for roads and new overpasses will offer diminishing returns in the way of improving traffic conditions for motor vehicles. Concurrently, riding bicycles and walking will become more difficult and more dangerous without sufficiently providing for the much needed, in fact overdue, infrastructure for these low-impact modes of transportation.

A recent survey conducted by the City of Flagstaff found an exceptionally high level of support for a Bike/Pedways plan. This plan would create a continuous network of bicycle-pedestrian routes throughout Flagstaff utilizing existing side streets with sidewalks, bike lanes and "cycletracks", grade separated crossings at major motor vehicle routes, and FUTS paths. Several other surveys executed by the City demonstrated similarly high levels of support for other bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

At first glance this sort of infrastructure may seem extravagant, however the cost per mile to build and maintain is very low when compared to similar motor vehicle infrastructure. These types of amenities also make bicycling and walking far more accessible, safer, and reasonable for a much greater number of people. This potential for modality shift would contribute greatly to a reduction in motor vehicle traffic, which benefits all road users.

It is also important to consider the demographics of many of Flagstaff's future residents. The Flagstaff Police Department has repeatedly acknowledged issues with knowledge of, and adherence to, traffic regulations by NAU students riding bikes. The Police Department has twice run targeted enforcement campaigns to try to increase awareness of cycling laws during September when students return to Northern Arizona University.

Although we firmly support the view that individuals are responsible for knowing and abiding by bicycling laws, we also suggest the following premise. Our network of pathways, bike lanes, and continuous cycling routes is disjointed at best. Our cycling infrastructure is incomplete and suggests a lack of commitment to the needs and safety of cyclists. If we as a community cannot provide a comprehensive message, through the provision of appropriate facilities, that bicycles are part of the plan for our roadways, how can we expect a similar level of respect from cyclists using them?

The current proposal from the Citizens' Transportation Tax Commission does not provide enough funding to execute the short-term, five-year, bicycle pedestrian projects as recommended by City Staff. This tax is meant to provide funding for transportation infrastructure for the next twenty years of growth in Flagstaff.

We strongly support the highest possible commitment to robust bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure through the proposed new Transportation Tax. We ask that the Mayor and Council support this direction as well.

Thank you for your consideration-

*s/Anthony Quintile*

For the Board of Flagstaff Biking Organization