



Flagstaff Biking Organization
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Mayor and Council-

The last time a bicycling related decision came in front of the City Council, scores of members of the public were made to wait behind several commercial developers as discussion about the developers' variances and permitting dragged the cycling agenda item well into the evening. The views of several council members and the mayor at the time revealed an unfortunate level of ignorance and lack of concern for the real, and ongoing, issues that cyclists face every day.

This example perfectly frames our concern, and the need for change.

We are glad to see that City leadership seems to finally be taking the issues of cycling infrastructure and bicyclist safety seriously.

Flagstaff does not really have traffic congestion issues with the exception of some very specific examples, like moving Snowbowl and snow play traffic and railroad induced delays. Most of us drive motor vehicles as well and rarely is it the case that congestion will keep one from proceeding through an intersection in a single traffic control cycle. The perception that "something must be done" about motor vehicle traffic congestion because some people feel inconvenienced is vastly overblown.

At the same time, bicycle and pedestrian safety has been relegated to being an afterthought. Daily, bicyclists and pedestrians are expected to negotiate an ever deteriorating system of routes routinely infringed upon by an increasingly distracted motor vehicle driving public.

Prop 419 was sold to the voters as offering solutions for those of us who ride and walk, but the funding generated by this proposition is disproportionately weighted to the futility of providing even more pavement to drive upon. In our view, the inconvenience of arriving to a destination less than a minute later when driving does not carry any importance when weighed against the life and limb of bicyclists and pedestrians.

We appreciate the direction and hard work that has positioned our community for some success with the Active Transportation Master Plan. It's content is a good start, but it is not enough, nor is it soon enough.

We are not so naïve as to think that a magic wand can be waved and Flagstaff will have all of the appropriate bicycling infrastructure that it needs. We are also not so naïve as to trust the status quo. There is guidance from the 1980 and 1991 Flagstaff Bicycle Plans that still has not been implemented.

Let's get it right this time, once and for all, and implement cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in a holistic way, and as soon as possible.

Sincerely-

The Board of Flagstaff Biking Organization