

**FLAGSTAFF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**  
***FIRST PUBLIC WORKSHOP – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2008***  
***PRIORITY ISSUES IDENTIFICATION***

**INTRODUCTION**

The Flagstaff Metropolitan Planning Organization (FMPO) and its consultants formally initiated Flagstaff Pathways – the FMPO Regional Transportation Plan Update – with a series of meetings and workshops the week of April 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2008. As part of this effort, two community public workshops were held on consecutive nights in West and East Flagstaff. The meetings were conducted by the FMPO’s consulting team of Charlier Associates, Inc. and Partners for Strategic Action, Inc. (PSA), with staff support and attendance from the FMPO, City, County, NAIPTA, Arizona DOT, and other transportation partners.

The objective of both workshops was to identify and prioritize key transportation issues, challenges, opportunities, and values that the Flagstaff Pathways planning process should address. The project team will use this input to guide the project’s technical and policy focus and to develop prioritization and evaluation criteria.

After introductions by FMPO Manager David Wessel and an overview presentation by Jacob Riger of Charlier Associates, Curt Dunham of PSA explained the Nominal Group Technique process that participants used in small group exercises for the remainder of the workshop (explained in Appendix A).

**PRIORITY ISSUES**

Based on the conclusions of the small group exercise, the following issue themes resonated most broadly:

- 1) Creating “complete street” corridors that facilitating using all travel modes – cars, transit, walking, and biking
- 2) Developing bypasses to separate through traffic from local trips and neighborhoods
- 3) Implementing “smart growth” land use planning that would reduce reliance on cars for some trips by placing housing, jobs, and shopping closer together while maintaining the region’s unique character
- 4) Maintaining the attractive landscapes and streetscapes along major travel corridors
- 5) Improving maintenance on roads, trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks, including ice and snow removal and sand clean-up
- 6) Preserving access to public lands and open spaces

Appendix B of this report includes verbatim lists of issues discussed at the workshop.

## WORKSHOP EVALUATIONS

Workshop participants were asked to complete an evaluation of the workshop and to offer suggestions for improving future workshops. About three-quarters of the 26 workshop participants completed the evaluation form which asked for rankings on several topics on a scale of one to five (strongly disagree to strongly agree).

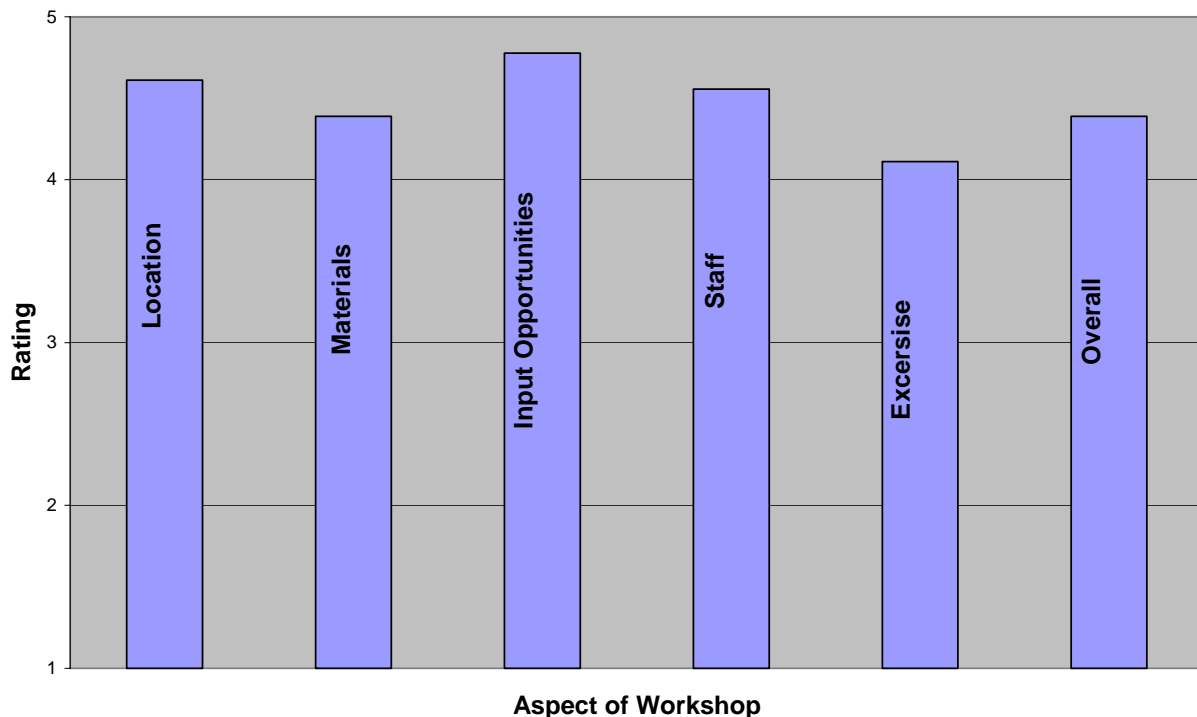
### *Participant Satisfaction with Workshop*

The evaluation criteria were:

- The location for the workshop was convenient and accessible.
- Workshop materials were clear and easy to understand.
- There were many opportunities to offer personal input.
- The staff, consultants, and facilitators were receptive to input from participants.
- The exercises were useful and will provide good input for the plan.
- The experience was enjoyable and informative.

The majority of the evaluation responses were positive and participants either mostly agreed or completely agreed to the above statements. The criteria with a few dissatisfied responses were quality of the workshop materials and value of the exercise. A few participants expressed concerns about the limits of the maps provided – the larger planning area should be shown beyond the immediate Flagstaff area. There were also concerns expressed about the usefulness of input during the group exercise and confusion of how the workshop input will influence the planning process

**Figure 1: Wednesday April 9th Workshop Evaluation**



*Suggestions for Future Workshops*

The majority of suggestions were to increase attendance with more widespread publicity. Other suggestions included more maps of Flagstaff and surrounding areas for reference.

*Public Outreach Strategies for Workshop*

The majority of workshop attendees learned of the workshop in the local newspaper. Although attendance was lower than anticipated, resulting input was very beneficial and comprehensive. A few attendees expressed concern about the low attendance and suggested more outreach to the public for future workshops.

## **APPENDIX A - NOMINAL GROUP TECHNIQUE (NGT) SUMMARY**

- **Divide participants into small groups with a facilitator and scribe**
  - *Quiet Consideration* – Facilitator reads a pre-defined question and directs participants to list their issues on paper, quietly without discussion. **(5 minutes)**
  - *Sharing the Issues* - Facilitator asks each participant to read aloud one of their most important issues. Facilitator writes each issue on the flip chart. There is no discussion of the issues at this time. Facilitator continues in round-robin fashion until approximately 20-25 unique ideas are listed. **(30 minutes)**
  - *Confirmation* - Facilitator reviews the issues, reading them aloud to make sure everyone understands each idea listed. **(10 minutes)**
  - *Selecting Top Issues* – Facilitator asks participants to choose from the flip chart list their five most important issues and has them write one issue on each of the five 3x5 index cards. **(5 minutes)**
  - *Ranking Top Issues* - Facilitator asks participants to choose, from their five cards:
    1. The *MOST* important issue and to write a score of 5 in the bottom right hand corner.
    2. The *LEAST* important issue, out of the four remaining. Placing a 1 on the bottom right corner.
    3. The *MOST* important issue out of the remaining cards is given a 4.
    4. The *LEAST* important out of the remaining cards is given a 2.
    5. The last card remaining is given a 3. **(5 minutes)**
  - *Identify Group Priorities* – Collect and shuffle cards to preserve anonymity. A group volunteer is selected to read the card scores as Facilitator writes it on the flip chart. Group assists Facilitator in totaling the score for each issue on the flip chart list. The five issues with the highest scores are prioritized, highest to lowest and are written on a separate flip chart sheet. **(15 minutes)**

## **APPENDIX B: DETAILED DISCUSSION RESULTS**

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9: FLAGSTAFF HIGH SCHOOL**

#### Group 1

Priority Issues (drawn from full list using NGT scoring system):

1. Planning for post-petroleum
2. Consideration of multimodal
3. Snow/cinders removed from bike/ped pathways
4. Bypass routes for non-local traffic
5. Dedicated continuous sidewalks

Full list of issues (in order of verbatim discussion):

- Alternative fuels
- Traffic light locations at Mohawk and Lake Mary Rd
- More dedicated bike lanes
- Planning post petroleum
- Consideration of the Walnut Canyon proposed study area
- Expanding and advocating transit opportunities
- Consideration of multi-modal
- Making transit responsive to users
- Relieve traffic congestion on Milton
- Sequencing of traffic lights
- Dedicated continuous sidewalk
- Snow/cinders removed from pathways
- Role of developer with major arterials
- Transitioning traditional auto for ped
- Transit to phoenix (light rail)
- Visibility and frequency of bus stops
- Mass regional transit to attractions
- Alternate for 180 Blackbird Roost
- Bypass routes for non-local traffic
- Road maintenance (cracks, potholes, bikes)
- Driver education for appreciation for peds and bikes
- Dedicated right turn lanes
- Expanding air service
- Pedestrian and bike safety
- Getting pedestrians across thoroughfares other than crosswalks
- Alternate route 180 to I-40
- Redundant routes
- Dedicated truck lanes/routes
- Sidewalk maintenance

- Consideration of roundabouts and other alternative transitions
- 180 to 189 North improvement
- Alternate route I-17 to Mormon Lake
- Build new international airport
- Protect surrounding land use

## Group 2

Priority Issues (drawn from full list using NGT scoring system):

1. Complete streets. Every street is for every user with CSS streetscapes.
2. Great connections between travel modes. Bike, ped, transit, sidewalks.
3. Land-use planning. To reduce travel. Smart growth, housing, jobs.
4. Corridor enhancements. Urban design and safety on Rt 66 and Milton.
5. Improve traffic flow. Thru vs. local.
6. Maintenance. Roads, trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks. Including snow and ice issues.

Full list of issues (in order of verbatim discussion):

- Land-use planning to reduce travel
- Sustainability and multi-modal
- Private partnerships that promote effective, efficient safe and environmentally sensitive transportation modes
- Congestion effecting local neighborhood and safety and movement
- Improving traffic flow through vs local
- Traffic calming needed
- Improving sidewalks and ped lighting
- Trail, roads, and bike lane maintenance
- Provide great connection with FUTS, roads, bus stops, bikeways, and sidewalks
- Bus service improvement with rapid transit from east to west and from NAU to hospital
- Educate all modes of their responsibilities and safety to promote non-auto travel
- Transportation corridors that respect and facilitate that neighborhoods
- Improve parking and traffic flow downtown
- Complete streets for every street for every user
- More over/under the tracks connections (N-S corridors)
- Transportation demand management
- Effective snow plow policy
- Regional transit to outlying towns
- Corridor enhancements. Urban design and safety improvements on Rt 66 and Milton

## Group 3

Priority Issues (drawn from full list using NGT scoring system):

1. Separate bike paths from roads
2. Reroute 180 (A-1 mountain bypass)
3. Character changing development should not occur (moratorium on growth)
4. Multi-modal opportunities

5. Prioritize bike and ped connectivity
6. Respect the Walnut Canyon study area
7. Increase schedule for buses

Full list of issues (in order of verbatim discussion):

- Multi-modal opportunities
- Separate bike paths
- Bike and ped connectivity prioritize
- Four way stop for peds
- Road rage
- Sidewalks around schools
- Mass transit for far east/west
- Reroute 180
- Walnut Canyon (respect study area)
- Increase schedule for busses
- Regular maintenance for FUTS trails/Expansion
- Pave major arterial FUTS paths
- Character change developments should not occur
- Ped-actuated crossings on Milton corridor
- Light rail system to tourist and other city locations like Phoenix Airport
- Equestrian trails to access to national forest
- More modern roundabouts