

FLAGSTAFF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
FIRST PUBLIC WORKSHOP – THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2008
SINAGUA HIGH SCHOOL, 6:30-8:30 PM
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 7th-11th, 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 two issue themes resonated most broadly:

- 1) Improving traffic flow on major arterials and separating arterial traffic from local neighborhoods
- 2) Improving multimodal connections between neighborhoods and connecting travel modes to each other, particularly to walking and biking paths/routes

While both groups discussed several overlapping issues, each group also identified a significant number of issues to consider. Accordingly, the rankings for each group represented only a small number of the issues discussed, diluting rankings consensus between the two groups.

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 18 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).

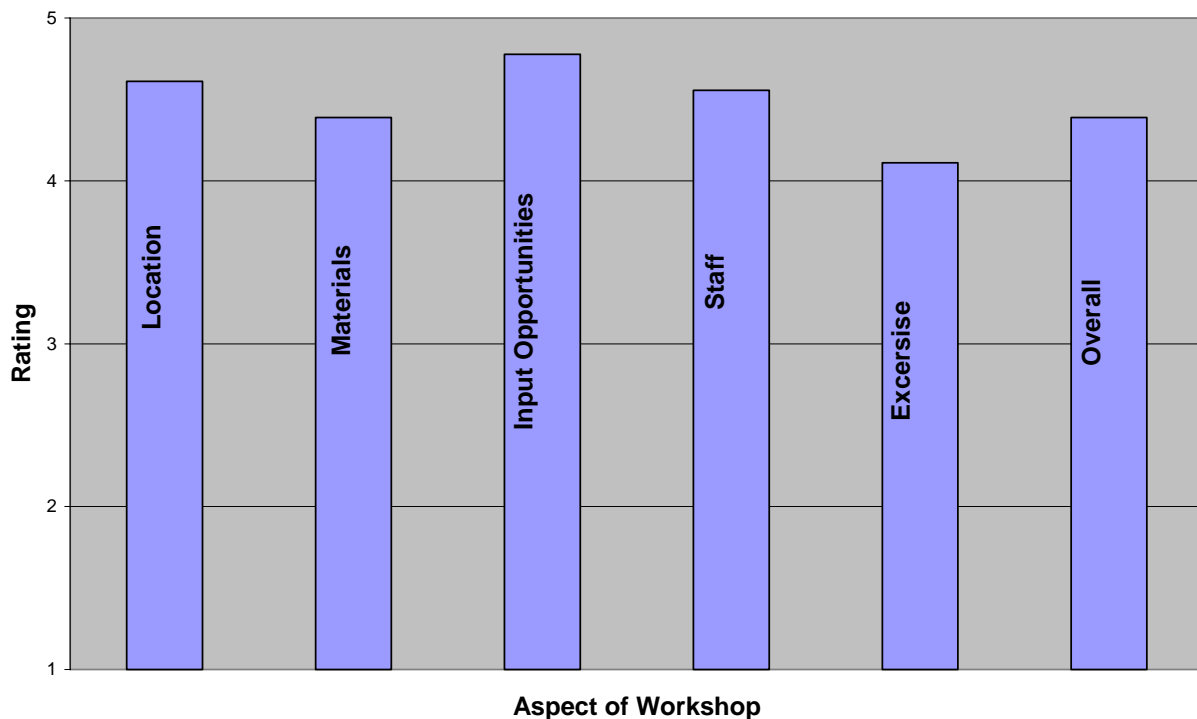
Participant Satisfaction with Workshop

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 to the criteria were positive and participants either mostly agreed or completely agreed with the above statements. The location of the second workshop (Sinagua High School) received a few dissatisfied responses, with accompanying comments noting that Sinagua is more convenient to central Flagstaff than to east Flagstaff. Additionally, another school event coincided with the workshop and resulted in some disturbances from non-workshop attendees.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 10: SINAGUA HIGH SCHOOL

Group 1

Priority Issues (most repeated concerns among the group and concerns with a score of 5 on workshop sheets):

1. Keep residential safe from too much traffic for peds
2. Preserve Walnut Canyon from development
3. Improve traffic flow on Rt 66 and Milton
4. Traffic calming at S Thompson and Rt 66
5. Ensure roadway beautification continues

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

- Keep residential safe from too much traffic for peds
- Less individual cars (carpooling incentives and programs with buses)
- More bypasses to keep commuter traffic out of neighborhoods
- Better traffic flow on 180
- Transit outside city limits to clusters of growth
- Use parking lots only used at night for park and ride lots
- Preserve Walnut Canyon from development
- Explore bypasses for downtown and educate about real impacts
- Enable development of other tourism destination to receive Flag traffic
- Expanded connections and options for getting to Phoenix (improve I-17)
- Need more sidewalks so people have option of not getting in the car
- Don't focus on new facilities, complete the ones we have
- Drop curbs, curb cuts at FUTS intersections with roadway and for all sidewalks in business district
- Keep FUTS connected and open
- Safer bike routes
- Build another grade separated crossing of RR (Switzer Canyon Rd)
- N-S corridor parallel to Milton
- Airport exit at Lone Tree
- Better traffic devices and traffic calming techniques to slow down traffic and improve safety
- Improve lighted and safe bus stops
- Think longer term with developments and make sure financial impacts are paid by developer
- Look critically at developing new bike and ped routes at the expense of other needed projects
- Improve traffic flow on Rt 66 and Milton

- Traffic calming at S Thompson and Rt 66
- Centralize gov't facilities and activity center to cut down on trips
- Open up from of NAU to improve flow
- Makes trails less challenging
- Motorcycle and motor scooter parking is needed
- Close some downtown streets and use electric busses
- Make downtown streets two-way
- Ensure roadway beautification continues
- Get away from using Rt 66 and RR as out planning baseline
- Denser housing developments to concentrate residents to enable transit and pedestrians
- Bike facilities on Lake Mary Road
- Educate bikes to follow the rules
- Include more innovative concepts

Group 2

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

1. Lack of affordability results in urban sprawl in outlying areas/commuting options
2. Decongesting Milton/Rt 66/Hwy 180
3. Ped safety on Milton/Rt 66 crosswalks and along other main arterials
4. Wildlife corridor consideration when planning roads
5. Multi-modal connectivity around and between isolated neighborhood (bus service, biking, walking)

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

- Decongesting Milton/Rt 66/Hwy 180
- Multi-modal connectivity around and between isolated neighborhood (bus service, biking, walking)
- Snow removal and maintenance on streets
- Ped safety on Milton/Rt 66 crosswalks and along other main arterials
- Children ped safety at bus stops/Safe Routes to School
- Congestion on Humphreys
- Congestion due to growth (new Wal-Mart)
- Lack of affordability results in urban sprawl in outlying areas/commuting options
- Mountain Line/NAU connection
- Bike-lane connectivity
- Park-n-ride at city bus stops
- Wildlife corridor consideration when planning roads
- Traffic calming in residential and community areas

- More over passes at RR x-ing (Enterprise)
- Expanded bus service to more neighborhoods
- Require non-private car transportation as part of new development
- More bypasses
- More parking downtown (parking garage)
- Semi-truck regulations on local roads
- Consideration of neighborhood needs and community character
- Directional signage for bikes lanes improved
- Bike facilities in outlying areas