

# Meeting Log

Flagstaff Pathways Regional Transportation Plan

Prepared: 4/18/08

by: SAB and JMR

## Tourism Stakeholders Meeting

April 9, 2008, 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Coconino County Human Resources Building, Weatherford Room

### Participating:

#### Stakeholders:

- o Neil Wesson - Enterprise Rent-a-Car
- o Stacey Button - COF
- o Glenn Cornwell - Williams
- o Dietrich Mayring - Little America

FMPO Staff: David Wessel

Charlier Associates: Jacob Riger, Brenda Johnson, Stephanie Bowker

Partners for Strategic Action: Curt Dunham

### Notes:

- After introductions by David, Jacob gave a brief overview of the project, the purpose of today's discussion, and how input received will help shape the planning process.
- Curt then led the group through a facilitated discussion involving responses, thoughts, and input to several key questions. Each question and responses received are summarized below.
- Question: How would you rate or grade the existing transportation system (all modes)?
  - o Current system is average
  - o Good transit program with Mountain Line expanding routes
  - o Need to expand bike lanes and be more bike-friendly
  - o Need to continue to expand mass transit
  - o Signage is OK, could be more readable
  - o Airport use and expansion is important
  - o Year-round traffic has really picked up
  - o Airport is key, as is conference center
  - o Flagstaff is an outdoor destination, so should be ped- and bike-friendly
  - o Transition from freeways to Milton is tough, lack of north/south routes
  - o Big improvements (Fourth Street, East Flagstaff Traffic Interchange) have occurred in the last few years
  - o Bus service is somewhat important for employee access, not sure if bus service should be expanded or not - cost-benefit analysis
- Question: What is one aspect of the existing transportation system to be most proud of?
  - o Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS)
  - o Fourth Street overpass is spectacular
  - o Availability of and access to trails is good
  - o Downtown parking is OK
  - o Timing of lights on Milton is good



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- Question: What are the most important transportation issues to your constituency?
  - Clear signage and wayfinding
  - Bike trails and lanes need to improve
  - Need to have park-n-rides and shuttles
  - Trolleys - for visitors and tourists - partner with business community
  - Inter-regional travel: Williams, Grand Canyon, Sedona
  - Lack of parking in Flagstaff to use shuttles to Phoenix
  - Taxi service is relatively poor
  
- Question: What are the major challenges to developing the transportation system?
  - Railroad crossings
  - North/south travel options
  - Constraints to adding infrastructure (topography, etc.)
  - One-way streets downtown are confusing and challenging - signage is there, but visitors are distracted and confused
  - Parking availability and attractiveness
  - Transportation to and from airport
  
- Question: What core community values should be addressed in the planning process?
  - No subway or light rail
  - Preserving environment and small-town ambiance
  - Perspectives may differ geographically
  - Is NAU Conference Center good context-sensitive design?
    - General consensus is it blends in well and is OK in height/scale
  - Cohesion among community (example of a town dis-liking military base, but needing soldiers to survive economically)
  - Flagstaff is gateway to attractions - maintain the feel that we already have
  - Flagstaff is destination for region - need to pay attention to travel to/from major attractions
  - Need to coordinate with statewide planning process (bqAZ)
  
- Question: What is the biggest long-term challenge the region will face?
  - Current difficulties will become even more difficult
  - I-17 corridor (because of connection to Phoenix)
  - Lack of funding
  - Theme park possibility
  - Expanding flights to Flagstaff
  
- Question: How important are non-auto travel modes in meeting future transportation challenges?
  - From outdoor enthusiast standpoint, ped-friendly transportation is huge
  - FUTS is great, but need to develop more
  - NAIPTA does a great job, but not as many visitors will use public transit - Flagstaff is a drive market
  
- Question: How do you see more development impacting transportation?
  - Extra pressure on existing system



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- Connecting "sectors" - neighborhoods, activity focus points, etc.
- Parking pressures in downtown
- Better to have redevelopment of existing buildings than tall new buildings
- New mall expansion is poorly connected to existing mall
  
- Question: What would make the Regional Transportation Plan useful and successful?
  - Less congestion and frustration (public perception)
  - Improve traffic flow and connectivity
  - How did the region grow? Were enough financial resources generated to fund the Plan?
  - Maintaining character
  - Not getting stuck on Milton and Butler, having alternatives
  - Having a cohesive, holistic Plan
  
- Question: What transportation issues affect you personally as a Flagstaff-area resident?
  - Have travel options on the fringe of town (that is where people are moving because of housing prices)
  - Good transportation within city, but gap on the edges
  - If it's too difficult to get home from work and back into town in a short time period, what do you do with that time?
  - Workforce housing is major issue
  - Transportation for kids, especially in light of "time gap" issue raised above
  - Perception issue - big problems here are a good day in Phoenix
  
- Curt concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and noting that we will be holding a second round of stakeholder meetings this fall to review draft concepts and projects.

