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Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2007

Attendance: John Pilger, Tony Crosby, Jim Jordan, Merritt Howard, Lee Blackwell, Sgt Jim Roat (Pima County Sheriff Dept), Bill Katzel, Len Wilson, Chuck Hill, Bill Adamson, Marylee Adamson, Jean Gorman.

1. John Pilger (JP) called the meeting to order at 4 PM.
2. The minutes of the Mar 5, 2007 meeting were approved as presented.
3. Public Concerns. Bill Katzel voiced two concerns:
 - a) Unidentified groups of “expert” riders that transit the Green Valley area with little regard for traffic laws as they apply to bicyclists. A discussion on ways to discourage such behavior followed. Sgt Jim offered that the Department would respond to complaints and use their influence to correct bad behavior. Bill Adamson suggested Bill Katzel contact Alicia Heiserer, a Tucson racer who maintains a cycling website – www.aliciarides.com, to see if she could publicize this concern.
 - b) The title of Rich Corbett's replacement as “PAG/RTA Travel Demand Coordinator” and if his duties are changed. Bill Adamson and Jean Gorman said they would seek clarification on the jobs scope and responsibilities.
4. Sheriff Department:
 - a) Sgt Jim said that the meeting on the Ride of Silence with Lt Pratt just concluded went well and that the Department would support the ride with four motor units. (More on ROS later.)
 - b) Lt Pratt has suggested the possibility of a Sheriff’s Department Auxiliary Volunteers (SAV) bicycle patrol unit. This would require the same training for members as other SAV members but would have a flexible function suitable for a bicycle.
5. Status of Projects and Advocacies:
 - a) Santa Cruz County -Lee Blackwell.
 - Eighteen citizens interested in pedestrian and bicycling activities met recently and have formed an interest group.
 - Colin Stephen agreed to write a grant proposal for improvements to frontage roads.
 - County Engineer Dennis Alvarez attended the meeting. He said the County would be getting a large amount of asphalt milling from an I-19 project that could be used for bicycle-friendly maintenance projects. He also commented on the E-W Tubac connection under I-19 and identified it as basically a permit process.
 - Ed Stubbs is working on a map of existing bicycle routes in the Tubac area. He may be willing to donate an easement that would provide a link to the Coronado National Forest.
 - Lee expressed his personal concerns over what he called the “wilderness issue”. Wilderness areas are contiguous areas of land where bicycles are prohibited. The Tumacacori Highlands proposal would affect the connectivity of mountain bike routes even where relatively small portions of trail cross the wilderness land itself
 - b) Green Valley/Frontage Rds. - Jim Jordan reported on the grant projects:

- Progress continues on the preparatory work for the White House Canyon project. The survey has been completed and environment fieldwork completed and submitted to Pima County. Lanes at the RR crossing will probably be delayed as the Union Pacific told the contractor it would take two years to build and cost between a quarter and half a million dollars.
 - Jim attended a Continental/I-19 kickoff or project assessment meeting. Indications are that the grant project will be joined to the realignment of the east frontage road at Continental. This work is scheduled to go to construction in 14 to 16 months.
- c) Sahuarita. Merritt Howard:
- Merritt reported on a Mar 29 Sahuarita town forum. Sahuarita Rd Phase 1, from I-19 to La Villita, should be up for city council approval this June. Town Manager Jim Stahle told the group that the town automatically includes bike lanes for all road reconstruction and new construction.
 - Results of a survey of residents on capitol priorities were presented. The rankings of items of interest to the bicycle community were # 1 Quail Crossing Blvd., #2 improvements to Old Nogales highway (Nogales Hwy to Quail Crossing), and #4 Nogales Hwy (Calle Valle Verde northeast to Old Nogales Highway).
- d) RTA Projects. Bill Adamson:
- Bill mentioned that RTA Project list includes "Elderly and Pedestrian Improvements", with a budget of \$20M. Bill has passed this information on to GVCCC officials.
 - Bill and Roy are working with to get highly ranked RTA projects started. Matt Zoll, PCDOT, has submitted RTA projects for near term funding that includes Continental and Sahuarita Rds, in addition to the previously approved Kolb Rd. The BAC Facilities Subcommittee and SCVBAC will be meeting with Administrator Huckleberry to discuss projects.
- e) Updated SCVBAC Project List. Bill Adamson:
- Bill presented changes to update the project list. This was approved and will be placed on the SCVBAC website.
- f) West Desert Preserve. Bill Adamson:
- Bill is working on a letter to show TPCBAC support of the WDP.
6. Publicity/Education/Website. Chuck Hill:
- a) Chuck continues to set up publicity for the Ride of Silence and will be sending out invitations to various VIPs. The ride will begin at 6 pm at the GVR East Center with parking at the south lot. Participants will be invited to arrive at 5:30 pm for light refreshment provided by Green Valley Bike and Hike.
- b) Jean Gorman added that she will get Pima Co posters for distribution in Green Valley. She is also working on t-shirts for the ride leader and sweep. Jean is looking for support for the ROS in Tucson. She has a commitment that the Mayor will attend.
7. TPCBAC & Facilities Subcommittee – Bill Adamson:
- a) Bill is trying to have the FAC Subcommittee be part of the development review process so that bicycle safety issues are considered during the planning phases. This would keep the subcommittee from being caught unaware of potential road traffic impacts, such as the proposed development near Madeira Canyon.

The meeting adjourned at 6 pm. Next meeting will be May 2, 4:00 pm, at the West Center conference room.

Tony Crosby, Scribe